

ANNEX

**Model for operational programmes under the Investment for growth and jobs goal
to the**

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) No 288/2014

**laying down rules pursuant to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European
Parliament and of the Council 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 with regard to the model for operational programmes
under the Investment for growth and jobs goal and pursuant to Regulation (EU)
No 1299/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on specific provisions for
the support from the European Regional Development Fund to the European territorial
cooperation goal with regard to the model for cooperation programmes under the
European territorial cooperation goal**

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SECTION 1 STRATEGY FOR THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNION STRATEGY FOR SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL COHESION

(Reference: Article 27(1) and point (a) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council)¹

¹ 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 1083/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320).

1.1.Strategy for the operational programme's contribution to the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and to the achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion

- 1.1.1. Description of the programme's strategy for contributing to the delivery of the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and for achieving economic, social and territorial cohesion.

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Operational Programme “Regions in Growth” 2014-2020 (OPRG 2014-2020) is an integrated operational programme focused on regional development and in particular targeted at achieving the objectives of the urban policy of Bulgaria, applying a special focus on energy efficiency in supporting centers in peripheral areas in accordance with the national model of polycentric development, formulated in the National spatial development concept 2013-2025 and contributing to the territorial dimension of the sectoral policies included in the Partnership agreement.

Territorial approach

The basic principle of the programme is the application of a balanced and integrated territorial approach. The need for this approach results from the regional disparities between the Bulgarian and the average EU regions and from the advanced monocentric development of Sofia and the 6 big cities which in the long term will lead to serious imbalances between different parts of the country, unused potential of the territory and increased migration towards the biggest centres and externally to other EU member states.

Under the current model of territorial development, which lacks public targeting of specific territorial needs, the territory develops purely on basic market conditions, whereas no attention is paid to the negative social and environmental impact. Thus the unstable territorial development turns to be one of the main causes for the demographic crisis and the process of depopulation of the peripheral parts of the country.

The **National Strategy for Demographic Development in the Republic of Bulgaria** defines a number of problems and conclusions related to migration and population decline directly related to regional development policy.

In the period between the two censuses 2001 - 2011, the population of the country decreased by 564,331 people at an average annual rate of decline of 0.7%. Two-thirds of the population decline (68.9%) was due to negative natural growth. Almost a third of the population decline (31.1%) was due to emigration, which is estimated at 175,244 people.

With regard to the migration the following conclusions have been made:

Between 2001 and 2011 r. 379 181 persons have changed their residence in the country from one settlement to another. From all the persons who have changed their place of residence for at least ten years, only 35.5% migrated to cities within the same district (NUTS3). The remaining 64.5% migrated outside the district in which they lived before migration. The largest share of those changing their residence are these who settled in the districts of Sofia (capital) - 32.1%, other

places in Bulgaria - 10.8%, Plovdiv - 7.7% and Burgas - 5.5%.

In 2010, only the districts of Sofia (capital) and Varna had positive mechanical growth - respectively 7.7‰ and 0.3‰. The greatest decrease in population due to negative mechanical growth was identified in the districts of Smolyan (-13,4 ‰), Razgrad (-13.1 ‰) and Lovech (-12,1 ‰). The districts with the smallest rate of decline are Burgas (0.0 ‰), Pernik (-1.9 ‰) and Sofia district (outside the capital) (-2.1 ‰).

Nearly half of the population who changed their local address with an address abroad were at the age of 20-39 years and about 80% had secondary or higher education.

Bulgaria continues to be left by the young and educated people, in whom the state has invested and who are more easily adaptable to the requirements of the market economy. The emigration of young and highly educated people has serious economic and social consequences for the future development of the country.

The causes of emigration in the recent years are related to employment, higher incomes and a higher standard of living for the emigrants. This motivation is complemented by the pursuit of education and career development.

The main strategic goal in the period 2012-2030 of the National Strategy for Demographic Development of Republic of Bulgaria 2012-2030 is to slow down the rate of decrease in the population with a tendency for long term stabilization and ensuring high quality of human capital, including people with their health, education qualifications, abilities and skills. One of the main priorities of the strategy is territorial and it is aimed at a more even distribution of population in the country, optimization of processes of concentration of population in the capital and several major cities and ensuring territorial cohesion of the peripheral areas of the country.

Overcoming regional imbalances requires the mobilization of substantial institutional and organizational resources aimed at optimizing housing policy, urban planning and infrastructure. The main measures of the demographic development outlined in the strategy, which will be supported by OPRG 2014-2020 include:

- Reduction of regional disparities through decentralization and creation of regional capacity for dynamic economic development;
- Rational allocation of local infrastructure and services to ensure balanced growth of the regions;
- Developing sustainable, dynamic and cohesive urban centres, connected and contributing to the prosperity of the surrounding less urbanized areas;
- Optimization of the concentration of population in the major cities and the capital;
- Developing a program to resolve the problem of the ghettos through urban plans in neighbourhoods with concentrated poverty, rehabilitation of these areas, providing technical infrastructure, etc.
- Sustainable improvement of housing conditions for Roma by guaranteeing the implementation of action plans and programs to improve the living

conditions of the Roma;

- Improvement of transport, trade, social and other service infrastructures.

In order to tackle the free falling in the territorial development the government of Republic of Bulgaria adopted in December 2012 a National Spatial Development Concept with a horizon until 2025. The National Spatial Development Concept is developed in pursuance of Article 7a (2) of the Regional Development Act and is of key importance for the preparation of the strategic documents of Republic of Bulgaria for the period 2014–2020.

The NSDC is the first strategic document in the last 25 years which defines the state policy for spatial and territorial development. NSDC is a strategic document that determines the spatial-development basis for planning and development of the elements of the national territory aimed at achieving comprehensive and integrated planning for the purpose not just of regional but also of individual social and economic sectoral planning processes at national level, in the context of common European spatial development.

It serves to ensure better compliance, coordination and complementarity of activities performed under different sectoral policies within the same territory, as well as at city level. The document provides the basis for outlining the territorial dimension of the investments planned under OPRG 2014-2020 and Rural Development Program (RDP) during the 2014–2020 period.

It provides guidelines for spatial planning, management and conservation of the national territory and creates conditions for spatial orientation and coordination between sectoral policies. It defines the functional and hierarchical structure of the urban network, including at European and macro regional level; the links between the urban network and neighbouring countries and the model for spatial development. The concept defines the main and secondary axes of development; transport corridors and infrastructure of international and national importance.

The NSDC defines the territorial structure on a gross national scale with a view of outlining the territorial disparities and the problems related to development and spatial planning. The concept identifies two main types of territories, which are typical not only for Bulgaria, namely:

- The mostly urbanized “**central**” **areas** with intensive socio-economic development, which represent the municipalities of the cities from level 1 to 3. The central urbanized areas are the territories of municipalities situated near big urban centres, whose advantage, unlike the peripheral areas, is the possibility for relatively short-distance and convenient access to jobs, services, education, culture and any other values offered by big cities.
- **Peripheral areas** with difficulties in their socio-economic development. The peripheral under-urbanized areas are the territories of the municipalities situated at large distance from the big urban centres and the services and jobs offered there. Among the peripheral areas in the country are distinguished external borderline peripheries and **inland** peripheries, for instance such as mountainous areas. In this respect they almost fully coincide with the rural areas.

The current situation is characterised as a monocentric way of development which

leads to increased migration to Sofia and several big cities and externally to other EU member states, which leads to negative socio economic sequences, such as:

- Disintegration of agglomerations which existed in the past;
- Depopulation of large parts of the territory;
- Increased maintenance cost for the remaining infrastructure in cities with shrinking population.
- Underused potential of the territory, which reduces the comparative advantages of the country;
- A vicious circle emerged – the low level of quality of life push people to emigrate and the lack of young qualified people could not attract investors mainly in small and medium sized cities.

If the trend towards monocentrism is not addressed properly, the analysis of the National Spatial Development Concept clearly shows that migration will continue to rise and the population will continue to decline rapidly. These factors will hinder the growth potential of the country. Thus, the objectives of growth and job creation in the new Cohesion policy can hardly be achieved.

Based on the analysis of the socio-economic situation in the country the Concept defines the model of moderate polycentric development of the network of cities as the most appropriate for Bulgaria, which is expected to contribute significantly to stabilise the negative demographic trends until 2025. The model outlines and reproduces the hierarchical structure of the settlements in the country based on existing models (i.e. Varna, balancing Sofia at national level, Stara Zagora, balancing Burgas at NUTS 2 level and Troyan, balancing Lovech at NUTS 3 level).

Balanced polycentric territorial network of urban centers contributes to the creation of favorable conditions for the establishment and development of economic and social activities, such as accessible "services" and job creation in / or near the cities where people permanently live. The strengthened functional characteristics of the big and medium sized cities enable the development of new economic activities that diversify the local economy and reduce the risks in terms of unemployment and income and improve the basic conditions for business. In this regard NCSP identifies polycentric development model in the country as an interconnected system that is based on 10 cities which act as centres of growth, which are balanced by a network of medium-sized cities in the central urbanised areas of the country. In addition the small cities acting as support centers in peripheral areas of the country are also identified. The moderate polycentric development model includes the following levels of cities:

1st hierarchical level: Sofia.

2nd hierarchical level: Plovdiv, Varna, Bourgas, Rouse, Stara Zagora, Pleven, Veliko Tarnovo, Blagoevgrad, Vidin.

3rd hierarchical level: – Montana, Vratsa, Lovech, Gabrovo, Targovishte, Razgrad, Shumen, Silistra, Dobrich, Sliven, Yambol, Haskovo, Kardzhali, Smolyan, Pazardzhik, Pernik, Kiustendil, Svishtov, Gorna Oryahovitsa, Kazanlak, Dimitrovgrad, Assenovgrad, Karlovo, Dupnitsa, Petrich, Lom, Gotse

Delchev, Panagyurishte, Velingrad.

4th hierarchical level: Sandanski, Svilengrad, Samokov, Botevgrad, Troyan, Sevlievo, Karnobat, Nova Zagora, Popovo, Peshtera, Pomorie, Razlog, Devin, Novi pazar, Mezdra, Provadiya, Cherven bryag, Kozloduy, Berkovitsa, Tutrakan, Elhovo, Belogradchik, Zlatograd, Nikopol, General Toshevo, Krumovgrad, Ivaylovgrad, Malko Tarnovo.

In that context the biggest priority of the operational programme is targeted at strengthening and developing of the polycentric system of the country through special focus on the urban development of the big and medium sized cities, which are part of it.

Actions for sustainable urban development according to the article 7 of the ERDF Regulation will be implemented in the main urban network of cities of 1st to 3rd hierarchic level, which are the centres of the central development axes of spatial development.

The investments under the first integrated priority axis will be implemented on the basis of local planning documents: Urban strategies – Integrated Plans for Urban Regeneration and Development (IPURD) elaborated by the identified cities with the participation of the local communities. The plans are the main operational documents, through which the territorial and urban dimension of the Regional Development plans will be achieved.

The support will be focused on preliminary defined intervention zones in order to achieve concentration of resources and impact at the lowest territorial level. Integrated projects on the territory of the intervention zones will be implemented aiming at achieving synergies and complementarity between the different types of measures such as basic infrastructure for better urban environment, energy efficiency, educational, social, sport and cultural infrastructure and integrated urban transport.

The priority axis follows and integrates the strategic focus of several national strategic documents.

It will contribute to the achievement of Priority 3 of the National Development Programme Bulgaria 2020 (NDP Bulgaria 2020) - “Achieving sustainable integrated regional development and use of local potential” through its sub-priority 3.2: “Stimulating the development of cities and improving the integration of the Bulgarian regions at national level”.

Since OP “Regions in Growth” 2014-2020 is oriented towards regional development, it follows the strategy of the National Regional Development Strategy 2012–2022. In that respect Priority axis 1 “Sustainable and integrated urban development” will be focused towards achieving Strategic Objective No. 4 of the strategy - “Balanced territorial development by strengthening the network of city centres, improving the connectivity in the regions and the quality of the environment in the settlements”. It will contribute also to Specific objective No. 1: “Stimulating the economic development of the NUTS 2 regions by improving the access to the industrial zones and their infrastructure”, through the measures for the identified zones with potential for economic development.

In addition, the activities under PA 1 “Sustainable and integrated urban development” will contribute to the priorities and sub-priorities of the Partnership

Agreement - “Transition to low-carbon economy, energy and resource efficiency”.

Priority axis 2 “Support for Energy Efficiency in support centers in peripheral areas” is targeted at supporting energy efficiency measures in both public buildings and residential buildings in the small cities - municipal centers in peripheral areas that provide services to surrounding peripheral areas.

In these cities is concentrated the public infrastructure, which provides neighboring municipalities with administrative and others services. These cities also offer better access to the housing market at relatively low prices.

The envisaged support for the small cities – support centres in the peripheral areas of the country aims to contribute in addressing the problems associated with low energy efficiency levels and thus to increase the quality of life and services in order to better service of the population in peripheral areas and maintain and upgrade the existing administrative services.

The interventions under this priority axis are intended to contribute achievement of the objectives of the Energy Policy of the Republic of Bulgaria as part of the larger complex of measures to be taken to mitigate the process of urban decline and emigration of population of small cities and neighbouring rural areas.

The results to be achieved under this priority Axis will have direct contribution on achievement of the national indicative energy savings targets for 2020 set in the National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency 2014 – 2020.

Beneficiaries under PA 2 are the support centres of 4th level of the national polycentric system.

Unlike the measures for local educational infrastructure which are identified under priority axis 1, which target bottom up community needs through integrated investments, **Priority axis 3 “Regional educational infrastructure”** is focused on the educational infrastructure of higher territorial importance, which serves people from different municipalities due to their specific profile linked to specific national or regional social or economic needs. This educational infrastructure covers the vocational, specialized, sport high schools, the schools for culture and arts and universities and colleges.

In that aspect the priority axis will support the regional dimension of the education sector identified in the Partnership Agreement and in the National Development Programme Bulgaria 2020, as well as the measures identified in the National Reform Programme.

In addition, the measures and actions under the Operational Programme will contribute to achieving the goals set in the sectoral documents in the field of education, such as the National Strategy for Children 2008–2018, the National Life-long Learning Strategy 2008–2013, the Programme for the Development of Education, Science and Youth Policies in the Republic of Bulgaria (2009–2013), Strategy for Development of Higher Education in Bulgaria.

The Priority axis will contribute to the achievement of the most important activity related to the optimisation of the university network through thoroughly considered financial mechanisms, set out in objective 5 “Modernization of the management system for the universities and a clear definition of the types of

universities and the educational - qualification levels” of the Plan for the implementation of the Strategy for higher education.

Priority Axis 4 “Regional Health Infrastructure” is targeted at achieving the territorial dimension of sub-priority “Healthcare” of Strategic Priority 1 “Education, employment, social inclusion and healthcare for inclusive growth” of the Partnership Agreement outlining the assistance from EU structural and investment funds for the period 2014-2020. This sub-priority identifies the need for "investment in health infrastructure to improve the conditions for adequate emergency medical service in accordance with the National Health Strategy 2020 and the Action Plan thereto and the Concept for Development of Emergency Medical Care System" as a key change to be supported. In view of that Priority axis 4 of OPRG 2014-2020 is focused on the need to modernize the health infrastructure aimed at developing a system for diagnosis and treatment of patients with emergencies (medical emergency service).

This special focus of the priority axis is in conformity with the priorities of two other national strategic documents - the National Development Programme "Bulgaria 2020", the National Reform Programme.

It will contribute to the achievement of Priority 1: of the NDP "Bulgaria 2020" in its part, dedicated to the health care reform.

Investment in health infrastructure complies with the Council recommendation No2 of 8 July 2014 on the National Reform Programme 2014 of Bulgaria and delivering a Council opinion on the Convergence Programme of Bulgaria, 2014, namely that Bulgaria "Ensure cost effective provision of healthcare including by improving the pricing of healthcare services while linking hospitals' financing to outcomes, accelerating the optimisation of the hospital network and developing out-patient care".

This recommendation is complied through policies and activities inherent in the main strategic document for the development of the health sector - the National Health Strategy 2014-2020.

Significant investment to improve infrastructure shall be established in the field of emergency medical care and such investment will support the measures aimed at improving the provision and qualification of employees. These infrastructure measures require significant financial resources that can not be provided from the state budget and require the use of other financial sources, mainly from the EU structural funds.

For the implementation of measures in the field of emergency medical care a Concept for Development of Emergency Medical Care System is adopted for execution by the Council of Ministers² which outlines the necessary actions to improve the functioning of the system and ensure its sustainability.

Since the priority axis is focused only on the emergency medical care its aim is to intervene in an integrated manner in order to improve in a complex manner the

² *Concept for development of emergency medical care system*

<http://www.mh.government.bg/Articles.aspx?lang=bg-BG&pageid=472&home=true&categoryid=7322>

The instrument was approved with Decision No. 789 of the Council of Ministers on 28.11.2014

gaps in the whole subsystem. In that respect the measures under the priority axis will target the outpatient part, which comprise 28 Emergency medical care centers – EMCC, with 170 branches, as well as the hospital part of the emergency medical care which is concentrated in one hospital (UMHATEM "N. I. Pirogov" EAD) with an emergency medical activity delegated by the state and 33 public state owned hospitals with emergency departments with the possibility of emergency diagnosis, treatment and monitoring up to 24 hours, or altogether 34 facilities.

Priority axis 5 “Regional social infrastructure” is targeted at continuation and further development of the process of deinstitutionalization of social services for children and elderly people. It will support Priority 1 of the Partnership Agreement, “Education, employment, social inclusion and healthcare for inclusive growth” regarding its sub-priority “Social inclusion” in its part of elimination of the of the institutional model of care and development of integrated inter-sectorial services for social inclusion: deinstitutionalization of childcare through closing existing specialized institutions and developing preventive and alternative forms of care and services; elimination of the institutional model of care for elderly and disabled people through development of long-term care and inter-sectorial services; provision of sustainable, quality and affordable community services meeting individual needs; development of a network of services in a family or similar environment for children, disabled and elderly people dependent on professional care; development of innovative inter-sectorial services for children and families, and other vulnerable groups; development of integrated services for early childhood development for children aged 0-7 and their families.

Bulgaria is one of the countries with the highest poverty rates, which leads also to high levels of social exclusion. Therefore through OPRG 2014-2020 Bulgaria will address in its National Reform Programme the CSR 3 of the Council within the framework of the European semester for 2014 to further improve the accessibility and effectiveness of social services and transfers for children and older people.

OPRG 2014-2020 will contribute to the achieving of the objectives set in the sectoral documents regarding social policy, in particular the deinstitutionalisation of social services for children with disabilities and elderly people, such as the National Concept Paper for Active Life of Elderly People in Bulgaria (2012–2030), National Strategy for long-term care, the National Strategy for Demographic Development of the Population of the Republic of Bulgaria (2012–2030), the National Strategy “Vision for Deinstitutionalisation of the Children in the Republic of Bulgaria” (2010) and the National Strategy for Poverty Reduction and Promotion of Social Inclusion 2020.

Priority axis 6 “Regional Tourism” will support the conservation, protection, promotion and development of the cultural heritage in Bulgaria regions. Its main focus will be to valorize the unexplored potential of the cultural tourism in the regions. This will be achieved by using the strengths of Bulgaria as well developed sea, spa and ski destination and targeting the huge potential which have the country to valorize its rich cultural heritage.

The activities under Priority axis “Regional tourism” of Operational programme

“Regions in Growth” 2014 - 2020 are result-oriented towards the realization of the main strategic objectives laid down in the Strategy for Sustainable Tourism Development in Bulgaria with Horizon 2030, which will result in adequate realization of the unused potential of the cultural tourism and in its sustainable development, taking into account the advantages of the diversity, uniqueness and authenticity of the resources in order to achieve balance between the development of the cultural tourism and the conservation of the resources. Priority Axis “Regional tourism” will also contribute to the sub-priority “Environment and protection of natural richness and cultural and historical heritage” which is part of priority 3 “Connectivity and green economy for sustainable growth” of the Partnership Agreement.

With a view to establishing comprehensive tourism products for the supported cultural heritage sites of national and world importance, integrated projects will be supported involving integrated solutions not only for the preservation and conservation of the heritage site, but also for its promotion and development, which attract significant numbers of tourists.

For this purpose the grant support will be combined with financial instruments at project level and the project evaluation will be carried out on the basis of a business plan.

Priority Axis 7 “Regional road infrastructure” is targeted at investments in 1st, 2nd and 3rd class road network in order to improving connectivity and accessibility of secondary and tertiary nodes with the TEN-T network for freights and passengers. The investments will contribute to the implementation of the Strategy for development of the Road Infrastructure in the Republic of Bulgaria 2014-2020. The basic principles of the Strategy are:

Connectivity: Connectivity is directly related to national integration and mainly refers to the Republican and less on the municipal road network connecting regional centres and the main international corridors. Connectivity also contributes to the economic development of the country, linking national and international markets to the areas of production and consumption. The principle of connectivity refers mainly to priority approach for rehabilitation and upgrading of roads. Within the strategy this includes: (1) achieving regional balance in development of national corridors to connect major social, cultural and commercial centres; (2) the priority of the international corridors, integrating the national road network to Europe.

Accessibility: The concept of accessibility refers to the role of the roads and the municipal roads to improve access to sub-urban and peripheral areas. The main role of the lower classes roads is to serve the priority economic areas that contribute to economic growth - agricultural areas, tourist sites, the development of industrial zones and areas of natural resources, access to ports, railways and border crossings.

Within the midterm operational programme for the implementation of the Strategy for the development of the road infrastructure in the Republic of Bulgaria 2014-2020 targets have been set for the development of the road infrastructure by 2020, as well as the financial and technical resources for their achievement. This programme includes a list of priority road sections out of which with the help of the Methodology for prioritizing are defined the road

sections, which shall be proposed for funding under the Priority axis “Regional road infrastructure”.

One of the main priorities of the Strategy for the development of the transport system of the Republic of Bulgaria till 2020 is to limit the negative impact of transport on the environment and human health. By bringing the transport infrastructure into providing optimal, environmentally friendly and energy-saving transport the harmful effects of transport on the environment, climate and quality of life will be limited.

Another key priority of the Strategy for the development of the transport system of the Republic of Bulgaria till 2020 is to achieve a high level of safety and security of transport. This priority is in line with the guidelines of the EU transport policy to ensure the safety of transport modes and the protection of life and health transport users.

The planned investment in road infrastructure will create opportunities for development of the specific economic potential of the regions through increased mobility and access to markets. It will result in improving the business climate as a main prerequisite for attracting investment and creating new jobs. Investments in regions with a tourism development potential will have an especial added value, since they will ensure the access to the tourist sites and will increase the number of visitors.

The rehabilitation of the road infrastructure will contribute to the development of multimodal transport systems and thus to improving the condition of the environment. Improved quality of roads will reduce travel time and will ensure the maintaining of a constant vehicle speed, thereby contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Modernised road infrastructure will provide opportunities for local population to choose the type and place of education and healthcare services and will contribute to the prevention of social isolation of the remote regions with difficult transport access.

In that respect, the investments under PA “Regional road infrastructure” will support the Priority 3 “Connectivity and green economy for sustainable growth” of the Partnership Agreement.

Use of Financial Instruments:

Analyses show that the economic crisis is placing enormous pressure on public budgets, whereas declining levels of lending limit the private investments, including those channelled into improving the urban environment and creating adequate living conditions in the cities. The absence of loan resources for acquisition of fixed tangible assets is among the main factors for the decline in private investment and, hence, growth and employment. Financial instruments such as JESSICA stimulate both public-private partnerships and credit institutions for participation in public policies for regional and urban development. Such financial instruments encourage the entrepreneurial spirit, enabling all economic entities to participate in urban development and receive support with funds from the European Union, thus helping achieve a steady economic growth by implementing financially sustainable and feasible projects and investments.

Based on the experience from the implementation of JESSICA in the previous

programming period and taking into account the positive effect of this type of investments under OPRG 2014–2020 there will be a significant increase in the funds to be allocated for revolving investments as a result of the application of financial instruments, in comparison with the past programming period, for the purpose of attaining additional growth and employment.

1.1.2. A justification for the choice of thematic objectives and corresponding investment priorities having regard to the Partnership Agreement, based on an identification of regional and, where appropriate, national needs including the need to address the challenges identified in relevant country-specific recommendations adopted in accordance with Article 121(2) TFEU and the relevant Council recommendations adopted in accordance with Article 148(4) TFEU, taking into account the ex-ante evaluation.

Table 1: Justification for the selection of thematic objectives and investment priorities

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
04 - Supporting the shift towards a lowcarbon economy in all sectors	4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieving the objectives of Strategic Priority 3 “Connectivity and green economy for sustainable growth”, sub-priority “Transition to a low carbon economy, energy and resource efficiency” of the Partnership Agreement. • Direct contribution to the National Target 3 under the Climate-Energy package of the National Reform Programme: “Achieving a 16% share of renewable energy sources in the gross final consumption of energy and increasing the energy efficiency by 25% by 2020”; • Implementing Country-specific Recommendation 6 of the Council with respect to increasing energy efficiency; • Direct contribution to the fulfilment of Sub-priority 7.2 “Increasing energy efficiency” of NDP Bulgaria 2020
04 - Supporting the shift towards a lowcarbon economy in all sectors	4e - Promoting lowcarbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct contribution to the National Target 3 under the Climate-Energy package of the National Reform Programme: “Achieving a 16% share of renewable energy sources in the gross final consumption of energy and increasing the energy efficiency by 25% by 2020”; • Needs identified in NDP Bulgaria 2020: The ongoing process of urbanisation is likely to bring

	multimodal urban mobility and mitigationrelevant adaptation measures	<p>about to an increase in urban transportation in the larger populated agglomerations, thus causing serious problems in the urban areas, such as increased use of motor vehicles, a decline in demand for public urban transport and declining standards of the transport services offered; increased need for state/municipal subsidies; congestion and a harmful impact on the environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In accordance with Priority 4.1: Integrated sustainable urban development and strengthening the polycentric network of urban centres covered by the National Regional Development Strategy 2012–2020
06 - Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	6c - Conserving, protecting, promotingand developing natural and cultural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributing to the objectives of sub-priority “Environment and protection of natural richness and cultural and historic heritage” of the Partnership Agreement.. • In accordance with Priority “Promoting growth and competitiveness for today and tomorrow” of the National reform programme: Aimed at the achievement of NT 1 of NRP 2020: “Reaching 76% employment of the population aged 20–64 by 2020”. • In accordance with Priority 3: “Achieving sustainable integrated regional development and utilising the local potential” of NDP Bulgaria 2020, specifically Sub-priority 3.4: “Support for efficient and sustainable utilization of tourist potential of the regions and the development of cultural and creative industries in the regions”; • In accordance with NRDS Sub-priority 1.2 “Development of sustainable forms of tourism and the cultural and artistic industries in the regions” of the National Regional Development Strategy 2012–2020. • Needs identified in NDP Bulgaria 2020: The development of a sustainable tourist industry contributes to the development of other sectors of the national economy, to the diversification of economic activities in less developed regions, and to raising the well-being of the population and the living standards.
06 - Preserving and protecting the environment	6e - Taking action to improve the urban environment,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accordance with a specific recommendation 5 of the Council of 8 July 2014: "To continue to

<p>and promoting resource efficiency</p>	<p>to revitalise cities, regenerate and decontaminate brownfield sites (including conversion areas), reduce air pollution and promote noise-reduction measures</p>	<p>improve the business environment."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to the targets of the approach towards sustainable urban development and to address the demographic challenges of the regions in the Partnership agreement. • Improving of the urban environment is one of the key measures in support of urban development. It enables the integration of urban space and coordination of diverse sectoral policies at the lowest territorial level. This is evidenced by the successful projects for urban environment implemented under OPRD 2007–2013. • Integrated investments in urban environments provide increased attractiveness and better conditions for business. • In accordance with Sub-priority 3.2: “Stimulating the development of cities and improving the integration of the Bulgarian regions at national plan” of NDP Bulgaria 2020.
<p>07 – Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures</p>	<p>7b - Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieving the objectives of priority "Connectivity and green economy for sustainable growth", of the Partnership Agreement, concretely sub-priority “Connectivity (Internal and external)”. • In accordance with the growth factor “Infrastructure for improving access to the Single European Market” of the Annual Growth Survey. • In accordance with Sub-priority 3.2: “Stimulating the development of cities and improving the integration of the Bulgarian regions at national level” of NDP Bulgaria 2020. • In accordance with Priority 4.2 “Improving the connectivity among regions nationally and internationally, including with major urban centres in neighbouring countries” of the National Regional Development Strategy 2012–2022. • Needs identified in NDP Bulgaria 2020: The country’s transport network is made up mostly of lower-class roads. At present, a large portion of the national road network, especially the 2nd and 3rd class roads, are designed to carry loads of up to 10 tonnes per axle and thus do not satisfy the European requirements. This is one of the reasons for the overload on higher-class roads.

<p>09 - Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination</p>	<p>9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieving the objectives of Priority “Education, employment, social inclusion and healthcare for inclusive growth”, subpriorities “Social inclusion” and “Healthcare” of the Partnership Agreement. • In accordance with CSR 3 of 8 July 2014: “Improve the accessibility and effectiveness of social services and transfers for children and older people” and CSR 2 of 8 July 2014 “Ensure efficient provision of healthcare including by improving transparency in hospital financing, optimising the hospital network and developing out-patient care.”. • In accordance with Sub-priority 1.4. "Improving the quality and effectiveness of health services" of NDP Bulgaria 2020. • In accordance with Strategic Objective 2 of the National Regional Development Strategy 2012–2022. • Lack of adequate living conditions for marginalised groups, including Roma. • Need to continue the process of deinstitutionalisation of social services for children and elderly people.
<p>10 - Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning</p>	<p>10a - Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning by developing education and training infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieving the objectives of the Partnership agreement Sub-priority “Education, training and life-long learning”. • Achieving National Target 4 “11% share of the early school leavers by 2020, and a 36% share of the people aged 30–34 with higher education by 2020” of the National Reform Programme. • In accordance with CSR 4 of 8 July 2014: “Pursue the reforms of vocational and higher education in order to increase the level and relevance of skills acquired at all levels. Strengthen the quality of vocational education and training institutions and improve access to life-long learning. Step up efforts to improve access to quality inclusive pre-school and school education of disadvantaged children, in particular Roma”. • In accordance with Priority 1: “Improve access to and raise the quality of education and training, as well as the qualitative characteristics of the workforce” of NDP Bulgaria 2020;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In accordance with Strategic Objective 2: “Social cohesion and reduction of the regional disparities in the social sphere by creating conditions for development of the human capital” of the National Regional Development Strategy 2012–2022. • Necessity to decrease the number of school drop-outs through infrastructural measures providing conditions for proper educational process, including for full-time schooling.
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2.1. Justification for the financial allocation

Justification for the financial allocation (Union support) to each thematic objective and, where appropriate, investment priority, in accordance with the thematic concentration requirements, taking into account the ex-ante evaluation.

<1.2.1 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M" PA=Y TA="NA">

The allocation of funds under OP “Regions in Growth” 2014–2020 is determined mainly by the identified national needs that can be addressed with funds from ERDF. The strategy of the Operational Programme focuses on raising living standards with a view to overcoming the negative demographic trends and using the potential of the cities for a balanced development of the entire territory of the country.

Most of all resources (31,21%) under the Operational Programme are focused on Thematic Objective 4, with 21,94% of the funds being earmarked for implementing energy efficiency measures in public and residential buildings, including student dormitories, whereas 9,27% of the funds will be invested in the development of integrated urban transport under Priority Axis 1. Such allocation is based, on the one hand, on the requirements for thematic concentration at national level: on account of the fact that the specificity of the Operational Programme does not involve any interventions within the framework of thematic objectives 1, 2 and 3, OPRG 2014-2020 contributes mostly to thematic objective 4. On the other hand, such allocation is the result of the main problems identified in urban areas, namely poor condition and low energy efficiency of the buildings against a backdrop of an ongoing process of urbanisation, which is expected to bring about a substantial increase in urban transportation and mostly the growing use of personal motor vehicles at the expense of public urban transport. With a view to the ambitious goal which Bulgaria has set itself, namely to increase energy efficiency by 25% by 2020 (as against 20% under Europe 2020), OPRG 2014-2020 is expected to contribute substantially to this goal through the implementation of measures for energy efficiency in administrative and residential buildings. The investments within this priority axis will have significant effect on carbon emissions, and the achievement of the Europe 2020 goal of reducing them by 20%. The main source of greenhouse gas emissions in Bulgaria are road transport and housing heating.

A substantial share of the resources (22,08%), are allocated to Thematic Objective 6, the investment priorities of which most fully correspond to a large part of the identified urban and regional needs. A large percentage of investments within the framework of this thematic objective will be channelled into improving the urban environment and developing the tourist potential of the regions. Thus channelled, such assistance will not only make a substantial

contribution to protecting the environment and encouraging the efficient use of resources; it will also contribute to the achievement of Europe 2020 goal, respectively Bulgaria's national target, of 76% employment of the population aged 20-64 by 2020. Part of the funds are allocated for improving the urban environment as a growth factor, a factor for demographic development, investments and, respectively, job creation. Special focus is applied for regeneration and development of zones with economic development potential, which role is to improve the environmental conditions in the cities, but also to attract investments in the regions, thus generating sustainable growth. It should be noted that a great deal of the activities within the scope of investment priorities under this thematic objective will be carried out by using of financial instruments and it is expected that this will raise a substantial amount of private capital. The same applies also to investments in of cultural heritage objects, which will additionally provide incentives for the development of the local economies in the regions and will result in creation of new forms of employment.

Next in priority in terms of funds allocation is Thematic Objective 9, which receives 17,77% of the available financial resources. Thematic Objective 9 will support investments in social and healthcare infrastructure with a view to attaining the national goal of reducing the number of people living in poverty. Bulgaria is the country with the poorest population in Europe; in this context, support under OPRG 2014-2020 within the framework of this thematic objective will target the vulnerable groups of the population that are at highest risk of poverty: the Roma minority, people with disabilities, children at risk and the elderly people. Support for the development of social and healthcare infrastructure also addresses the country-specific recommendations of the Council.

Investments in educational infrastructure (Thematic Objective 10), represent 12,93% of the resources under OPRG 2014-2020 and are focused on modernising the educational facilities in order to contribute to the national target of reducing the drop-out rate in the education system and increasing the share of university graduates among the population and improving the educational services provided. The main causes of early school leaving are the negative attitude on the part of pupils to the educational process, the poor grades and the lack of motivation. OPRG 2014-2020 will address these issues by providing an option for a full-time organisation of the teaching process, ensuring conditions for extracurricular activities and overall improvement of the school environment. Investments in educational infrastructure address the country-specific recommendations of the Council with respect to enhancing the quality of public spending in the education sectors and ensuring genuine access to education for disadvantaged groups. Investments in schools of higher learning will likewise contribute to the attainment of this target.

Thematic Objective 7 amounts at 12.61% of the resources provided under OPRG 2014-2020, allocated to the development of regional road infrastructure. The reasons for this allocation are the national needs and priorities: the national transport network consists mostly of low-class roads, which are in very poor condition. The need for investments exceeds by far the resources made available under the programme. A large portion of the national road network, especially the 2nd and 3rd class roads, are designed to carry loads of up to 10 tonnes per axle and thus do not satisfy the European requirements. This in turn places a greater load on higher-class roads. That is why OPRG 2014-2020 will focus the support on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd class roads providing opportunities for the development of the regional specific economic potential while at the same time providing links with, and access to, the TEN-T network. Investments in road infrastructure provide connectivity of the regions and access to the Single European Market; in this sense, they are a crucial engine of growth. The planned interventions under OPRG 2014-2020 will have a positive impact on the mobility of people and businesses, will contribute to the integration of

remote and less developed areas and will encourage the development of local economic potential, thus contributing to the attainment of the national and European goal of increasing employment.

Most of the resources of the OPRG 2014-2020 (54,46%) are allocated for sustainable urban development based on Integrated Plans for Urban Regeneration and Development. The amount of funds allocated to Priority axis 1 reflects the identification of cities as key factors for growth..

The allocation of financial resources under the Operational Programme is determined by its specificity. This is a territorial operational programme which contributes to several thematic objectives, concentrated and coordinated at territorial level. Nevertheless, the principle of thematic concentration is also followed, with a definite concentration on Thematic Objectives 4 and 6.

Table 2: Overview of the investment strategy of the operational programme

Priority axis	Fund (ERDF ³ , Cohesion Fund, ESF ⁴ or, YEI) ⁵	Union support ⁶ (EUR)	Proportion of total Union support for the operational programme ⁷	Thematic objective ⁸	Investment priorities ⁹	Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority	Common and programme-specific result indicators for which a target has been set
Priority axis 1. Sustainable and integrated urban development	ERDF	714 381 675	54,46%	TO 4: Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	Investment Priority: Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructures, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector.	Specific Objective 1: Raising energy efficiency in housing sector	Final energy consumption from households

³ European Regional Development Fund.

⁴ European Social Fund.

⁵ Youth Employment Initiative.

⁶ Total Union support (including the main allocation and the performance reserve).

⁷ Information by Fund and by priority axis.

⁸ Title of thematic objective (not applicable to technical assistance).

⁹ Title of investment priority (not applicable to technical assistance).

						Specific Objective 2: Raising energy efficiency in public buildings	Final energy consumption from public administration, commerce and services
				TO 6: Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	Investment Priority: Acting to improve the urban environment, to revitalise cities, regenerate and decontaminate brownfield sites (including conversion areas), reduce air pollution and promote noise-reduction measures.	Specific Objective 1: Improving the quality of the urban environment	Share of population benefitting from an improved urban environment
						Specific Objective 2: Improving investment economic activity in the cities through regeneration of areas with potential for economic development	Expenditures on acquisition of tangible fixed assets
				TO 10: Investing in education, skills and lifelong	Investment Priority: Investing in education, training, including vocational training for skills and lifelong learning by developing education	Specific Objective 1: Improving conditions for modern educational services.	Share of modernized educational institutions

				learning	and training infrastructure		
				TO 9: Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty	Investment priority: Investing in health and social infrastructure which contribute to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services	Specific Objective 1: Improving the housing conditions for marginalised groups of the population including the roma	Representatives from marginalised groups, including roma, with improved housing conditions
						Specific Objective 2: Improving conditions for modern social services	Share of modernized facilities for social services
						Specific Objective 3: Improving the access for sports for all and cultural services in cities	Share of modernized cultural/ sport objects
				TO 4: Supporting the shift	Investment Priority: Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of	Specific Objective 1: Development of ecological and	Public urban transport share

				towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multi-modal urban mobility and mitigation relevant adaptation measures	sustainable urban transport	
Priority Axis 2. Support for energy efficiency in support centers in peripheral areas	ERDF	89 848 981	6,85%	TO 4: Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	Investment Priority 1 of Priority Axis 2: Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructures, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector	Specific Objective 1: Raising energy efficiency in the housing sector in the support centres of 4 th level of the national polycentric system	Final energy consumption from households
						Specific Objective 2: Raising energy efficiency in public buildings in the support centres of 4 th level of the national polycentric system	Final energy consumption from public administration, commerce and services
Priority axis 3. Regional educational infrastructure	ERDF	97 662 011	7,45%	TO 10: Investing in education, skills and lifelong	Investment Priority 1 of Priority Axis 3: Investing in education, skills and life-long learning by developing educational	Specific Objective 1: Improving the conditions for modern education services	Share of modernized regional educational institutions

				learning	and training infrastructure		
Priority axis 4. Regional health infrastructure	ERDF	71 057 716	5,42%	TO 9: Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty	Investment Priority 1 of Priority Axis 4: Investing in health and social infrastructure which contribute to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services.	Specific Objective 1: Increased access to emergency medical care with the possibility of emergency diagnosis, treatment and monitoring within 24 hours.	Population with 30 minute access to emergency medical care and treatment and observation for 24 hours
						Specific objective 2: Reducing the hospitalisations in the health system	Hospitalisations per annum
Priority axis 5. Regional social infrastructure	ERDF	43 229 029	3,30%	TO 9: Promoting social inclusion and combating	Investment Priority 1 of Priority Axis 5: Investing in health and social infrastructure which contribute to national,	Specific Objective 1: Improving regional social infrastructure for Deinstitutionalization of social services for	Share of the social infrastructure for deinstitutionalization of social services for

				poverty	regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services.	children and elderly	children and elderly people.
Priority axis 6. Regional tourism	ERDF	85 642 499	6,53%	TO 6: Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	Investment Priority 1 of Priority Axis 6: Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage;	Specific Objective 1: Increasing the tourist frequentation of cultural sites of national and world importance	Internal tourism consumption
Priority axis 7. Regional road infrastructure	ERDF	165 347 882	12,61%	TO 7: Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	Investment Priority 1 of Priority Axis 6: Enhancing regional mobility through connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes	Specific Objective 1: Improving connectivity and accessibility with the TEN-T network for freights and passengres.	Passenger flow Freight flow

Priority axis 8. Technical assistance	ERDF	44 535 000	3,40%	n/a	n/a	Specific Objective 1: Strengthening the effectiveness of the Managing Authority	Average time required to pay the beneficiary from the submission date of the reimbursement application Average time for a project approval (between submission of a project's application and signing of a contract
						Specific Objective 2: Improvement of the administrative capacity of OPRG beneficiaries 2014-2020	Level of satisfaction of OPRG beneficiaries with training and technical support
						Specific Objective 3: Raising OPRG public awareness	Level of general public awareness about OPRG 2014-2020

SECTION 2 PRIORITY AXES

(Reference: points (b) and (c) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

2.A A description of the priority axes other than technical assistance

(Reference: point (b) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

2.A.1 Priority axis 1

ID of the priority axis	<2A.1 type="N" input="G" "SME" > 1
Title of the priority axis	<2A.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M" "SME" > Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development

<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments	<2A.3 type="C" input="M">
<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level	<2A.4 type="C" input="M" "SME" >
<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development	<2A.5 type="C" input="M">
<input type="checkbox"/> For the ESF: The entire priority axis is dedicated to social innovation or to transnational cooperation, or both	<2A.6 type="C" input="M">

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region, thematic objective or Fund (where applicable)

(Reference: Article 96(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<2A.0 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M">

This priority axis aims at implementing integrated actions for sustainable urban development in accordance with Article 7 of ERDF Regulation № 1301/2013 in big and medium sized

cities in the national polycentric network of Bulgaria.

The main objective of Priority axis 1 is to improve the quality of life and the growth in the medium and big cities in Bulgaria. Integrated strategies for sustainable urban development at the local level – IPURDs will be supported. The integrated actions for sustainable urban development will be implemented through combined support under four thematic objectives, namely: TO 4, 6, 9 and 10.

The significant financial resources for investments under Thematic objective 4 is justified by the requirements for thematic concentration at the national level, the poor condition and low energy efficiency of buildings and insufficient ecological urban public transport.

The actions to improve the urban environment and renovation of old industrial areas under thematic objective 6 will have a significant contribution to environmental protection and promoting resource efficiency and sustainable economic growth. Urban environment is the main integrating factor relative to other investment priorities within the priority axis.

Investments under thematic objective 9 will support social inclusion and combating poverty of vulnerable and marginalized groups, incl. Roma. The investments in educational infrastructure address the local needs of modern educational institutions and also contribute to the social inclusion in the cities.

The combination of thematic objectives and investment priorities is based on the identified needs of the cities, which are linked to the growing social exclusion and poor environmental parameters, but also to the potential for economic growth. The synergetic effect of the complex implementation of all thematic objectives will be much higher than the effect of their inconsistent implementation.

The main territorial concentration of priority axis will be implemented within the intervention zones within IPURDs. Considering their horizontal nature, activities for energy efficiency in residential buildings and public urban transport can be performed throughout the urban area of the cities.

In order to strengthen the functional links between cities and their peripheral areas, the urban authorities are given the opportunity to finance particular groups of activities outside the intervention zones within the city and its periphery.

Projects for functional links should be included in IPURDs based on methodological guidelines for developing and implementing of IPURDs. The total amount of projects that contribute to the functional links should not exceed 20% of the project portfolio of each city under Priority Axis 1 (so-called 20% flexibility). Projects within the 20% flexibility should meet the following conditions:

- To be part of the groups of activities Zones with potential for economic development, Social infrastructure, Cultural infrastructure, Sports infrastructure, Educational infrastructure.
- To be implemented in the peripheral area of influence of the city and to contribute to the improvement of the functional links of the city with its peripheral area of influence.
- To be in compliance with the municipal development plans.

Considering the importance of the priority axis specialized evaluations of urban development will be provided. Based on the results of the evaluations for 2018 and 2022 MA could

reallocate financial resources from the inactive to more active cities.

2.A.3 Fund, category of region and calculation basis for Union support

(Repeated for each combination under a priority axis)

<i>Fund</i>	<2A.7 type="S" input="S" "SME" > ERDF
<i>Category of region</i>	Less Developed Regions
<i>Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)</i>	<2A.9 type="S" input="S" "SME" > Total
<i>Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)</i>	<2A.9 type="S" input="S" > N/A

2.A.4 Investment priority 1.1

(Repeated for each investment priority under the priority axis)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<2A.10 type="S" input="S" "SME" > Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructures, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector.
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2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

(Repeated for each specific objective under the investment priority)

(Reference: points (b)(i) and (ii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>ID</i>	<2A.1.1 type="N" input="G" "SME" >I
<i>Specific objective</i>	<2A.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M" "SME" > Raising energy efficiency in the housing sector
<i>The results that the Member State seeks to achieve</i>	<2A.1.3 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M" "SME" > The activities under the investment priority will directly contribute to achieving the national target for increasing energy efficiency namely 25% higher energy efficiency by 2020 and indirectly- to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The investment priority will contribute to achieving national indicative

<i>with Union support</i>	indicators for energy savings in 2020 related to saving energy in final energy consumption (FEC) and primary energy consumption (PEC).
<i>ID</i>	2
<i>Specific objective</i>	Raising energy efficiency in the public buildings
<i>The results that the Member State seeks to achieve with Union support</i>	<p>The activities under this specific objective, amongst the effect of energy savings and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, will contribute to implementing the legal requirement to achieve energy efficiency standards for public buildings exploited by public bodies, namely - energy class "C", according to the Energy Efficiency Act and secondary legislation.</p> <p>Investments for energy efficiency measures in public administrative buildings will serve as an example of good practice at the local level and to promote implementation of similar measures funded from the national budget and other donors.</p>

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

(Reference: point (b)(ii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>ID</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Measurement unit</i>	<i>Category of region (where relevant)</i>	<i>Baseline value</i>	<i>Baseline year</i>	<i>Target value¹⁰ (2023)</i>	<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
<i>11</i>	<i>Final energy consumption from households</i>	<i>thousand tonnes of oil equivalent (thousand toe)</i>	<i>Less developed regions</i>	2 257,00	2013	2 248	<i>NSI</i>	<i>Twice during the period: 2018 and 2022</i>

<i>ID</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Measurement unit</i>	<i>Category of region (where relevant)</i>	<i>Baseline value</i>	<i>Baseline year</i>	<i>Target value¹¹ (2023)</i>	<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
<i>11</i>	<i>Final energy consumption from public administration, commerce and services</i>	<i>thousand tonnes of oil equivalent (thousand toe)</i>	<i>Less developed regions</i>	964	2013	957	<i>NSI</i>	<i>Twice during the period: 2018 and 2022</i>

¹⁰ For ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, the target values may be qualitative or quantitative.

¹¹ For ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, the target values may be qualitative or quantitative.

2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority

(by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96 (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<i><2A.2.1.1 type="S" input="S"></i> 4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructures, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector.
<i><2A.2.1.2 type="S" maxlength="17500" input="M"></i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation of energy efficiency measures in residential buildings, in student dormitory buildings, in administrative buildings of the state and municipal administration, such as: insulation of envelopes of the buildings, replacement of windows, renovation of the systems for maintaining microclimate, technical installations, local installations and / or connections to heat supply gas supply, installation of individual meters in accordance with the requirements of Directive 2012/27 /EU (where applicable) as well as accompanying construction works related to the implementation of energy efficiency measures, incl. construction reinforcement (when it is prescribed mandatory in the constructive survey).• Implementation of the above measures for energy efficiency accompanied by deep renovation of residential buildings, student dormitory buildings, administrative buildings of the state and municipal administration, incl. accompanying construction works, construction reinforcement (when it prescribed mandatory in constructive survey) as well as repair and reconstruction of different parts of the building (roof, exterior walls, staircase cells, elevators, etc.), if they achieve energy savings for the building of more than 60%;• Energy efficiency surveys and constructive surveys of existing residential buildings, student dormitory buildings and administrative buildings of the government and municipal administration;• Evaluation of the cost effectiveness of the investment;• Commissioning of installations for production of energy from renewable energy sources for the buildings listed above to meet their own energy consumption, where this is technically possible and economically feasible;• Provision of loans and/or guarantees for renovation of residential buildings and student dormitory buildings;• Improving access for people with disabilities to the buildings mentioned above.	

Beneficiaries:

1. Urban authorities (municipalities) of large and medium sized cities of 1st, 2nd and 3rd hierarchical level of national polycentric system, in accordance with section 1.1.1.
2. Bodies implementing financial instruments.
3. Owners of housing – for single family residential buildings;
4. Associations of owners of housing – for multifamily residential buildings;
5. State institutions - for administrative buildings of the state administration;
6. Higher education institutions and legal entities that manage student dormitories – for student dormitories.

Bodies under point 3 to 6 can participate in cooperation with the beneficiary municipality through contractual relations.

Main target groups:

- Households in the concerned residential buildings;
- Students living in the concerned dormitory buildings;
- Municipal and state institutions.
- Members of vulnerable social groups – improved access to the buildings will contribute to the social inclusion of people in a disadvantaged position.

Specific target territories:

39 cities of the first, second and third hierarchical level of the national polycentric system, listed in Section 1.1.1.

Justification

The social and economic analysis performed for the needs of OPRG 2014-2020 shows that the key problem in public infrastructure as well as in the housing sector is related to the low energy efficiency which determines the greatest needs in this sphere.

Statutory requirement for compliance with energy efficiency standards for building in operation is to reach energy class "C" which can be achieved by appropriate combination of energy efficiency measures in surrounding structures (constructions), in conjunction with measures of heating and ventilation (where applicable) incl. renewable energy in proven technical feasibility and economic viability.

In order to achieve the planned results and to promote energy efficiency improvements of buildings that currently have lower energy characteristics, deep renovation of buildings is allowed if together with energy efficiency measures, it contributes to more than 60 % energy savings for the building.

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Investment Priority	<p><2A.2.2.1 type="S" input="S"></p> <p>4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructures, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector.</p>
<p><2A.2.2.2 type="S" maxlength="5000" input="M"></p> <p>Accordance with Article 7 of the ERDF Regulation 1301/2013:</p> <p>In the process of delegation of responsibilities to urban authorities the MA will verify compliance of each investment program with the adopted IPURD in terms of the requirements of Art. 7 of the ERDF Regulation 1301/2013 set out in Section 4.2 of the Programme.</p> <p>Territorial concentration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligible for funding are the residential buildings and student dormitories throughout the medium and large cities of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd level of the national polycentric system according to Section 1.1.1 • Eligible for funding are the administrative buildings of government and municipal administration identified in the intervention zones of the respective integrated plans for urban regeneration and development of medium and large cities. <p>Multi-level governance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MA will delegate tasks related to the selection of the operations to the urban authorities of large and medium cities of the first, second and third hierarchical level of the national polycentric system, according to section 1.1.1. In this respect, the urban authorities are determined as intermediate bodies in accordance with Art. 123, para. 6 of the Common Regulation 1303/2013. The final recipients of the aid will participate in cooperation with the municipality - direct beneficiary through contractual relations. <p>Needs-based financing</p> <p>Eligible for support will be only buildings designed before 1999.</p> <p>Energy efficiency measures will be implemented only on the basis of energy efficiency survey of the building. The energy efficiency survey prescribes the necessary energy saving measures to comply with the energy efficiency requirements, in accordance with the Energy Efficiency Act. The energy efficiency survey will ensure that investments are really energy efficient and will show the extent of energy savings investment.</p> <p>Only projects that lead to energy efficiency meeting the national minimum standard of energy efficiency for existing buildings - Class of energy consumption "C" or projects that lead to energy savings of more than 60% in the case that measures for energy efficiency are accompanied by deep renovation, will be funded.</p> <p>Where necessary and possible, priority will be given to buildings with the greatest need of renovation and potential for energy savings.</p> <p>Sustainable development.</p> <p>Under the program an integrated and holistic approach will be implemented aiming to</p>	

address energy efficiency needs in the building as a whole, not to individual households/users. At the same time, the applied approach will be tailored to the individual characteristics of the building and the individual needs of energy efficiency measures which were established by the energy audit.

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment Priority</i>	<2A.2.3.1 type="S" input="S"> 4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructures, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector.
<i>Planned use of financial instruments</i>	<2A.2.3.2 type="C" input="M">
<2A.2.3.3 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M"> With respect to the multifamily residential buildings and administrative buildings of the state and municipal administration, no financial instruments are envisaged to be used. It is envisaged that financial instruments will be used in single-family residential buildings, as well as in combination with grants for student dormitories.	

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96 (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment Priority</i>	<2A.2.4.1 type="S" input="S"> 4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructures, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector.
<2A.2.4.2 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"> Major projects are not envisaged.	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

(Reference: point (b)(iv) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators

(by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023) ¹²			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
CO 31	Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	households	ERDF	Less developed regions			10 585	Public UMIS, MRD, Municipal administration	Annually
CO 32	Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	kWh/year	ERDF	Less developed regions			83 682 347	Public UMIS, MRD, Municipal administration	Annually
CO 34	Estimated annual decrease of GHG	tonnes of CO 2 eq	ERDF	Less developed regions			89 054	Public UMIS, MRD, Municipal administration	Annually

¹² For the ESF, this list includes common output indicators for which a target value has been set. Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. For the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, gender breakdown is in most cases not relevant. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

2.A.4 Investment priority 1.2

(Repeated for each investment priority under the priority axis)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<p><2A.10 type="S" input="S" "SME" ></p> <p>Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures</p>
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2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

(Repeated for each specific objective under the investment priority)

(Reference: points (b)(i) and (ii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>ID</i>	<p><2A.1.1 type="N" input="G" "SME" ></p> <p>1</p>
<i>Specific objective</i>	<p><2A.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M" "SME" ></p> <p>Development of ecological and sustainable urban transport</p>
<i>The results that the Member State seeks to achieve with Union support</i>	<p><2A.1.3 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M" "SME" ></p> <p>The expected results are related to the overall improvement of air quality and environment in cities through improving the urban public transport systems.</p> <p>On the other hand, the improvement of urban transport systems through the implementation of horizontal projects throughout the cities and promoting multimodal transport will lead to improved connectivity of the separate urban areas and its periphery and to facilitate the mobility of the population.</p> <p>The goal of developing sustainable public transport is to improve the living and environmental conditions in cities. The focus will be mainly on creating more efficient and quick public transport which is less energy intensive, building a more accessible secondary infrastructure of public transport networks and introducing clean types of urban transport.</p> <p>Thus lower levels of pollution that do not have a harmful impact on human health and on nature itself will be ensured.</p>

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

(Reference: point (b)(ii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>ID</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Measurement unit</i>	<i>Category of region (where relevant)</i>	<i>Baseline value</i>	<i>Baseline year</i>	<i>Target value¹³ (2023)</i>	<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
121	Public urban transport share Target: increase	%	Less developed regions	40,00	2013	43,00	Municipalities, Public UMIS	Twice during the period: 2018 and 2022
122	Quantity of fine particles in cities. Target: decrease	µg/m ³	Less developed regions	1,79	2012	1,57	Regional inspectorates for environment and waters; Executive Environment	Twice during the period: 2018 and 2022

¹³ For ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, the target values may be qualitative or quantitative.

							Agency; Eurostat.	
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2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority

(by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

<p>(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96 (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) <i>Investment priority</i></p>	<p><2A.2.1.1 type="S" input="S"> 4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multi-modal urban mobility and mitigation relevant adaptation measures</p>
	<p><2A.2.1.2 type="S" maxlength="17500" input="M"></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of traffic management plans and establishment of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS), including automated traffic management and control systems, vehicle detection and localization systems and ensuring an advantage for the vehicles of the urban public transport, systems for information to passengers in real time, automated ticketing systems, communication sub-systems, video surveillance systems to be used by the urban mobility centres, etc.• Improvement of the accessibility of the stations of urban public transport and the infrastructure leading to them (underpasses and overpasses), such as platforms and elevators for people with disabilities, removing the orientation and information barriers, light and audio announcements on stops, clear visualization of the lines and timetables, readable and appropriate information for people with impaired vision and for the blind, etc.;• Renovation of the transport infrastructure, such as the socket and catenary cable network, improving stations and stops, depots, repair and maintenance facilities and equipment;• Development of infrastructure and route network with new destinations to remote residential areas;• Provision of noise-reduction systems, such as construction of tram tracks with anti-vibration and anti-noise elements;• Development and improvement of urban public transport systems, incl. purchase of new rolling stock for urban transport, that is compliant with the European legislation on harmful emissions from engines and measures to increase the use of renewable / alternative energy sources in urban transport;• Construction/ renovation/ reconstruction of street networks and transport infrastructure together with the adjoining structures (bridges, tunnels, overpasses, underpasses etc. as an elements of the technical infrastructure pursuant to Article 64 (1) of the Spatial Development Act) regarding the development of an

integrated public transport system;

- Construction / reconstruction / renovation of pedestrian streets, sidewalks and pedestrian areas, cycling tracks and lanes, bicycle parking lots, underpasses, overpasses, transport infrastructure, including related activities such as installation of road signs, information boards, street marking etc., as part of the integrated urban transport system;
- Improving the connections between integrated urban transport, intercity bus, rail, air, inland waterways and marine transport, as part of realisation of intermodal transportations – renovation of municipal bus stations and relevant areas in front of the stations owned by municipalities, stops for the public transport, ensuring easy transfer to the subsequent type of transport and logical connections between the elements of infrastructure etc.;
- Construction / reconstruction / renovation of parking spaces and other measures related to parking arrangements in proximity to public urban transport nodes outside the city centre.

Beneficiaries:

1. Urban authorities (municipalities) of large and medium cities of 1st, 2nd and 3rd hierarchical level of national polycentric system, in accordance with section 1.1.1.
2. Bodies implementing financial instruments - in large and medium cities of 1st, 2nd and 3rd hierarchical level forming national polycentric system, in accordance with section 1.1.1;
3. Municipal companies for public transport.

Bodies under point 3 can participate in cooperation with the beneficiary municipality through contractual relations.

Target groups:

- The inhabitants of cities of 1st, 2nd and 3rd hierarchical level of national polycentric system and their surrounding area, who will benefit from the improved urban public transport;
- Visitors and guests of the cities, who will enjoy the possibility to move comfortably and easily within the city boundaries;
- The residents of smaller towns and villages located around the intervention cities – many people from the neighbouring towns and villages commute to the larger cities or use the administrative services or health institutions in those cities;
- Members of vulnerable social groups – improved access to public transport will contribute to the social inclusion of people with disabilities.

Specific target territories

Interventions will be implemented on the entire territory of the 39 big and medium cities, including functional links with neighbouring settlements, which represent part of the public urban transport system and are included in the integrated sustainable urban

transport project.

Justification:

Wide range of eligible activities is envisaged that will enable the implementation of integrated projects for sustainable urban transport. Thus activities will contribute to achieving the planned results because the urban transport is a major source of pollution of the air, incl. with a noise.

The support for urban public transport aims to increase the travels with urban transport and to reduce traffic because from the transport sector a most significant contribution to greenhouse gas emissions have passenger private cars, followed by heavy load vehicles.

In addition, for deterioration of the environment contribute more intensive movement and use of personal cars, as well as depreciation transport infrastructure, including the vehicle fleet of carriers serving the urban public transport.

The implementation of activities within the investment priority shall aim to promote multimodal sustainable urban mobility by creating opportunities for alternative forms of transport and their proper combination, including public transport, cycling, walking, connections with other modes of transport.

The measures to improve the accessibility of the environment, incl. in vehicles will contribute to social inclusion of disadvantaged people.

In this way, the intended investments will contribute to the overall improvement of the quality of live in cities and will promote people's mobility as a factor for sustainable and inclusive growth.

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment Priority</i>	<i><2A.2.2.1 type="S" input="S"></i> 4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multi-modal urban mobility and mitigation relevant adaptation measures
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<i><2A.2.2.2 type="S" maxlength="5000" input="M"></i> Accordance with Article 7 of the ERDF Regulation 1301/2013: MA will verify the compliance of each investment program with the adopted IPURD in terms of the requirements of Art. 7 of the ERDF Regulation 1301/2013 set out in Section 4.2 of the Programme. Territorial concentration: Funding will be provided to projects within the cities of Levels 1, 2 and 3 of the national polycentric system determined for support, and in addition to the territory within the boundaries of the urban built-up area the actions will cover functional links with neighbouring settlements which are part of the public urban transport system and are included in the integrated sustainable urban transport project. The projects will have

to take into consideration the functioning of the identified intervention zones within the IPURDs but are not spatially limited within them.

Integration

In cases where integrated urban transport measures are applied, including measures related to street networks, pedestrian areas and sidewalks, the need to apply them shall be clearly indicated and justified in the feasibility studies for integrated urban transport projects, while at the same time evidence shall be provided for their integrated nature and relevance to the system of public urban transport (e.g. street reconstruction in case of dedicating its separate lane for public transport vehicles or making infrastructure available in order to enable the introduction of new routes for public transport). The projects should be designed within the context of overall land-use and spatial development of the cities in accordance with their IPURD and to contribute to the development of the urban territory by the means of providing better accessibility and mobility of the population, as well as integration of the transport nodes with the social, cultural and economic activities.

Projects for the development of multimodal transport systems that lead to integrated and sustainable solutions will be promoted.

Multi-level governance:

MA will delegate tasks related to the selection of the operations to the urban authorities of large and medium cities of the first, second and third hierarchical level of national polycentric system, according to section 1.1.1. In this respect, the urban authorities are determined as intermediate bodies in accordance with Art. 123, para. 6 of the Common Regulation 1303/2013.

The final recipients of the aid will participate in cooperation with the municipality-direct beneficiary through contractual relations.

Needs-based financing

The approach for projects implementation and financing the different components will follow the established model under the 2007-2013 programming period where the supported measures are identified on the basis of a dedicated feasibility study, justifying their integrated character and their compliance with the objectives of the operational programme. Fundamental and obligatory element of the feasibility study is environmental analysis, incl. regulatory framework at European, national and regional level, including the municipal programmes for diminishing the level of the pollutants and for reaching the approved standards in accordance with the Ambient air quality Act (for cities that have developed such programmes). Within the feasibility study there is a requirement to analyze the expected environmental impact of the implementation of each of the proposed alternatives for the development and modernization of public transport, and also a detailed environmental analysis of the selected alternative.

In addition, the feasibility study should present a strategy for the overall development of the city and transport in accordance with the relevant strategic documents, including sustainable urban mobility plan (for cities that have developed such plans), Master Plan, transport scheme and others.

The task of the beneficiaries will be to prove on the basis of an adequate transport model and cost-benefit analysis that the foreseen measures are the most suitable option

to promote the sustainable urban mobility and with greatest environmental impact and that they contribute to the greatest extent to the realisation of the vision of IPURD and the achievement of the objectives of OPRG 2014-2020.

The compliance with applicable State aid rules will also be evaluated.

Sustainable development.

Projects that contribute to raising energy efficiency while improving the environment and quality of air will be funded.

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment Priority</i>	<p><2A.2.3.1 type="S" input="S"></p> <p>4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multi-modal urban mobility and mitigation relevant adaptation measures</p>
<i>Planned use of financial instruments</i>	<p><2A.2.3.2 type="C" input="M"></p>
<p><2A.2.3.3 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M"></p> <p>Support through financial instruments will be provided to final recipients who receive income from the investment of providing services to public transport and/or the provision of infrastructure for paid use. Financial instruments may be combined with grant assistance if proven necessary.</p>	

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96 (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment Priority</i>	<p><2A.2.4.1 type="S" input="S"></p> <p>4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multi-modal urban mobility and mitigation relevant adaptation measures</p>
<p><2A.2.4.2 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"></p> <p>The use of major projects is not envisaged.</p>	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

(Reference: point (b)(iv) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators

(by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023) ¹⁴			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
CO34	Estimated annual decrease of GHG	tonnes of CO ₂ eq	ERDF	Less developed regions			13 927,73	Public UMIS	Annually
1211	Total length of new or improved public transport lines	kilometres	ERDF	Less developed regions			30,47	Public UMIS	Annually

¹⁴ For the ESF, this list includes common output indicators for which a target value has been set. Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. For the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, gender breakdown is in most cases not relevant. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

2.A.4 Investment priority 1.3

(Repeated for each investment priority under the priority axis)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<p><2A.10 type="S" input="S" "SME" ></p> <p>Taking action to improve the urban environment, to revitalise cities, regenerate and decontaminate brownfield sites (including conversion areas), reduce air pollution and promote noise-reduction measures</p>
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2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

(Repeated for each specific objective under the investment priority)

(Reference: points (b)(i) and (ii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>ID</i>	<p><2A.1.1 type="N" input="G" "SME" ></p> <p>1</p>
<i>Specific objective</i>	<p><2A.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M" "SME" ></p> <p>Improving the quality of the urban environment</p>
<i>The results that the Member State seeks to achieve with Union support</i>	<p><2A.1.3 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M" "SME" ></p> <p>The main results that have to be achieved under this specific objective are related to improvement of the quality of the urban environment which will lead to an overall improvement of the quality of life in cities and increasing the attractiveness of cities in order to create conditions for increasing economic activity for sustainable growth.</p> <p>The investments in urban environment will improve the quality of air and of the urban environment as a whole.</p> <p>Addressing the issues of urban infrastructure will contribute towards the social inclusion of vulnerable groups.</p> <p>The investments in urban environment will contribute to ensuring a synergetic effect of investments under Priority Axis 1.</p>
<i>ID</i>	<p><2A.1.1 type="N" input="G" "SME" ></p> <p>2</p>
<i>Specific objective</i>	<p><2A.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M" "SME" ></p> <p>Improving investment activity in the cities through regeneration of zones with potential for economic development</p>
<i>The results that the Member</i>	<p><2A.1.3 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M" "SME" ></p> <p>The results that are sought in the long term are increase of the employment and improvement of the investment activity in the cities.</p>

<i>State seeks to achieve with Union support</i>	<p>Through suitable investments the intervention zones with potential for economic development within IPURDs can become attractive places for doing business and entrepreneurship and thus contributing to the creation of new jobs.</p> <p>This will contribute to attract investment and retain and attract young people and skilled workforce that meet the expectations of entrepreneurs and potential investors.</p>
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Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

(Reference: point (b)(ii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>ID</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Measurement unit</i>	<i>Category of region (where relevant)</i>	<i>Baseline value</i>	<i>Baseline year</i>	<i>Target value¹⁵ (2023)</i>	<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
<i>Specific objective</i>		Improving the quality of the urban environment						
131	Share of population benefitting from an improved urban environment	%	Less developed regions	40,09	2013	55,03	NSI, Public UMIS, Municipal administration	Twice during the period: 2018 and 2022
132	Quantity of fine particles in cities. Traget: decrease	µg/m ³	Less developed regions	43,74	2012	41,22	Regional inspectorates for environment and waters; Executive Environment Agency;	Twice during the period: 2018 and 2022

¹⁵ For ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, the target values may be qualitative or quantitative.

							Eurostat.	
<i>Specific objective</i>		Improving investment activity in the cities through regeneration of zones with potential for economic development						
133	Expenditures on acquisition of tangible fixed assets	Bln. EUR	Less developed regions	5,13	2012	5,30	NSI	Twice during the period: 2018 and 2022

2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority

(by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96 (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<2A.2.1.1 type="S" input="S"> 6e - Taking action to improve the urban environment, to revitalise cities, regenerate and decontaminate brownfield sites (including conversion areas), reduce air pollution and promote noise-reduction measures
<p><u>Group of activities: Urban environment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The construction and rehabilitation of public recreation spaces, e.g. parks, green areas, children’s playgrounds, zoos, city squares, the spaces between multifamily housing buildings, free-access sports grounds, etc., including placement of benches, arbors, restoration of drinking fountains, decorative fountains, ponds, statues, monuments and other elements of the urban furniture, incl. green infrastructure and connecting green areas to improve urban ecosystems.• Construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation of the physical elements of the urban environment, e.g. pedestrian alleys and sidewalks, bicycle trails and lanes, pedestrian areas, underpasses and overpasses for pedestrians and cyclists, including related activities such as signposting, placement of information boards, etc.• Construction, rehabilitation and reconstruction of streets and public parkings.• Installation of energy saving street lighting and security and crime prevention measures, e.g. installing lighting in parks, security surveillance systems in public places, etc. as part of the construction and rehabilitation of other physical elements of the urban environment (street network, parking areas) within IPURDs;• Introducing systems for control of motor vehicle access into pedestrian areas, e.g. mechanical/hydraulic/electric gates or barriers that can be opened/lowered remotely from an ambulance, a fire engine, a police vehicle or a public sanitation truck and also allow access into the pedestrian area by other vehicles (e.g. delivery vans) during pre-set hours while enabling connectivity with the video surveillance system, etc.• Creation of an accessible architectural environment in relation to the above areas of activity, including by improving the access for people with disabilities to buildings of the administration.	

Group of activities: Zones with potential for economic development

- Improvement / upgrading and reconstruction of existing, or construction / development of new technical infrastructure related to business and entrepreneurship, e.g. communication connectivity; construction / reconstruction / rehabilitation of streets providing access to and within industrial zones and business areas; public lighting; connections to the gas, electric, water and sewage primary networks; signposting and placement of information boards; security surveillance systems around or within the business zones and lots, etc.
- Construction, renovation, rehabilitation, reconstruction and repair of business and industrial areas, incl. public or commercial buildings, incl. connections to central heating systems, gas, etc.;
- Cleaning, recultivation, decontamination and other activities to prepare the existing polluted and obsolete industrial and brownfield sites of economic activity;
- Landscaping, places for recreation, bicycle lanes, bicycle and motor vehicle parking spaces for workers in the zones with potential for economic development;

Beneficiaries:

1. Urban authorities (municipalities) of large and medium cities of 1st, 2nd and 3rd hierarchical level of national polycentric system, in accordance with section 1.1.1 –
2. Bodies implementing financial instruments – in large and medium cities of 1st, 2nd and 3rd hierarchical level of national polycentric system, in accordance with section 1.1.1.

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Target groups:

- The population of the cities of 1st, 2nd and 3rd hierarchical level of the national polycentric system in accordance with the NSDC, which will benefit from an improved urban environment and a general increase in living standards.
- Investors who would invest in renovated areas;
- Members of vulnerable social groups – the improved access to the buildings will contribute to the social inclusion of people in a disadvantaged position.

Justification

Urban environment

The specific investments will be financed, targeting clearly defined urban areas aimed at their physical renewal and improvement, in order to creating an attractive urban environment and improving the environmental quality, because the air pollution is also due to road surfaces (secondary dusting), many degraded areas in cities as neglected parks, bare spaces among buildings, parking on lawns, holes in the street and their irregular cleaning, etc.

Zones with potential for economic development

The activities in support of zones with potential for economic development directly address the achievement of **growth and jobsojective**. They are based on the experience under JESSICA from 2007-2013 programming period.

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment Priority</i>	<p><2A.2.2.1 type="S" input="S"></p> <p>6e - Taking action to improve the urban environment, to revitalise cities, regenerate and decontaminate brownfield sites (including conversion areas), reduce air pollution and promote noise-reduction measures</p>
<p><2A.2.2.2 type="S" maxlength="5000" input="M"></p> <p>The following guiding principles will be observed in the selection of operations under this investment priority:</p> <p>Accordance with Article 7 of the ERDF Regulation 1301/2013:</p> <p>In the process of delegation of responsibilities to urban authorities the MA will verify the compliance of each investment program with the adopted IPURD in terms of the requirements of Art. 7 of the ERDF Regulation 1301/2013 set out in Section 4.2 of the Programme.</p> <p>Territorial concentration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objects and projects within the scope of urban strategies (IPURDs) will be financed. • Group of activities "Urban environment" envisages interventions only in intervention zones included in the urban strategies (IPURDs). • Group of activities "Zones with potential for economic development" will be implemented in the intervention zones with potential for economic development included in urban strategies (IPURDs) as well as within the 20% flexibility for providing functional links of the city with its periphery indicated in section 2.A.2 of the priority axis. <p>Multi-level governance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MA will delegate tasks related to the selection of the operations to the urban authorities of big and medium cities of the first, second and third hierarchical level of the national polycentric system, according to section 1.1.1. In this respect, the urban authorities are determined as intermediate bodies in accordance with Art. 123, para. 6 of the Common Regulation 1303/2013. <p>Needs-based financing</p> <p>Projects for intervention zones with potential for economic development with the highest potential for attracting investments and achieving economic growth in the regions will be financed.</p>	

Sustainable development.

With regard to the urban environment will be financed only projects that contribute to the improvement of the natural urban environment and to the reduction of fine particles in cities.

Integrated investments and synergetic effect:

Urban environment is a major integrating factor for urban development projects. In this context activities for urban environment should ensure synergy with other investments planned under the priority axis.

The projects under this investment priority will be funded in case that the elements of underground technical infrastructure under the objects of intervention are fully built and/or reconstructed at the time of application and the municipality does not provide for planned construction or reconstruction of existing underground infrastructure and/or in case that the beneficiary will provide own resources or another source of funding for the underground infrastructure before implementing the actions under OPRG 2014-2020.

The projects under group of activities "Zones with potential for economic development" will be funded in case of a proven interest by the potential investors to invest in the relevant zones.

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment Priority</i>	<2A.2.3.1 type="S" input="S"> 6e - Taking action to improve the urban environment, to revitalise cities, regenerate and decontaminate brownfield sites (including conversion areas), reduce air pollution and promote noise-reduction measures
<i>Planned use of financial instruments</i>	<2A.2.3.2 type="C" input="M">
<2A.2.3.3 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M"> The use of financial instruments is envisaged for all groups of activities under the investment priority.	

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96 (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment Priority</i>	<i><2A.2.4.1 type="S" input="S"></i> 6e - Taking action to improve the urban environment, to revitalise cities, regenerate and decontaminate brownfield sites (including conversion areas), reduce air pollution and promote noise-reduction measures
<i><2A.2.4.2 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"></i> Use of major projects is not envisaged.	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

(Reference: point (b)(iv) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators

(by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023) ¹⁶			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
CO38	Open space created or rehabilitated in urban areas	square metres	ERDF	Less developed regions			3 184 724	Public UMIS, MRD, Municipal administration	Annually
CO22	Total surface area of rehabilitated land	hectares	ERDF	Less developed regions			172	Public UMIS, MRD, Municipal administration	Annually
CO39	Public or commercial buildings built or renovated in urban areas	square metres	ERDF	Less developed regions			27 274	Public UMIS, MRD, Municipal administration	Annually

¹⁶ For the ESF, this list includes common output indicators for which a target value has been set. Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. For the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, gender breakdown is in most cases not relevant. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

2.A.4 Investment priority 1.4

(Repeated for each investment priority under the priority axis)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<p><2A.10 type="S" input="S" "SME" ></p> <p>Investing in health and social infrastructure which contribute to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services</p>
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2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

(Repeated for each specific objective under the investment priority)

(Reference: points (b)(i) and (ii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>ID</i>	<p><2A.1.1 type="N" input="G" "SME" ></p> <p>1</p>
<i>Specific objective</i>	<p><2A.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M" "SME" ></p> <p>Improving the housing conditions for marginalised groups of the population including the Roma</p>
<i>The results that the Member State seeks to achieve with Union support</i>	<p><2A.1.3 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M" "SME" ></p> <p>The main result under this specific objective, in accordance with the identified needs, is improvement of housing conditions for marginalized groups, including Roma, as a major step to combat the poverty and social exclusion.</p>
<i>ID</i>	<p><2A.1.1 type="N" input="G" "SME" ></p> <p>2</p>
<i>Specific objective</i>	<p><2A.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M" "SME" ></p> <p>Improving conditions for modern social services</p>
<i>The results that the</i>	<p><2A.1.3 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M" "SME" ></p> <p>The main result that is being sought is ensuring an adequate social infrastructure as a key factor for the effective social inclusion and</p>

<i>Member State seeks to achieve with Union support</i>	participation of vulnerable groups in the life of the society. The main objectives of the social policy within the framework of an integrated and sustainable urban development include integration of disadvantaged social groups and provision, or improvement, of basic living conditions for vulnerable or indigent groups of the population.
ID	<2A.1.1 type="N" input="G" "SME" > 3
<i>Specific objective</i>	<2A.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M" "SME" > Improving the access for practicing mass sport and cultural services in cities
<i>The results that the Member State seeks to achieve with Union support</i>	<2A.1.3 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M" "SME" > Interventions in sports infrastructure will provide opportunities for sports for all for citizens and especially for representatives of social groups such as children, the elderly, people with disabilities, poor people, unemployed, working poor, illiterate, unskilled and low educated people of working age, homeless, living alone without relatives, large families, single parents with children, pensioners, marginalized groups, including Roma, which will improve their health status and opportunities for socialization and communication. The investing in cultural infrastructure is intended to increase the attractiveness of cultural sites and to promote participation in the cultural life of citizens as a factor of social cohesion and integration of those members of society who for one reason or another are vulnerable and disadvantaged. In this sense, the support for cultural infrastructure should provide cultural services available to citizens and especially to representatives of social groups such as children, the elderly, people with disabilities, poor people, unemployed, working poor, illiterate, unskilled and low educated people of working age, homeless, living alone without relatives, large families, single parents with children, pensioners, marginalized groups, including Roma which will satisfy their needs in culture and will create opportunities for socialization and communication.

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

(Reference: point (b)(ii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>ID</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Measurement unit</i>	<i>Category of region (where relevant)</i>	<i>Baseline value</i>	<i>Baseline year</i>	<i>Target value¹⁷ (2023)</i>	<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
141	Representatives from marginalised groups, including roma, with improved housing conditions; Target: increase	persons	Less developed regions	905	2014	2 833	MLSP	Twice during the period: 2018 and 2022
142	Share of modernized facilities for social services; Target: increase	%	Less developed regions	4,42	2013	9,66	NSI	Twice during the period: 2018 and 2022
143	Share of modernized cultural/ sport sites;	%	Less developed regions	2,04	2013	6,33	NSI	Twice during the period: 2018

¹⁷ For ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, the target values may be qualitative or quantitative.

	Target: increase							and 2022
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2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority

(by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96 (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<p><2A.2.1.1 type="S" input="S"></p> <p>9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contribute to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services</p>
<p><2A.2.1.2 type="S" maxlength="17500" input="M"></p> <p><u>Group of activities: Social Infrastructure</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support for the provision of modern social housing to vulnerable, minority and marginalised groups of the population and other disadvantaged groups through construction, reconstruction, renovation and expansion of social housing and the rehabilitation of the adjacent yard, in which target group representatives to be accommodated; improving access for people with disabilities to the buildings mentioned above as part of the remaining construction and installation works related to the corresponding objects.• General renovation / reconstruction / construction of adequate municipal infrastructure for provision of community-based services to the elderly and to people with disabilities outside the state policy on deinstitutionalisation: day-care centres, shelters, crisis assistance centres, social dormitories, etc. including the adjacent yard; improving access for people with disabilities to the buildings mentioned above as part of the remaining construction and installation works related to the corresponding objects and construction inspections of the existing building.• General renovation / reconstruction / construction of adequate municipal infrastructure for provision of community-based services to children outside the state policy on deinstitutionalisation: centres for support of homeless children, crisis assistance centres, day-care centres, counselling centres, etc. including the adjacent yard; improving access for people with disabilities to the buildings mentioned above as part of the remaining construction and installation works related to the corresponding objects and construction inspections of the existing building.• Delivery and assembly of equipment and furnishings for the buildings and facilities	

listed above, as part of their general overhaul;

Group of activities: Sports infrastructure

- Construction, reconstruction, renovation, equipment and furnishing of sports infrastructure for sports for all, such as sports halls, swimming pools, football fields, stadiums for public use, combined volleyball / basketball playgrounds, tennis courts, etc., including the adjacent yard; improving access for people with disabilities to the buildings mentioned above as part of the remaining construction and installation works related to the corresponding objects and construction inspections of the existing building.

Group of activities: Cultural infrastructure

- Development of cultural infrastructure through construction, reconstruction, renovation, equipment and furnishing of cultural centres, theatres, community centres, libraries, opera houses, galleries, cultural exhibition halls and other cultural institutions including the adjacent yard; improving access for people with disabilities to the buildings mentioned above as part of the remaining construction and installation works related to the corresponding objects and construction inspections of the existing building.

Beneficiaries:

1. Urban authorities (municipalities) of large and medium sized cities of 1st, 2nd and 3rd hierarchical level of the national polycentric system, in accordance with section 1.1.1.
2. Bodies implementing financial instruments – In large and medium cities of 1st, 2nd and 3rd hierarchical level of national polycentric system, in accordance with section 1.1.1.
3. Ministry of Culture – for state owned sites, managed by the Ministry of culture; Ministry of Culture under point 3 can participate in cooperation with the beneficiary municipality through contractual relations.

Target groups:

- Vulnerable groups of the population in target cities to support: social groups such as children, the elderly, people with disabilities, poor people, unemployed, working poor, illiterate, unskilled and low educated people of working age, homeless, living alone without relatives, large families, single parents with children, pensioners, marginalized groups, including Roma;
- The population of cities earmarked for support under OPRG 2014-2020, which will benefit from an improved social infrastructure and a general increase in living standards.

Justification:

Social Infrastructure

Activities under group of activities “Social Infrastructure” directly address the implementation of the specific objective 1 “Improving the housing conditions for marginalised groups of the population including the Roma” and 2 “Improving conditions for modern social services”. For this purpose they are focused on improving housing conditions for marginalized groups, including Roma and improvement of social services at the local level for vulnerable population groups.

The adopted approach suggests integration of measures specifically aimed at socially vulnerable groups to the general policy of integrated sustainable urban development in the cities and particularly within the social intervention zones in IPURDs for the cities of 1st to 3rd level. In this respect, the experience and lessons learned from the implementation of projects for social housing in the last programming period will be taken into account and it is envisaged sustainable and targeted work with local communities, incl. information campaigns, through which the necessary public support and acceptance of social projects aimed at improving the living conditions of vulnerable groups, including Roma, will be provided. In this connection, implementation of integrated investments to support vulnerable groups, it is necessary "soft" measures under OPHRD 2014-2020 to precede implementation of infrastructure measures for building social housing under the OPRG 2014-2020.

Sports and cultural infrastructure

Activities for improving the sports and cultural infrastructure directly address the implementation of the specific objective 3 “Improved access for practicing mass sport and cultural services in cities”.

The investment in sports infrastructure reported that Bulgaria occupies one of the last places in Europe in terms of the health status and participation of its population in sports activities which negatively affects the health status of the population. Providing opportunities for sport, especially for representatives of social groups such as children, the elderly, people with disabilities, poor people, unemployed, working poor, illiterate, unskilled and low educated people of working age, homeless, living alone without relatives, large families, single parents with children, pensioners, marginalized groups, including Roma, will contribute to their full participation in public life, improved health status and reduced hooliganism and juvenile crime.

Through investments in cultural infrastructure the necessary conditions for access to the cultural institutions of people in vulnerable and disadvantaged groups will be created, especially for children, the elderly, people with disabilities, poor people, unemployed, working poor, illiterate, unskilled and low educated people of working age, homeless, living alone without relatives, large families, single parents with children, pensioners, marginalized groups, including Roma, taking into account their socio-economic status (eg. through reduced-price tickets for children, pensioners and people with disabilities, etc.), which will lead to their inclusion in the cultural life of the city.

These measures will be part of an overall economic development strategy for a specific area/city and will stimulate socio-economic integration of minorities by meeting their cultural needs. Renovation of cultural infrastructure in the cities, as part of integrated measures for urban development, will contribute to social inclusion through the promotion of cultural life in the cities.

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment Priority</i>	<p><2A.2.2.1 type="S" input="S"></p> <p>9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contribute to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services</p>
<p><2A.2.2.2 type="S" maxlength="5000" input="M"></p> <p>The following guiding principles will be observed in the selection of operations under this investment priority:</p> <p>Accordance with Article 7 of the ERDF Regulation 1301/2013:</p> <p>The MA will verify the compliance of each investment program with the adopted IPURD in terms of the requirements of Art. 7 of the ERDF Regulation 1301/2013 set out in Section 4.2 of the Programme.</p> <p>Territorial concentration:</p> <p>Activities for social, cultural and sports infrastructure will be implemented within the intervention zones in IPURDs as well as within the 20% flexibility for providing functional links of the city with its periphery indicated in section 2.A.2 of the priority axis</p> <p>Multi-level governance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MA will delegate tasks related to the selection of the operations to the urban authorities of big and medium cities of the first, second and third hierarchical level of national polycentric system, according to section 1.1.1. In this respect, the urban authorities are determined as intermediate bodies in accordance with Art. 123, para. 6 of the Common Regulation 1303/2013.• The projects will be financed in case of a declaration by the management body of the relevant social, cultural or sports institution which certify agreement with the proposed project, incl. the specific project design solution. The beneficiaries should submit documents from the management body of the relevant institutions certifying commitment to assistance for the project implementation, in accordance with their obligations and competences, as well as for ensuring the sustainability and durability of the investments in the respective facilities. <p>Needs-based financing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• At least 5% of the aggregate budget under Priority Axis 1 will be directed to achieving the results under Specific objective 1 “Improving the housing conditions for marginalised groups of the population including the Roma” and Specific objective 2 “Improving conditions for modern social services” In accordance with	

the criteria for selection of operations, the Programme will fund projects with the highest potential for social inclusion. Project proposals for the provision of municipal social housing for vulnerable, minority and socially disadvantaged groups and other disadvantaged groups should be in accordance with the National Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria for Roma Integration 2012-2020.

- In addition, there will be no investment in large-scale sites of sports and cultural infrastructure.

Sustainable development.

- Projects that contribute to raising energy efficiency, improvement of the environment and social inclusion will be funded.

Integrated investments

- The main principle for funding social housing projects is to reducing the concentration of poverty and spatial segregation.
- The measures for social housing should contribute to the spatial integration of marginalized groups in society and to prevent segregation, isolation and exclusion, avoiding the creation of separate territories. The housing measures should be combined with necessary measures to provide technical (utilities-water, electricity, gas, etc.), social and educational infrastructure (schools, kindergartens, public services, etc.) and measures for improving urban environment and public transport. In addition, the interventions in the housing should be combined with activities to ensure access to education, employment, health and social services for disadvantaged groups. Compliance with these requirements will be observed at the stage of selection of operations.
- The projects for social housing will be funded in case of strong evidences about public support and agreement with the projects based on public discussions, campaigns, round tables, etc. conducted before approval and implementation of infrastructure projects. In discussions representatives of the target group, which will use the social infrastructure, as well as other affected stakeholder must be involved. In the stage of selection of operations MA will require beneficiaries to present report and documents explaining how the views of interested parties, including the negative ones, are taken into account in the proposed projects.
- The activities for social housing require active information events at preceding stage which have to ensure public support for the planned activities.

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment Priority</i>	<p><2A.2.3.1 type="S" input="S"> 9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which</p>
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	contribute to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services
<i>Planned use of financial instruments</i>	<2A.2.3.2 type="C" input="M">
<2A.2.3.3 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M">	
<p>For investments in sports and cultural infrastructure It is planned support through financial instruments to be applied for final recipients who receive income from the provided services or from the provision of sports infrastructure for paid use.</p> <p>For investments in cultural infrastructure a combination of financial instruments with grants is planned.</p> <p>It is envisaged to finance projects that could not be implemented on a market basis, because they have a strong element of social inclusion.</p>	

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96 (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment Priority</i>	<2A.2.4.1 type="S" input="S">
	9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contribute to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services
<2A.2.4.2 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M">	
Use of major projects is not envisaged	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

(Reference: point (b)(iv) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators

(by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023) ¹⁸			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
CO 39	Public or commercial buildings built or renovated in urban areas	square metres	ERDF	Less developed regions			94 911	Public UMIS	Annually
CO 40	Rehabilitated housing in urban areas	housing units	ERDF	Less developed regions			560	Public UMIS	Annually
142 1	Population covered by improved social services	persons	ERDF	Less developed regions			264 383	Public UMIS	Annually
142 2	Representatives from marginalised groups, including roma benefiting from	persons	ERDF	Less developed regions			1 353	Public UMIS	Annually

¹⁸ For the ESF, this list includes common output indicators for which a target value has been set. Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. For the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, gender breakdown is in most cases not relevant. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

	modernised infrastructure	social								
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2.A.4 Investment priority 1.5

(Repeated for each investment priority under the priority axis)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<2A.10 type="S" input="S" "SME" > Investing in education, training, including vocational training for skills and lifelong learning by developing education and training infrastructure
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2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

(Repeated for each specific objective under the investment priority)

(Reference: points (b)(i) and (ii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>ID</i>	<2A.1.1 type="N" input="G" "SME" > 1
<i>Specific objective</i>	<2A.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M" "SME" > Improving conditions for modern educational services
<i>The results that the Member State seeks to achieve with Union support</i>	<2A.1.3 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M" "SME" > A main result of the planned support under the investment priority will be the modernisation of the educational infrastructure of local importance, which would allow the provision of modern conditions and modern teaching methods and will improve the quality of education and reduce drop-out rates of students. The planned investments will improve the access to quality and inclusive pre-school and school education for disadvantaged children, particularly Roma.

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

(Reference: point (b)(ii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>ID</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Measurement unit</i>	<i>Category of region (where relevant)</i>	<i>Baseline value</i>	<i>Baseline year</i>	<i>Target value¹⁹ (2023)</i>	<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
151	Share of modernized educational institutions Target: increase	%	Less developed regions	8,53	2013	14,10	NSI	Twice during the period: 2018 and 2022

¹⁹ For ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, the target values may be qualitative or quantitative.

2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority

(by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96 (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<2A.2.1.1 type="S" input="S"> 10a - Investing in education, training, including vocational training for skills and lifelong learning by developing education and training infrastructure
<2A.2.1.2 type="S" maxlength="17500" input="M"> Indicative eligible activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Construction, reconstruction and renovation of municipal educational institutions, such as crèches and kindergartens, general and profiled schools (classrooms, libraries, school labs, sports facilities, school wings, school dorms, internet connectivity), including the adjacent school yards; improving access for people with disabilities to the buildings mentioned above as part of the remaining construction and installation works related to the corresponding objects as well as construction inspections of the existing building.• Delivery and assembly of equipment and furnishings for the buildings and facilities listed above, as part of their general overhaul. Beneficiaries: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Urban authorities (municipalities) of large and medium sized cities of 1st, 2nd and 3rd hierarchical level of national polycentric system in accordance with section 1.1.1 – for interventions for sustainable urban development according Art. 7 of ERDF Regulation 1301/2013. Target groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children and pupils who have not completed secondary education, in the territories of cities of 1st to 3rd level, who will be the direct users of the infrastructure in question. Special focus on members of those age groups of the Roma population that have the lowest educational status and limited access to educational services will be achieved through ensuring equal access to quality education, incl. by integrating Roma children and students in mixed kindergartens and schools in accordance with the National Roma Integration Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria 2012-2020.• Children and pupils from vulnerable social groups, incl. Roma– the improved architectural environment will contribute to the social inclusion of people in a	

disadvantaged position.

Justification:

The investment priority includes a combination of activities that are directly aimed at the modernization of preschool and school infrastructure of local importance.

Enabling a full day-time educational process through the implementation of activities to improve the material and technical base of municipal educational infrastructure, will encourage young people to spend more time at school, will provoke their interest and willingness for knowledge development and continued education, and will turn schools into an attractive place for personal development and the basis for future competitive professional realisation. Thus the interventions will contribute to reducing preschool and school drop-out rates.

The educational institutions of local importance providing education to children living in the vicinity of the relevant institutions within the social intervention zones, incl. disadvantaged children and Roma will be supported. Within the priority axis specific indicator aimed at representatives of marginalized groups benefit from improved educational conditions will be monitored.

In order to maximize the effect of the investments the coordination with OPSESG regarding integration of measures to improve the educational process with the modernization of education infrastructure will be sought.

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment Priority</i>	<i><2A.2.2.1 type="S" input="S"></i> 10a - Investing in education, training, including vocational training for skills and lifelong learning by developing education and training infrastructure
<i><2A.2.2.2 type="S" maxlength="5000" input="M"></i> The following guiding principles will be observed in the selection of operations under this investment priority: Accordance with Article 7 of the ERDF Regulation 1301/2013: In the process of delegation of responsibilities to urban authorities the MA will verify the compliance of each investment program with the adopted IPURD in terms of the requirements of Art. 7 of the ERDF Regulation 1301/2013 set out in Section 4.2 of the Programme. Territorial concentration: Activities for educational infrastructure of local importance should will be implemented within the intervention zones in IPURDs as well as within the 20% flexibility for providing functional links of the city with its periphery indicated in section 2.A.2 of the priority axis Multi-level governance: MA will delegate tasks related to the selection of the	

operations to the urban authorities of large and medium cities of the first, second and third hierarchical level of national polycentric system, according to section 1.1.1. In this respect, the urban authorities are determined as intermediate bodies in accordance with Art. 123, para. 6 of the Common Regulation 1303/2013.

Needs-based financing

In accordance with the criteria for selection of operations, the programme will fund projects with the highest potential to achieve social inclusion and fulfil the objective for improving conditions for modern educational services and integration of marginalized groups, incl. Roma. The equipment and furnishings delivered shall help improve the tuition process.

The main difference with the approach of Priority axis 3 to educational infrastructure is that the current investment priority will fund educational infrastructure of local importance which is restricted only to crèches, kindergardens, general and profiled schools, based on local needs identified in the integrated plans for urban regeneration and development and taking into account the national strategic framework for development in the education sector. Priority axis 3 will support educational infrastructure of national and regional importance.

Sustainable development.

Projects that contribute to raising energy efficiency while improving the environment and promoting social inclusion will be funded.

All projects will be accompanied by a declaration by the management body of the relevant educational institution which certify agreement with the proposed project, incl. the specific project design solution as well as to certify commitment to assistance for the project implementation, in accordance with their obligations and competences, incl. for ensuring the sustainability and durability of the investments in the respective facilities.

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment Priority</i>	<2A.2.3.1 type="S" input="S"> Investing in education, training, including vocational training for skills and lifelong learning by developing education and training infrastructure
<i>Planned use of financial instruments</i>	<2A.2.3.2 type="C" input="M">
<2A.2.3.3 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M"> The use of financial instruments is not envisaged.	

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96 (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment Priority</i>	<i><2A.2.4.1 type="S" input="S"></i> 4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multi-modal urban mobility and mitigation relevant adaptation measures
<i><2A.2.4.2 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"></i> The use of major projects is not envisaged	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

(Reference: point (b)(iv) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators

(by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023) ²⁰			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
CO 35	Capacity of supported childcare or educational infrastructure	persons	ERDF	Less developed regions			76 571	Public UMIS, MRD, Municipal administration	Annually
151 1	Representatives from marginalised groups, including roma benefiting from modernised social infrastructure	persons	ERDF	Less developed regions			2 264	Public UMIS, MRD, Municipal administration	Annually

²⁰ For the ESF, this list includes common output indicators for which a target value has been set. Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. For the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, gender breakdown is in most cases not relevant. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

2.A.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7²¹

Specific provisions for ESF²², where applicable (by priority axis and, where relevant, category of region): social innovation, transnational cooperation and ESF contribution to thematic objectives 1 to 7.

Description of the contribution of the planned actions of the priority axis to:

- social innovation (if not covered by a dedicated priority axis);
- transnational cooperation (if not covered by a dedicated priority axis);
- thematic objectives referred to in points (1) to (7) of the first paragraph of Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

Priority axis	<2A.3.1 type="S" input="S">
	<2A.3.2 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M"> N/A

2.A.8 Performance framework

(Reference: point (b)(v) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2), and Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 6: Performance framework of the priority axis

(by fund and, for the ERDF and ESF, category of region)²³

²¹ Only for programmes supported by the ESF.

²² For the ESF, this list includes common output indicators for which a target value has been set and all programme-specific output indicators.

Priority axis	Indicator type (Key implementation step, financial, output or, where appropriate, result indicator)	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018 ²⁴			Final target (2023) ²⁵			Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
							M	W	T	M	W	T		
1	financial	1	Certified amount	euro	ERDF	Less developed regions	242 467 439			840 449 030			Public UMIS	The milestone is calculated based on forecast for timing for contracting of each operation and expected duration of the projects.
1	output	CO32	Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	kWh/year	ERDF	Less developed regions	15 732 281			83 682 347			Public UMIS	The indicator is representative for PA 1 and is related to 9,24 % of the

²³ Where YEI is implemented as part of a priority axis, YEI milestones and targets must be distinguished from other milestones and targets for the priority axis in accordance with implementing acts referred to in the fifth subparagraph of Article 22(7) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, as YEI resources (specific allocation and matching ESF support) are excluded from the performance reserve.

²⁴ Milestones may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

²⁵ Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

												resources allocated to the PA.
1	output	CO38	Open space created or rehabilitated in urban areas	square metres	ERDF	Less developed regions	598 728			3 184 724	Public UMIS	The indicator is representative for PA 1 and is related to 18,53 % of the resources allocated to the PA.
1	output	CO35	Capacity of supported childcare or education infrastructure	persons	ERDF	Less developed regions	14 395			76 571	Public UMIS	The indicator is representative for PA 1 and is related to 10,08 % of the resources allocated to the PA.
1	output	CO40	Rehabilitated housing in urban areas	housing units	ERDF	Less developed regions	65			560	Public UMIS	The indicator is representative for PA 1 and is related to 1,70 % of the resources allocated to the PA.
1	output	CO39	Public or commercial buildings built or renovated in urban areas	square metres	ERDF	Less developed regions	4 060			94 910	Public UMIS	The indicator is representative for PA 1 and

												is related to 13,24 % of the resources allocated to the PA.
1	output	1421	Population covered by improved social services	persons	ERDF	Less developed regions	25 570			264 383	Public UMIS	The indicator is representative for PA 1 and is related to 1,70 % of the resources allocated to the PA.

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework (optional)

<2A.4.12 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M">

The Performance Framework is based on financial and output indicators selected with milestones and targets.

Outputs selected represent 54,48% of the total budget of the priority axis.

For operations where financial instruments are envisaged, the milestones are relatively smaller, considering that there are some time-consuming actions that need to be undertaken prior to the effective project implementation and subsequent payments and certification.

It is noteworthy that for some operations under PA1 there was technical assistance provided under OPRD 2007-2013 to beneficiaries, particularly, for project preparation. Thus, indicators related to those operations are relatively higher considering that project implementation is expected to be accelerated due to the high maturity of the already prepared projects.

The determination of milestones is based on the lessons learned in the programming period 2007-2013. Target values of the output indicators are calculated measuring the effectiveness of similar operations implemented in the 2007-2013 programming period. The leading principle applied in the methodology is measuring the average unit cost in similar operations effectively implemented during the previous period and on such a basis calculating the contribution to the output indicator which operations implemented until end of 2018 will have.

The project duration is scheduled to be 3 years with possible extension of the grant agreements if necessary.

On that basis OPRG MA envisages projects contracted by the end of 2015 to be finalized and corresponding amounts to be fully paid and certified as of the 31.12.2018.

2.A.9 Categories of intervention

(Reference: point (b)(vi) of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support.

Tables 7-11: Categories of intervention²⁶

(by Fund and category of region, if the priority axis covers more than one)

Table 7: Dimension 1 – Intervention field	
Fund	ERDF
Category of region	Less developed regions

²⁶ Amounts include total Union support (the main allocation and the allocation from the performance reserve).

Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	13	65 996 909
1	14	131 993 818
1	85	66 171 502
1	90	66 171 502
1	72	23 883 120
1	89	47 766 240
1	51	35 995 114
1	52	35 995 114
1	54	12 133 604
1	55	106 697 105
1	43	85 104 353
1	44	36 473 294

Table 8: Dimension 2 – Form of finance

Fund	ERDF	
Category of region	Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	01	596 511 703,00
1	03	2 849 978,00
1	04	115 019 994,00

Table 9: Dimension 3 – Territory type

Fund	ERDF	
Category of region	Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	01	502 304 576
1	02	212 077 099

Table 10: Dimension 4 – Territorial delivery mechanisms

Fund	ERDF	
Category of region	Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)

1	02	714 381 675
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Table 11: Dimension 6 – ESF secondary theme²⁷ (ESF only)		
Fund	<2A.5.5.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Category of region	<2A.5.5.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
N/A	N/A	

2.A.10 Summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries (where appropriate)

(by priority axis)

(Reference: point (b)(vii) of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Priority axis	<3A.6.1 type="S" input="S">
<2A.6.2 type="S" maxlength="2000" input="M">	

²⁷ Include, where appropriate, quantified information on the ESF's contribution to the thematic objectives referred to in points (1) to (7) of the first paragraph of Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

2.A.1 PRIORITY AXIS 2

ID of the priority axis	<2A.1 type="N" input="G""SME» > 1 2
Title of the priority axis	<2A.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M""SME" > Support for Energy Efficiency in support centers in peripheral areas

<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments	<2A.3 type="C" input="M">
<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level	<2A.4 type="C" input="M""SME" >
<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development	<2A.5 type="C" input="M">
<input type="checkbox"/> For the ESF: The entire priority axis is dedicated to social innovation or to transnational cooperation, or both	<2A.6 type="C" input="M">

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region, thematic objective or Fund (where applicable)

(Reference: Article 96(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<2A.0 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"> Not applicable
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2.A.3 Fund, category of region and calculation basis for Union support

(Repeated for each combination under a priority axis)

Fund	<2A.7 type="S" input="S""SME" > ERDF
Category of region	Less Developed Regions
Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	<2A.9 type="S" input="S""SME" > Total

<i>Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)</i>	<2A.9 type="S" input="S" > N/A
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2.A.4 Investment priority 2.1

(Repeated for each investment priority under the priority axis)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<2A.10 type="S" input="S" "SME" > Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructures, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector.
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2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

(Repeated for each specific objective under the investment priority)

(Reference: points (b)(i) and (ii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>ID</i>	1
<i>Specific objective</i>	<2A.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M" "SME" > Raising energy efficiency in the housing sector in the support centres of 4 th level of the national polycentric system
<i>The results that the Member State seeks to achieve with Union support</i>	<2A.1.3 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M" "SME" > The planned activities will result in improvement of energy efficiency of buildings in the target territories, which will contribute directly to lowering the end energy consumption, and indirectly, to reducing greenhouse emissions in the small cities – support centres of the polycentric system in accordance with the NSDC 2013-2025. The interventions under this priority axis are intended to contribute to the achievement of the national indicative energy savings targets for 2020 set in the National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency 2014 – 2020. The improvement of the housing stock in small cities will reflect in better air quality and will improve the living conditions in those cities.
<i>ID</i>	2
<i>Specific objective</i>	Raising energy efficiency in the public buildings in the support centres of 4 th level of the national polycentric system
<i>The results</i>	The measures for energy efficiency in public buildings in the support centres of the polycentric system, according to NSDC 2013-2025, will

<p><i>that the Member State seeks to achieve with Union support</i></p>	<p>contribute to the national target on energy efficiency.</p> <p>The measures will have additional effect as they will provide cost-effective operation of the public buildings which will allow their maintenance to be sustained in order to provide better and additional services to the population and thus reducing the negative rate of migration to bigger cities.</p> <p>The proposed measures will contribute for maintenance of the traditional functions of the small cities-support centres related to providing public services to the population not only of the city concerned but also to the surrounding peripheral areas.</p>
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Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

(Reference: point (b)(ii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

<i>I D</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Measurement unit</i>	<i>Category of region (where relevant)</i>	<i>Baseline value</i>	<i>Baseline year</i>	<i>Target value²⁸ (2023)</i>	<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
211	Final energy consumption from households in peripheral areas Target: decrease	Thousand tonne of oil equivalent (thousand toe)	Less developed regions	2 257,00	2013	2 254,36	NSI	Twice during the period: 2018 and 2022

<i>I D</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Measurement unit</i>	<i>Category of region (where relevant)</i>	<i>Baseline value</i>	<i>Baseline year</i>	<i>Target value²⁹ (2023)</i>	<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
212	Final energy consumption from public administration, commerce and services in peripheral areas Target: decrease	Thousand tonne of oil equivalent (thousand toe)	Less developed regions	964	2013	959,10	NSI	Twice during the period: 2018 and 2022

²⁸ For ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, the target values may be qualitative or quantitative.

²⁹ For ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, the target values may be qualitative or quantitative.

2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority

(by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96 (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<i><2A.2.1.1 type="S" input="S"></i> 4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructures, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector.
<i><2A.2.1.2 type="S" maxlength="17500" input="M"></i> Indicative eligible activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation of energy efficiency measures in residential buildings, in administrative buildings of the state and municipal administration and in municipal public buildings of educational, cultural and social infrastructure (excluding buildings of social institutions for children and adults, which are in conflict with the national policy of deinstitutionalization of these services), such as: insulation of envelopes of the buildings, replacement of windows, renovation of the systems for maintaining microclimate, technical installations, local installations and / or connections to heat supply gas supply, installation of individual meters in accordance with the requirements of Directive 2012/27 /EU (where applicable) as well as accompanying construction works related to the implementation of energy efficiency measures, incl. construction reinforcement (when it prescribed mandatory in constructive survey).• Implementation of the above measures for energy efficiency accompanied by deep renovation of residential buildings, administrative buildings of the state and municipal administration and municipal public buildings of educational, cultural and social infrastructure (excluding buildings of social institutions for children and adults in conflict with the national policy of deinstitutionalization of these services), incl. accompanying construction works, construction reinforcement (when it prescribed mandatory in constructive survey) as well as repair and reconstruction of different parts of the building (roof, exterior walls, staircase cells, elevators, etc.), if energy savings for the building of more than 60% are achieved;• Energy efficiency surveys and constructive surveys of existing residential buildings, administrative buildings of the state and municipal administration and municipal public buildings of educational, cultural and social infrastructure (excluding buildings of social institutions for children and adults in conflict with the national policy of deinstitutionalization of these services);• Evaluation of the cost effectiveness of the investment;• Commissioning of installations for production of energy from renewable energy	

sources for the buildings listed above to meet their own energy consumption, where this is technically possible and economically feasible;

- Improving access for people with disabilities to the buildings mentioned above.

Beneficiaries:

1. 28 municipalities of the small cities - support centres of 4th level of the national polycentric system, in accordance with the Section 1.1.1 and National Spatial Development Concept 2013-2025.
 2. Owners of housing – for single family residential buildings;
 3. Associations of owners of housing – for multifamily residential buildings;
 4. State institutions - for administrative buildings of the state administration;
- Bodies under point 2 to 4 can participate in cooperation with the beneficiary municipality through contractual relations.

Main target groups:

- Households in the concerned residential buildings;
- Municipal and state institutions.
- Users of administrative and public services.
- Members of vulnerable social groups – improved access to the buildings will contribute to the social inclusion of people in a disadvantaged position.

Justification:

Considering that in the support centers of the 4th level of the national polycentric system are concentrated local authorities and decentralized departments of the central administration, including administrative and public services of supra-municipal importance that serve the population in the support center and in the surrounding peripheral areas, the implementation of activities will contribute to the national energy efficiency targets as well as to maintain and upgrade the existing public services.

Despite the potential for a nature-friendly way of life, which have the support centers of the 4th level of the national polycentric system, currently housing in these areas are extremely energy-inefficient, most of them are heated by solid fuel, which increases air pollution in them. Therefore, the activities are directed towards improving energy efficiency in housing, which will improve the air quality and the quality of life in general.

This focus of activities under the priority axis will reduce the migration caused by the demand for public services in big and medium cities, and by downgraded housing in the support centers of the 4th level of the national polycentric system.

In order to achieve the planned results and to encourage energy efficiency improvements of buildings that currently have lower energy characteristics complete deep renovation of buildings is allowed if together with energy efficiency measures, it

contributes to more than 60 % energy savings for the building.

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment Priority</i>	<p><2A.2.2.1 type="S" input="S"></p> <p>4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructures, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector.</p>
<p><2A.2.2.2 type="S" maxlength="5000" input="M"></p> <p>The following guiding principles will be observed in the selection of operations under this investment priority:</p> <p>Territorial concentration:</p> <p>The activities will be implemented within construction boundaries of 28 small cities – support centers of 4th level of the national polycentric system, according to NSDC 2013-2025 and Section 1.1.1.</p> <p>Needs based support:</p> <p>Eligible for support will be only buildings designed before 1999.</p> <p>Energy efficiency measures will be implemented only on the basis of energy efficiency audit of the building. The energy efficiency audit prescribes the necessary energy saving measures to comply with the energy efficiency requirements, in accordance with the Energy Efficiency Act. The energy efficiency audit will ensure that investments are really energy efficient and will show the extent of energy savings investment.</p> <p>Only projects that lead to energy efficiency meeting the national minimum standard of energy efficiency for existing buildings - Class of energy consumption "C" or projects that lead to energy savings of more than 60% in the case that measures for energy efficiency are accompanied by deep renovation, will be funded.</p> <p>Where necessary and possible, priority will be given to buildings with the greatest need of renovation and potential for energy savings.</p> <p>In this regard, in terms of single-family residential buildings, support under the priority axis will be available exclusively for owners who are socially disadvantaged and receive social assistance from the municipality or from the state.</p> <p>Sustainable development.</p> <p>Under the program an integrated and holistic approach will be implemented aiming to address energy efficiency needs in the building as a whole, not to individual households/users. At the same time, the applied approach will be tailored to the individual characteristics of the building and the individual needs of energy efficiency</p>	

measures which were established by the energy audit.

The final recipients of the aid will be involved in cooperation with the municipality-direct beneficiary through contractual relations.

2.A.6.3 *Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)*

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment Priority</i>	<2A.2.3.1 type="S" input="S"> 4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructures, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector.
<i>Planned use of financial instruments</i>	<2A.2.3.2 type="C" input="M">
<2A.2.3.3 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M"> No use of financial instruments is envisaged.	

2.A.6.4 *Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)*

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96 (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment Priority</i>	<2A.2.4.1 type="S" input="S"> 4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructures, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector.
<2A.2.4.2 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"> No major projects are envisaged.	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

(Reference: point (b)(iv) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators

(by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023) ³⁰			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
CO 31	Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	households	ERDF	Less developed regions			2 316	Public UMIS, MRDPW, Municipal administration	Annually
CO 32	Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	kWh/year	ERDF	Less developed regions			56 963 073	Public UMIS, MRDPW, Municipal administration	Annually
CO 34	Estimated annual decrease of GHG	tonnes of CO ₂ eq	ERDF	Less developed regions			40 413	Public UMIS, MRDPW, Municipal administration	Annually

2.A.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7³¹

Specific provisions for ESF³², where applicable (by priority axis and, where relevant, category of region): social innovation, transnational cooperation and ESF contribution to thematic objectives 1 to 7.

Description of the contribution of the planned actions of the priority axis to:

- social innovation (if not covered by a dedicated priority axis);
- transnational cooperation (if not covered by a dedicated priority axis);
- thematic objectives referred to in points (1) to (7) of the first paragraph of Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

Priority axis	<2A.3.1 type="S" input="S">
N/A	

³⁰ For the ESF, this list includes common output indicators for which a target value has been set. Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. For the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, gender breakdown is in most cases not relevant. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

³¹ Only for programmes supported by the ESF.

³² For the ESF, this list includes common output indicators for which a target value has been set and all programme-specific output indicators.

2.A.8 Performance framework

(Reference: point (b)(v) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2), and Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 6: Performance framework of the priority axis

(by fund and, for the ERDF and ESF, category of region) ³³ Priority axis	Indicator type (Key implementation step, financial, output or, where appropriate, result indicator)	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018 ³⁴			Final target (2023) ³⁵			Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate		
							M	W	T	M	W	T				
2	financial	1	Certified amount	euro	ERDF	Less developed regions	26	455	240			105 684	704	Public UMIS	The milestone is calculated based on forecast for timing for contracting of each operation and expected duration of the projects.	
2	output	CO32	Decrease of annual primary energy	kWh/year	ERDF	Less developed	5	140	348			56	963	073	Public UMIS	The indicator is

³³ Where YEI is implemented as part of a priority axis, YEI milestones and targets must be distinguished from other milestones and targets for the priority axis in accordance with implementing acts referred to in the fifth subparagraph of Article 22(7) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, as YEI resources (specific allocation and matching ESF support) are excluded from the performance reserve.

³⁴ Milestones may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

³⁵ Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

			consumption public buildings	of			regions						representative for PA 2 and is related to 50 % of the resources allocated to the PA.
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Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework
(optional)

<2A.4.12 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M">

The Performance Framework is based on financial and output indicators selected with milestones and targets.

The determination of milestones is based on the lessons learned in the programming period 2007-2013. Target values of the output indicators are calculated measuring the effectiveness of similar operations implemented in the 2007-2013 programming period. The leading principle applied in the methodology is measuring the average unit cost in similar operations effectively implemented during the previous period and on such a basis calculating the contribution to the output indicator which operations implemented until end of 2018 will have.

The project duration is scheduled to be 3 years with possible extension of the grant agreements if necessary.

On that basis OPRG MA envisages projects contracted by the end of 2015 to be finalized and corresponding amounts to be fully paid and certified as of the 31.12.2018.

2.A.9 Categories of intervention

(Reference: point (b)(vi) of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support.

Tables 7-11: Categories of intervention³⁶

(by Fund and category of region, if the priority axis covers more than one)

Table 7: Dimension 1 – Intervention field		
Fund	ERDF	
Category of region	Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	13	44 924 491
2	14	44 924 490

Table 8: Dimension 2 – Form of finance		
Fund	ERDF	
Category of region	Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	01	89 848 981

Table 9: Dimension 3 – Territory type		
Fund	ERDF	
Category of region	Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	02	89 848 981

Table 10: Dimension 4 – Territorial delivery mechanisms		
Fund	ERDF	
Category of region	Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	07	89 848 981

³⁶ Amounts include total Union support (the main allocation and the allocation from the performance reserve).

Table 11: Dimension 6 – ESF secondary theme³⁷ (ESF only)		
Fund	<2A.5.5.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Category of region	<2A.5.5.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
N/A	N/A	

2.A.10 Summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries (where appropriate)

(by priority axis)

(Reference: point (b)(vii) of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Priority axis</i>	<3A.6.1 type="S" input="S">
<2A.6.2 type="S" maxlength="2000" input="M">	
N/A	

³⁷ Include, where appropriate, quantified information on the ESF's contribution to the thematic objectives referred to in points (1) to (7) of the first paragraph of Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

2.A.1 Priority axis 3

ID of the priority axis	<2A.1 type="N" input="G" "SME" > 1 3
Title of the priority axis	<2A.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M" "SME" > Regional Educational Infrastructure

<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments	<2A.3 type="C" input="M">
<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level	<2A.4 type="C" input="M" "SME" >
<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development	<2A.5 type="C" input="M">
<input type="checkbox"/> For the ESF: The entire priority axis is dedicated to social innovation or to transnational cooperation, or both	<2A.6 type="C" input="M">

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region, thematic objective or Fund (where applicable)

(Reference: Article 96(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<2A.0 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M">

2.A.3 Fund, category of region and calculation basis for Union support

(Repeated for each combination under a priority axis)

<i>Fund</i>	<2A.7 type="S" input="S" "SME" > ERDF
<i>Category of region</i>	<2A.8 type="S" input="S" "SME" > Less Developed Regions
<i>Calculation basis (total eligible</i>	<2A.9 type="S" input="S" "SME" >

<i>expenditure or eligible public expenditure)</i>	Total
<i>Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)</i>	<2A.9 type="S" input="S" > N/A

2.A.4 Investment priority

(Repeated for each investment priority under the priority axis)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<2A.10 type="S" input="S" "SME" > Investing in education, skills and life-long learning by developing educational and training infrastructure
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2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

(Repeated for each specific objective under the investment priority)

(Reference: points (b)(i) and (ii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>ID</i>	<2A.1.1 type="N" input="G" "SME" > 1
<i>Specific objective</i>	<2A.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M" "SME" > Improving conditions for modern educational services
<i>The results that the Member State seeks to achieve with Union support</i>	<2A.1.3 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M" "SME" "> The main result of the planned investments under the Priority axis is the modernisation of the institutions of secondary and higher education of regional and national importance. Another result, which aims to be achieved, together with the measures under the European Social Fund is to reduce the number of early school leaving students and increase the number of people with tertiary education. The improved conditions in educational institutions of national and regional importance, the modern classrooms, cabinets and libraries will positively influence the motivation of students to actively participate in the educational process, will raise the level and adequacy of knowledge and skills acquired at all levels, will adequately meet the specific needs of business and public administration and will lead to successful realization of the labor market and related economic sectors. The supported activities will keep the children and young people in schools and in universities and will lead to the achievement of better educational outcomes. In the long term this will stimulate increased

	employment, especially youth employment and reducing unemployment.
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Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

(Reference: point (b)(ii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>ID</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Measurement unit</i>	<i>Category of region (where relevant)</i>	<i>Baseline value</i>	<i>Baseline year</i>	<i>Target value³⁸ (2023)</i>	<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
31	Share of modernized educational institutions	%	Less developed regions	8,53	2013	16,09	NSI, MES Municipalities Public UMIS	Twice during the period: 2018 and 2022

³⁸ For ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, the target values may be qualitative or quantitative.

2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority

(by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96 (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<2A.2.1.1 type="S" input="S"> 10a - Investing in education, skills and life-long learning by developing educational and training infrastructure
<2A.2.1.2 type="S" maxlength="17500" input="M"> Indicative eligible activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Construction, reconstruction and repair of state and municipal schools of national and regional importance as well as universities, including the adjacent yards and school dormitories adjacent to secondary schools, construction inspections of the relevant buildings, improving access for people with disabilities to the educational buildings as part of the construction and installation works related to them;• Delivery and assembly of equipment and furnishings for the buildings and facilities listed above, as part of their general renewal. Direct beneficiaries in terms of public or private body, responsible for initiating or both initiating and implementing operations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Ministry of Education and Science - for the state schools under its umbrella.• The Ministry of Agriculture and Food - for the state schools under its umbrella.• The Ministry of Culture - for the state schools under its umbrella.• The Ministry of Youth and Sports - for the sports schools under its umbrella.• Municipalities - for municipal education infrastructure of national and regional importance.• Universities - for the respective interventions in universities. Target groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupils, and students;• Pupils, and students from vulnerable social groups, incl. Roma	

Justification:

The investments in school infrastructure will contribute to improving the quality of the educational environment and to increasing its attractiveness among students.. The combined implementation of measures to improve the outdated and inappropriate infrastructure conditions and the delivery of the equipment will lead to a complete renovation of material and technical base of the school and will improve the learning process, and will facilitate the introduction of new learning methods that increase and retain the interest of young people. The improved conditions in schools as well as the modern classrooms and cabinets contribute to students' motivation for better activity in the absorption of knowledge and their subsequent realization of the labor market, including to reduce the percentage of early school dropouts.

The interventions under OPRG 2014-2020 for higher education will be directed to the renovation and modernization of obsolete infrastructure and equipment of the Bulgarian universities, which does not allow a proper process of training, research and academic activities. The modernized infrastructure will contribute to the overall increase in the attractiveness of higher education and subsequently achieve a higher proportion of people with tertiary education. The support for the policy of development of higher education is of national importance and the effect of the implemented infrastructure investment in higher education has an impact on the overall socio-economic development of the country.

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment Priority</i>	<p><2A.2.2.1 type="S" input="S"></p> <p>Investing in education, skills and life-long learning by developing educational and training infrastructure</p>
<p><2A.2.2.2 type="S" maxlength="5000" input="M"></p> <p>The following guiding principles will be observed in the selection of operations under this investment priority:</p> <p>Predefined projects:</p> <p>The OPRG 2014-2020 support for professional schools, special schools, sport schools, schools of art and culture will be implemented in accordance with the Methodology for Prioritization of Educational Infrastructure in Republic of Bulgaria, adopted by the Ministry of Education and Science. The developed methodology takes substantially into account the strategic framework for the development of educational infrastructure for 2014-2020, for the purpose of which is prepared detailed analysis of the educational infrastructure, using surveys and indicators for over 2,900 educational institutions.</p> <p>The support for higher education will be provided in accordance with a methodology based on the ranking system for higher education in Bulgaria. The universities are</p>	

ranked in the professional field based on a comprehensive assessment of the quality and in accordance with the needs of the labor market, determined on the basis of objective indicators with respective weight. From the rating system of universities are taken those three main groups of indicators that are related to improving the quality of education, promoting research and connection with the labor market.

In these three main groups of indicators used to rank the universities for support under OPRG 2014-2020 are included separate indicators with respective weight for accreditation assessment, exclusivity of the teaching staff, Index of citation in scientific field without using citations of other authors, at least once cited documents, articles in scientific journals, doctoral programs in the professional field, social security income of the graduates, unemployment rate among graduates, application of a acquired higher education qualification and level, contributing to the social security system.

Needs-based financing:

In accordance with criteria for selection of operations, projects combining the most pressing needs with the largest importance for the development of the regions in terms of educational infrastructure of national and regional importance will be funded.

Unlike Priority axis 1, under which is supported the educational infrastructure of local importance based on local needs identified in IPURDs, the Priority axis 3 “Regional educational infrastructure” aims at supporting educational institutions of national and regional importance, in particular professional schools, special schools, sport schools, schools of art and culture and universities.

The financing of educational infrastructure of national and regional importance will be based on an integrated approach for support including the implementation of infrastructure measures under OPRG 2014-2020 combined with soft measures under OP „Science and Education“.

Sustainable development.

Projects that contribute to raising energy efficiency and improving the environment will be funded.

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment Priority</i>	<2A.2.3.1 type="S" input="S"> Investing in education, skills and life-long learning by developing educational and training infrastructure
<i>Planned use of financial instruments</i>	<2A.2.3.2 type="C" input="M">

<2A.2.3.3 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M">

It is not envisaged the use of financial instruments.

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96 (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment Priority</i>	<2A.2.4.1 type="S" input="S"> Investing in education, skills and life-long learning by developing educational and training infrastructure
<2A.2.4.2 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"> It is not envisaged major projects.	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

(Reference: point (b)(iv) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators

(by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

<i>ID</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Measurement unit</i>	<i>Fund</i>	<i>Category of region (where relevant)</i>	<i>Target value (2023)³⁹</i>			<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
					<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>T</i>		
CO35	Capacity of supported childcare or education infrastructure	persons	ERDF	Less developed regions			103 876	Public UMIS	Annually

³⁹

For the ESF, this list includes common output indicators for which a target value has been set. Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. For the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, gender breakdown is in most cases not relevant. "M" = men, "W"=women, "T"= total.

311	Representatives from marginalised groups, including roma benefiting from modernised educational infrastructure	persons	ERDF	Less developed regions			3 071	Public UMIS	Annually
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2.A.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7⁴⁰

Specific provisions for ESF⁴¹, where applicable (by priority axis and, where relevant, category of region): social innovation, transnational cooperation and ESF contribution to thematic objectives 1 to 7.

Description of the contribution of the planned actions of the priority axis to:

- social innovation (if not covered by a dedicated priority axis);
- transnational cooperation (if not covered by a dedicated priority axis);
- thematic objectives referred to in points (1) to (7) of the first paragraph of Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

Priority axis	<2A.3.1 type="S" input="S">
	<2A.3.2 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M">
	N/A

⁴⁰ Only for programmes supported by the ESF.

⁴¹ For the ESF, this list includes common output indicators for which a target value has been set and all programme-specific output indicators.

2.A.8 Performance framework

(Reference: point (b)(v) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2), and Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 6: Performance framework of the priority axis

(by fund and, for the ERDF and ESF, category of region)⁴²

Priority axis	Indicator type (Key implementation step, financial, output or, where appropriate, result indicator)	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measure unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018 ⁴³			Final target (2023) ⁴⁴			Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
							M	W	T	M	W	T		
3	Financial	1	Certified amount	euro	ERDF	Less developed regions	26 509	754			114 484,00	896		The milestone is calculated based on forecast for timing for contracting of each operation and expected duration of

⁴² Where YEI is implemented as part of a priority axis, YEI milestones and targets must be distinguished from other milestones and targets for the priority axis in accordance with implementing acts referred to in the fifth subparagraph of Article 22(7) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, as YEI resources (specific allocation and matching ESF support) are excluded from the performance reserve.

⁴³ Milestones may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. "M" = men, "W"=women, "T"= total.

⁴⁴ Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. "M" = men, "W"=women, "T"= total.

												the projects.
3	Output	C O 35	Capacity of persons supported or education infrastructure	ERDF	Less developed regions	6 304				103 876	Public UMIS	The selected output indicator is representative for Priority axis 3 as it is related to 81 % of the resources allocated to the PA

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

(optional)

<2A.4.12 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M">

The milestone value for the financial indicator includes the amounts certified for completed projects which products will contribute to the milestone for output indicator as well as the certified amounts for uncompleted projects

The output indicator selected in the performance framework is common indicator from ERDF Regulation 1301/2013 which is compulsory to be monitored.

The milestone is based on the lessons learned in the programming period 2007-2013 and precise calculation of estimations for project contracting and subsequent verification and certification of the amount paid.

Target value of the output indicator is calculated measuring the effectiveness of similar operations implemented in the 2007-2013 programming

period. They are calculated taking into account both national and ERDF contribution. Thus, it is guaranteed that milestones and targets are realistic and based on the evidence of past experience. The leading principle applied in the methodology is measuring the average unit cost in similar operations effectively implemented during the previous period and on such a basis calculating the contribution to the output indicator which operations implemented until end of 2018 will have.

The milestone for the output indicator set in the Performance Framework is calculated taking into account that the duration of the projects is scheduled to be 3 years with possible extension of the grant agreements if necessary.

2.A.9 Categories of intervention

(Reference: point (b)(vi) of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support.

Tables 7-11: Categories of intervention⁴⁵

(by Fund and category of region, if the priority axis covers more than one)

Table 7: Dimension 1 – Intervention field		
Fund	<2A.5.1.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >ERDF	
Category of region	<2A.5.1.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N > Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	49	18 850 606
3	51	78 811 405

Table 8: Dimension 2 – Form of finance		
Fund	<2A.5.2.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >ERDF	
Category of region	<2A.5.2.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N > Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	01	97 662 011

Table 9: Dimension 3 – Territory type		
Fund	<2A.5.3.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N > ERDF	
Category of region	<2A.5.3.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N > Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
03	07	97 662 011

Table 10: Dimension 4 – Territorial delivery mechanisms		

⁴⁵ Amounts include total Union support (the main allocation and the allocation from the performance reserve).

Fund	<2A.5.4.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N > ERDF	
Category of region	<2A.5.4.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N > Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
03	07	97 662 011

Table 11: Dimension 6 – ESF secondary theme⁴⁶ (ESF only)

Fund	<2A.5.5.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Category of region	<2A.5.5.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
N/A	N/A	N/A

2.A.10 Summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries (where appropriate)

(by priority axis)

(Reference: point (b)(vii) of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Priority axis</i>	<3A.6.1 type="S" input="S">
<2A.6.2 type="S" maxlength="2000" input="M"> N/a	

⁴⁶ Include, where appropriate, quantified information on the ESF's contribution to the thematic objectives referred to in points (1) to (7) of the first paragraph of Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

2.A.1 Priority axis 4

ID of the priority axis	<2A.1 type="N" input="G" "SME" > 1 4
Title of the priority axis	<2A.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M" "SME" > Regional Health Infrastructure

<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments	<2A.3 type="C" input="M">
<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level	<2A.4 type="C" input="M" "SME" >
<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development	<2A.5 type="C" input="M">
<input type="checkbox"/> For the ESF: The entire priority axis is dedicated to social innovation or to transnational cooperation, or both	<2A.6 type="C" input="M">

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region, thematic objective or Fund (where applicable)

(Reference: Article 96(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<2A.0 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M">

2.A.3 Fund, category of region and calculation basis for Union support

(Repeated for each combination under a priority axis)

Fund	<2A.7 type="S" input="S" "SME" > ERDF
Category of region	<2A.8 type="S" input="S" "SME" > Less Developed Regions
Calculation basis (total eligible)	<2A.9 type="S" input="S" "SME" >

<i>expenditure or eligible public expenditure)</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)</i>	<2A.9 type="S" input="S" > N/A

2.A.4 Investment priority

(Repeated for each investment priority under the priority axis)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<2A.10 type="S" input="S" "SME" > Investing in health and social infrastructure which contribute to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services.
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2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

(Repeated for each specific objective under the investment priority)

(Reference: points (b)(i) and (ii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>ID</i>	<2A.1.1 type="N" input="G" "SME" > 1
<i>Specific objective</i>	<2A.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M" "SME" > Increased access to emergency medical care with the possibility of emergency diagnosis, treatment and monitoring within 24 hours.
<i>The results that the Member State seeks to achieve with Union support</i>	<2A.1.3 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M" "SME" > The direct result of the specific objective will be achieving timely coverage of the whole population of the country, which is compliant with the established national standards. The development of the health infrastructure in the branches of the emergency medical care centres in regions with difficulties in access to medical care located outside district cities by creating conditions for a functional gathering "under one roof" of the activities of the various entities of the health and social sphere - emergency medical care, outpatient care and structures for the provision of social services - will lead to the integration of outpatient care with opportunities for the integrated provision of services falling within the scope of the emergency

	<p>care, outpatient care and social services.</p> <p>The main result is to ensure that all individuals within the territory of Bulgaria, including EU citizens, access to quality medical care in case of medical emergency.</p> <p>Timely emergency assistance on the spot and during transport will prevent the occurrence of subsequent complications and respectively will reduce the cost of their treatment.</p> <p>The development of an adequate health infrastructure, providing qualified medical care will provide incentives for retention of the working population in the regions and it is a factor to overcome the negative demographic trends.</p>
<i>ID</i>	<p><2A.1.1 type="N" input="G"“SME” ></p> <p>2</p>
<i>Specific objective</i>	<p><2A.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M"“SME” ></p> <p>Reducing the hospitalisations in the health system</p>
<i>The results that the Member State seeks to achieve with Union support</i>	<p><2A.1.3 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"“SME” ></p> <p>The direct result of the specific objective will be the modernisation of the emergency medical care system in its outpatient and hospital part in order to reduce the hospitalisation in the health system.</p> <p>The activities related to the provision of modern medical equipment for emergency medical care, including those with possibilities for remote consultation (telemedicine), will have as direct result the improvement of the quality and safety of medical care, including through the efficient use of qualified medical professionals.</p> <p>The well-equipped branches for emergency care will be provided with opportunities to establish a place of outpatient treatments and procedures that are currently the cause of hospitalization of patients and increase the demand for "acute" hospital beds. Providing a place in the branches of outpatient activities to tackle emergencies in a specific volume will reduce the number of hospitalizations and unnecessary transportation of patients to hospital emergency department.</p> <p>As a long term result, the above mentioned activities will create conditions for the subsequent restructuring of the hospital sector in Bulgaria, including the closing of small municipal hospitals without risk to the healthcare provided for citizens, especially in remote and inaccessible areas.</p> <p>The cumulative result of these effects will indirectly lead also to improved health outcomes, including decreasing mortality rate, occurrence of permanent health damages, disability, etc.</p>

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

(Reference: point (b)(ii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>ID</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Measurement unit</i>	<i>Category of region (where relevant)</i>	<i>Baseline value</i>	<i>Baseline year</i>	<i>Target value⁴⁷ (2023)</i>	<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
41	Population with 30 minute access to emergency medical care and treatment and observation for 24 hours	persons	Less developed regions	3 637 539	2013	7 045 677	Ministry of Health, NSI	Twice during the period: 2018 and 2022
42	Hospitalisations per annum	number	Less developed regions	2 038 179	2013	1 925 448	Ministry of Health, NHIF	Twice during the period: 2018 and 2022

2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority
(by investment priority)

⁴⁷ For ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, the target values may be qualitative or quantitative.

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96 (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Investment priority	<p><2A.2.1.1 type="S" input="S"></p> <p>9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contribute to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services.</p>
<p><2A.2.1.2 type="S" maxlength="17500" input="M">List</p> <p>Indicative eligible activities:</p> <p>Interventions in the infrastructure of the emergency medical care system of the first type (outpatient care) - 28 emergency medical care government centers and their branches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of modern ambulances, provided with communication and other equipment and medical equipment for emergency medical care and the opportunity for remote consultation (telemedicine). • Construction, reconstruction, repair, equipment (incl. ICT/Communication systems) and furnishing of the branches of the Emergency medical care centers (EMCC), including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Modernization of the premises in which are located the structures that receive and process calls for emergency medical care coming from tel. 112 and coordinate emergency teams, including in cases of natural disasters, accidents and establishment in those premises of conditions for practical training of EMCC teams for the 28 branches located in district cities. ○ Providing opportunities (premises, equipment and apparatus) for providing emergency aid on the territory of the branch and short-term monitoring and treatment of patients for up to 24 hours for the 170 branches for emergency medical care, which are located outside the district centers. ○ Developing infrastructure (premises), allowing functional union "under one roof" of the activities of various entities for the provision of health and social services for branches positioned in regions with difficulties in access to medical care. <p>Interventions in infrastructure for emergency medical care of the second type (emergency departments in state owned hospitals)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of a modern health infrastructure (construction, reconstruction, 	

repair and equipment (incl. ICT/Communication systems) t), including the adjacent yard, preparation of construction surveys of the buildings, improving the access for people with disabilities to the buildings subject of intervention, as a part of the above construction and installation activities for emergency departments for provision of optimum conditions for access to mobile teams, triage of patients, urgent diagnosis and treatment of patients with life-threatening conditions.

- Technical support for implementation and monitoring of the major project's activities, fulfilment of the relevant criteria of ex-ante conditionality 9.3 and ensuring sustainability of the investments.

Technical support

- Technical support, consultancy, research, analyses, studies, and other external expertise supporting the effective implementation of the major project and implementation of applicable ex-ante conditionallities, such as for example:

1. Mapping and assessment of the investment needs in emergency medical care;

1.1. Preparation of an analysis and an investment plan with specific investment needs for the specific sites;

2. Preparation of financial plan;

2.1. Update of the financial plan for the implementation of the National Health Strategy;

3. Establishing a system for monitoring and evaluation of the National Health Strategy;

3.1. Outsourcing and implementation of interim evaluation of the implementation of the National Health Strategy and recommendations for updating the National Health Strategy;

3.2. Outsourcing and implementation of ex-post evaluation of the implementation of the National Health Strategy and recommendations for the National Health Strategy for the next period.

Direct beneficiaries in terms of public or private body, responsible for initiating or both initiating and implementing operations:

- Ministry of Health;

Target groups:

- All citizens who may need emergency medical care;
- Workers in the field of emergency medical care.

Justification:

In order to achieve the planned results, the scope of eligible activities is targeted to optimizing the emergency medical care system in its outpatient and hospital part.

Outpatient part of emergency health care:

The activities will cover 28 EEMC and revealed to them 198 branches.

In the branches of the EEMC in regions with difficult access to medical care located outside the district centers will aim to create conditions for functional recovery "under one roof" of the activities of different departments of health and social sphere - emergency medical care, outpatient care and structures for providing social services. This will lead to consolidation of outpatient care with the opportunities for integrated offering of services falling within the scope of the emergency medical care, outpatient care and social services.

Hospital part of emergency medical care:

To achieve the planned results, the scope of eligible activities is aimed at ensuring compliance with the introduced and harmonized with European requirements medical standard "Emergency medicine" that regulates the requirements for emergency hospital complex in order to reduce diverting emergency patients to hospital wards always where possible..

Building modern high-tech emergency department will significantly improve the quality and timeliness of medical care, respectively improve health outcomes and shorten hospital stay with a direct effect of reducing the need for hospital beds.

Investing in emergency department of major general hospitals will focus the patient flow in those establishments which, as a long-term effect, will lead to consolidation of the hospital sector.

Last but not least, the reform of the emergency health care system will improve the timeliness and quality of medical care, which will help achieve the main objective of national health policy to improve the health status of the population, including reduction of mortality and working capacity.

As part of the health care reform, the improvement of infrastructure and material-technical provision of the system will be provided mainly through the support of Operational Programme "Regions in growth", while the realization of the other priorities will be provided by the state budget and other operational programs of the EU - Operational Programme "Human Resources Development", Operational Programme "Science and Education for Smart Growth", Operational Programme 'Good Governance'.

The activities under the priority axis will be implemented through major project. The project implementation will start with a detailed mapping of infrastructure needs prior to the real investment activities.

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment Priority</i>	<p><2A.2.2.1 type="S" input="S"></p> <p>9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contribute to national, regional and local development,</p>
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reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services.

<2A.2.2.2 type="S" maxlength="5000" input="M">

The following guiding principles will be observed in the selection of operations under this investment priority:

Prioritization of needs:

The Concept for the development of the emergency medical care system overviews the strategic framework for the development of health infrastructure for emergency medical care for the period 2014-2020, for the purposes of which was made a detailed analysis of the status and needs of the system, using statistics and indicators for the 28 administrative districts of the country. A list of facilities for emergency care – EMCC branches and hospitals has been prepared. This list is used for selection the sites of state health infrastructure for emergency medical care.

The list of emergency medical care centres to be supported is prepared on the basis of the Concept for the development of the emergency medical care and includes 28 EMCC located in district cities and 170 branches in the municipalities.

The selection of 34 hospitals for support to develop capacity to provide hospital emergency medical care is made on the basis of objective criteria, consistent with existing regulations and upgrading of existing structures and resources. They have to fulfill the following conditions:

- state owned hospitals;
- general hospitals for acute treatment;
- they have an emergency care structure – I, II or III level of competence;
- they have structures in the relevant medical specialties within the emergency hospital complex, according to the approved medical standard "Emergency medicine".

Prioritizing hospitals to be supported by the Ministry of Health for the development of capacity for emergency medical care is consistent with the Concept for the restructuring of hospital care and methodology for the development of National health map, on the basis of which the complex assessment of the capacity and quality of medical care is made by areas and their compliance with the needs of the population served in the respective region.

Sustainability of investments:

The interventions will be implemented in the state property of the Ministry of Health. The Bulgarian legislation requires the state to finance the EMCC and emergency departments within the state owned hospitals from the state budget managed by the Ministry of Health. As these medical facilities provide basic services to the population, the number, the scope of activities and the manner of their financing have remained unchanged over the past 25 years.

This ongoing commitment of the State guarantees the existence of this system in the future as well. It is also confirmed by the Concept for the development of the

emergency medical care 2014-2020, adopted in November 2014 by the Council of Ministers as a strategic document, defining the national policy in this area with clear commitments from the state and a scheduled action plan.

2.A.6.3 *Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)*

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment Priority</i>	<p><2A.2.3.1 type="S" input="S"></p> <p>9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contribute to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services.</p>
<i>Planned use of financial instruments</i>	<p><2A.2.3.2 type="C" input="M"></p>
<p><2A.2.3.3 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M"></p> <p>It is not envisages the use of financial instruments.</p>	

2.A.6.4 *Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)*

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96 (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment Priority</i>	<p><2A.2.4.1 type="S" input="S"></p> <p>Investing in health and social infrastructure which contribute to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services.</p>
<p><2A.2.4.2 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"></p> <p>In view of the total resource of the PA 4 is above 50 mln. euro and taking into account the fact that direct beneficiary is the Ministry of Health, it is envisaged the modernization of the emergency medical care system to be implementet within one major project in accordance with art. 100 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.</p> <p>The main activites envisaged under the major project will include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of modern ambulances, provided with communication and other equipment and medical equipment for emergency medical care and the opportunity for remote 	

consultation (telemedicine). Construction, reconstruction, repair of buildings of the branches of EMCC located in district cities.

- Equipment and furnishing of the branches of EMCC located in district cities. Construction, reconstruction, repairs of buildings of the branches of EMCC outside the district cities.
- Equipment and furnishing of the branches of EMCC located outside the district centres. Investments in emergency departments within the district general hospitals for capacity development to provide emergency medical care.

Technical support with a budget share of 3%. The indicative prognosed share of each planned activity is subject to predefinition depending on the precised infrastructure mapping, which will be realised through technical support.

2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

(Reference: point (b)(iv) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators

(by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target (2023) ⁴⁸ value			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
411	Population covered by improved emergency medical care services	persons	ERDF	Less developed regions			7 245 677	Public UMIS MH / Municipalities / medical institutions	Annually
411	Modernised	number	ERDF	Less developed			232	Public UMIS	Annually

⁴⁸ For the ESF, this list includes common output indicators for which a target value has been set. Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. For the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, gender breakdown is in most cases not relevant. "M" = men, "W"=women, "T"= total.

	facilities of EMC			ed regions				MH	
412	Purchased modern ambulances	number	ERDF	Less developed regions			400	Public UMIS MH	Annually

2.A.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7⁴⁹

Specific provisions for ESF⁵⁰, where applicable (by priority axis and, where relevant, category of region): social innovation, transnational cooperation and ESF contribution to thematic objectives 1 to 7.

Description of the contribution of the planned actions of the priority axis to:

- social innovation (if not covered by a dedicated priority axis);
- transnational cooperation (if not covered by a dedicated priority axis);
- thematic objectives referred to in points (1) to (7) of the first paragraph of Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

<i>Priority axis</i>	<2A.3.1 type="S" input="S">
	<2A.3.2 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M"> N/A

⁴⁹ Only for programmes supported by the ESF.

⁵⁰ For the ESF, this list includes common output indicators for which a target value has been set and all programme-specific output indicators.

2.A.8 Performance framework

(Reference: point (b)(v) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2), and Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 6: Performance framework of the priority axis

(by fund and, for the ERDF and ESF, category of region)⁵¹

Priority axis	Indicator type (Key implementation step, financial, output or, where appropriate, result indicator)	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018 ⁵²			Final target (2023) ⁵³			Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate	
							M	W	T	M	W	T			
4	financial	1	Certified amount	euro	ERDF	Less developed regions	7 858	147				83 313	597	Public UMIS	The milestone is calculated based

⁵¹ Where YEI is implemented as part of a priority axis, YEI milestones and targets must be distinguished from other milestones and targets for the priority axis in accordance with implementing acts referred to in the fifth subparagraph of Article 22(7) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, as YEI resources (specific allocation and matching ESF support) are excluded from the performance reserve.

⁵² Milestones may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

⁵³ Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

												on forecast for preparation and approval of the major project envisaged and expected duration of the project
4	Key implementation step	1	Approval of major project with started construction works and supplies for some investments				1			1		The MA does not envisage completed operations under PA4 until the end of 2018 that could contribu

												te to achieve ment of milesto ne for output indicato r
4	Output	4121	Purchased modern ambulances	Number	ERDF	Less develope d regions	0			400	Publ ic UMI S, MH	The indicato r is related to the overall implem entation of the major project and is related to one of its main activitie s.

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

(optional)

<2A.4.12 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M">

The milestone for the financial indicator is calculated based on:

- ✓ forecast for the time necessary for preparation and approval of the major project envisaged.
- ✓ indicative amount expected to be paid, verified and certified until 31.12.2018 mainly as advance payments under major project;

However as the PA 4 will be implemented via major project it is expected some time to be spent for preparation of necessary documentation for major project and for dialog with Commission services prior to the approval of all relevant documents according to Art.100 of Regulation 1303/2013.

OPRG MA expects that contracting under PA 4 will be finalized in 2016. Therefore the MA does not envisaged completed investments under PA4 until the end of 2018 that could contribute to achievement of milestone for output indicator.

Hence, as no outputs would be achieved as of end of 2018 (at a milestone stage), the OPRG MA defined a key implementation step, namely "Major project approved with started construction works and supplies for some investments".

2.A.9 Categories of intervention

(Reference: point (b)(vi) of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support.

Tables 7-11: Categories of intervention⁵⁴

(by Fund and category of region, if the priority axis covers more than one)

Table 7: Dimension 1 – Intervention field		
Fund	<2A.5.1.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N > ERDF	
Category of region	<2A.5.1.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N > Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
4	53	71 057 716

Table 8: Dimension 2 – Form of finance		
Fund	<2A.5.2.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N > ERDF	
Category of region	<2A.5.2.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N > Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
4	01	71 057 716

Table 9: Dimension 3 – Territory type		
Fund	<2A.5.3.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N > ERDF	
Category of region	<2A.5.3.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N > Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
4	07	71 057 716

Table 10: Dimension 4 – Territorial delivery mechanisms		
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⁵⁴ Amounts include total Union support (the main allocation and the allocation from the performance reserve).

Fund	<2A.5.4.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N > ERDF	
Category of region	<2A.5.4.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N > Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
4	07	71 057 716

Table 11: Dimension 6 – ESF secondary theme⁵⁵ (ESF only)

Fund	<2A.5.5.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Category of region	<2A.5.5.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
N/A	N/A	N/A

2.A.10 Summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries (where appropriate)

(by priority axis)

(Reference: point (b)(vii) of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Priority axis</i>	<3A.6.1 type="S" input="S">
<2A.6.2 type="S" maxlength="2000" input="M"> N/A	

⁵⁵ Include, where appropriate, quantified information on the ESF's contribution to the thematic objectives referred to in points (1) to (7) of the first paragraph of Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

2.A.1 Priority axis 5

ID of the priority axis	<2A.1 type="N" input="G" "SME" > 1 4
Title of the priority axis	<2A.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M" "SME" > Regional Social Infrastructure

<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments	<2A.3 type="C" input="M">
<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level	<2A.4 type="C" input="M" "SME" >
<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development	<2A.5 type="C" input="M">
<input type="checkbox"/> For the ESF: The entire priority axis is dedicated to social innovation or to transnational cooperation, or both	<2A.6 type="C" input="M">

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region, thematic objective or Fund (where applicable)

(Reference: Article 96(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<2A.0 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M">

2.A.3 Fund, category of region and calculation basis for Union support

(Repeated for each combination under a priority axis)

Fund	<2A.7 type="S" input="S" "SME" > ERDF
Category of region	<2A.8 type="S" input="S" "SME" > Less

	Developed Regions
<i>Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)</i>	<2A.9 type="S" input="S" "SME" > Total
<i>Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)</i>	<2A.9 type="S" input="S" > N/A

2.A.4 Investment priority

(Repeated for each investment priority under the priority axis)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<2A.10 type="S" input="S" "SME" > Investing in health and social infrastructure which contribute to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services.
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2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

(Repeated for each specific objective under the investment priority)

(Reference: points (b)(i) and (ii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>ID</i>	<2A.1.1 type="N" input="G" "SME" > 1
<i>Specific objective</i>	<2A.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M" "SME" > Improving regional social infrastructure for Deinstitutionalization of social services for children and elderly
<i>The results that the Member State seeks to achieve with</i>	<2A.1.3 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M" "SME" > The main result to be achieved is successful continuation of the process of deinstitutionalization of social services for children and elderly people through the replacement of institutional care to care in a family or family-like environment within the community, based upon the implemented actions in OP "Regional Development" 2007 – 2013. The objective of this social reform is to guarantee the right to family environment and access to high-quality care and services based on personal needs.

<i>Union support</i>	An integrated approach to the care of children and elderly people through improvement of the infrastructure for the provision of social services, incl. family-type residential centres, day care centers, rehabilitation centers, etc. with appropriate combination with measures by Ministry of labour and social policy will be sought.
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Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

(Reference: point (b)(ii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

<i>ID</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Measurement unit</i>	<i>Category of region (where relevant)</i>	<i>Baseline value</i>	<i>Baseline year</i>	<i>Target value⁵⁶ (2023)</i>	<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
51	Share of the social infrastructure for deinstitutionalization of social services for children and elderly people.	%	Less developed regions	10,61	2013	24,16	Public UMIS Ministry of Labour and Social Policy	Twice during the period: 2018 and 2022

2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority

(by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96 (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

⁵⁶ For ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, the target values may be qualitative or quantitative.

<p><i>Investment priority</i></p>	<p><2A.2.1.1 type="S" input="S"></p> <p>9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contribute to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services.</p>
<p><2A.2.1.2 type="S" maxlength="17500" input="M"></p> <p>Indicative eligible activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction, repair, reconstruction of centres providing services for children at risk – day-care centres for children with disabilities, centres for social rehabilitation and integration, centres for prevention for children and families from different vulnerable groups (drug addicts, children with disabilities, children with deviant behaviour, etc.), including the adjacent yard; improving access for people with disabilities as part of the remaining construction and installation works related to the corresponding objects, construction inspections of the existing buildings. • Construction of family-type residential centres for children at risk and the adjacent yards. Construction, repair, reconstruction, renovation of buildings for protected homes (extension, reconstruction and restructuring of spaces), including the adjacent yard; improving access for people with disabilities as part of the remaining construction and installation works, construction inspections of the existing buildings; • Construction, reconstruction and repair of infrastructure for provision of services for early development of children for children and their families; improving access for people with disabilities as part of the remaining construction and installation works related to the corresponding objects, construction inspections of the existing buildings; • Development of infrastructure for accompanying services for children and elderly people – day-care centres and centres for social rehabilitation and integration, etc., including the adjacent yard; • Construction, repair, reconstruction and renovation of buildings for community-based social services (including resident social services) in connection with the deinstitutionalisation of elderly people (adult persons) (extension, reconstruction and restructuring of spaces), including the adjacent yard; improving access for people with disabilities as part of the remaining construction and installation works related to the corresponding objects, construction inspections of the existing buildings. • Delivery and installation of equipment and furniture for the above mentioned buildings / premises, as part of their renovation. <p>Direct beneficiaries in terms of public or private body, responsible for initiating or both initiating and implementing operations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipalities; • Ministry of health for the medico-social care homes. 	

<p>Target groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The population on the territory of the entire country, including children and elderly people, who will benefit from the deinstitutionalisation measures; <p>Justification:</p> <p>In order to achieve the planned results, the scope of eligible activities is aimed at continuing the policy of deinstitutionalization of children from programming period 2007-2013.</p> <p>In addition, provision is made in the process to be included social services for elderly people.</p>
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2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<p><i>Investment Priority</i></p>	<p><i><2A.2.2.1 type="S" input="S"></i></p> <p>9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contribute to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services.</p>
<p><i><2A.2.2.2 type="S" maxlength="5000" input="M"></i></p> <p>The following guiding principles will be observed in the selection of operations under this investment priority:</p> <p>Predefined projects:</p> <p>Social infrastructure for children will be supported in accordance with the National Strategy “Vision for Deinstitutionalisation of the Children in the Republic of Bulgaria” with a horizon 2025 and the Action Plan for its implementation. The development of social infrastructure for the elderly people will be supported in accordance with the National Strategy for Long-term Care and the Action Plan for its implementation.</p> <p>Needs-based financing</p> <p>In accordance with the operation selection criteria, projects will be financed combining the most pressing needs and the largest importance for the development of the regions.</p> <p>Any infrastructure investment related to social infrastructure under PA5 should be preceded by an analysis of the needs and of the user coverage of the proposed social services. The analysis should be prepared by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and / or the Agency for Social Assistance, which are the institutions responsible for the overall implementation of the national policy in the social sphere.</p> <p>Sustainable development</p> <p>Projects will be financed contributing to the achievement of an integrated approach to childcare and care for elderly people, with a clear social effect and impact.</p>	

2.A.6.3 *Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)*

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment Priority</i>	<2A.2.3.1 type="S" input="S"> 9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contribute to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services.
<i>Planned use of financial instruments</i>	<2A.2.3.2 type="C" input="M">
<2A.2.3.3 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M"> It is not envisaged the use of financial instruments.	

2.A.6.4 *Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)*

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96 (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment Priority</i>	<2A.2.4.1 type="S" input="S"> 9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contribute to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services.
<2A.2.4.2 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"> It is not envisaged major projects..	

2.A.6.5 *Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region*

(Reference: point (b)(iv) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators

(by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

<i>ID</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Measurement unit</i>	<i>Fund</i>	<i>Category of region (where relevant)</i>	<i>Target value (2023)</i> ⁵⁷			<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
					<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>T</i>		
CO 35	Capacity of supported childcare or educational infrastructure	persons	ERDF	Less developed regions			408	Public UMIS / MLSP / municipalities	Annually
511	Number of supported facilities of social infrastructure in the process of deinstitutionalization	facilities	ERDF	Less developed regions			138	Public UMIS / MLSP / municipalities	Annually

⁵⁷ For the ESF, this list includes common output indicators for which a target value has been set. Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. For the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, gender breakdown is in most cases not relevant. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

2.A.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7⁵⁸

Specific provisions for ESF⁵⁹, where applicable (by priority axis and, where relevant, category of region): social innovation, transnational cooperation and ESF contribution to thematic objectives 1 to 7.

Description of the contribution of the planned actions of the priority axis to:

- social innovation (if not covered by a dedicated priority axis);
- transnational cooperation (if not covered by a dedicated priority axis);
- thematic objectives referred to in points (1) to (7) of the first paragraph of Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

<i>Priority axis</i>	<2A.3.1 type="S" input="S">
	<2A.3.2 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M">

⁵⁸ Only for programmes supported by the ESF.

⁵⁹ For the ESF, this list includes common output indicators for which a target value has been set and all programme-specific output indicators.

2.A.8 Performance framework

(Reference: point (b)(v) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2), and Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 6: Performance framework of the priority axis

(by fund and, for the ERDF and ESF, category of region)⁶⁰

<i>Priorit y axis</i>	<i>Indicator type (Key implem entatio n step, financial, output or, where appropriate, result indicator)</i>	<i>ID</i>	<i>Indicator or key implem entatio n step</i>	<i>Measureme nt unit, where appropriate</i>	<i>Fund</i>	<i>Category of region</i>	<i>Milestone for 2018⁶¹</i>			<i>Final target (2023)⁶²</i>			<i>Sou rce of dat a</i>	<i>Expl anation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate</i>
							<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>T</i>		
5	financial	1	Certified amount	euro	ERDF	Less developed regions			9 561 244			50 857 682,00	Public UM IS	The milestone is calculated based on forecast for timing for contracting of each operation

⁶⁰ Where YEI is implemented as part of a priority axis, YEI milestones and targets must be distinguished from other milestones and targets for the priority axis in accordance with implementing acts referred to in the fifth subparagraph of Article 22(7) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, as YEI resources (specific allocation and matching ESF support) are excluded from the performance reserve.

⁶¹ Milestones may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

⁶² Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

														and expected duration of the projects
5	output	51 1	Number of supported facilities of social infrastructure in the process of deinstitutionalization	facilities	ERDF	Less developed regions			8			138,00	Public UMIS	The selected output indicator is representative for Priority axis 5 as it is related to 100 % of the resources allocated to the PA.

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework (optional)

<2A.4.12 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M">

The milestone value for the financial indicator includes the amounts certified for completed projects which products will contribute to the milestone for output indicator as well as the certified amounts for uncompleted projects.

The milestone is based on the lessons learned in the programming period 2007-2013 and precise calculation of estimations for project contracting and subsequent verification and certification of the amount paid.

Target value of the output indicator is calculated measuring the effectiveness of similar operations implemented in the 2007-2013 programming period. They are calculated taking into account both national and ERDF contribution. Thus, it is guaranteed that milestones and targets are realistic and based on the evidence of past experience. The leading principle applied in the methodology is measuring the average unit cost in

similar operations effectively implemented during the previous period and on such a basis calculating the contribution to the output indicator which operations implemented until end of 2018 will have.

The milestone for output indicator set in the Performance Framework is calculated taking into account that the duration of the projects is scheduled to be 3 years with possible extension of the grant agreements, if necessary.

2.A.9 Categories of intervention

(Reference: point (b)(vi) of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support.

Tables 7-11: Categories of intervention⁶³

(by Fund and category of region, if the priority axis covers more than one)

Table 7: Dimension 1 – Intervention field		
Fund	<2A.5.1.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N > ERDF	
Category of region	<2A.5.1.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N > Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
5	55	43 229 029

Table 8: Dimension 2 – Form of finance		
Fund	<2A.5.2.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N > ERDF	
Category of region	<2A.5.2.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N > Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
5	01	43 229 029

Table 9: Dimension 3 – Territory type		
Fund	<2A.5.3.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N > ERDF	
Category of region	<2A.5.3.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N > Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
5	07	43 229 029

Table 10: Dimension 4 – Territorial delivery mechanisms		

⁶³ Amounts include total Union support (the main allocation and the allocation from the performance reserve).

Fund	<2A.5.4.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N > ERDF	
Category of region	<2A.5.4.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N > Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
5	07	43 229 029

Table 11: Dimension 6 – ESF secondary theme⁶⁴ (ESF only)

Fund	<2A.5.5.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Category of region	<2A.5.5.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
	N/A	

2.A.10 Summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries (where appropriate)

(by priority axis)

(Reference: point (b)(vii) of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Priority axis</i>	<3A.6.1 type="S" input="S">
<2A.6.2 type="S" maxlength="2000" input="M"> N/A	

⁶⁴ Include, where appropriate, quantified information on the ESF's contribution to the thematic objectives referred to in points (1) to (7) of the first paragraph of Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

2.A.1 Priority axis 6

ID of the priority axis	<2A.1 type="N" input="G""SME» > 1 5
Title of the priority axis	<2A.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M""SME" > Regional Tourism

<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments	<2A.3 type="C" input="M">
<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level	<2A.4 type="C" input="M""SME" >
<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development	<2A.5 type="C" input="M">
<input type="checkbox"/> For the ESF: The entire priority axis is dedicated to social innovation or to transnational cooperation, or both	<2A.6 type="C" input="M">

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region, thematic objective or Fund (where applicable)

(Reference: Article 96(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<2A.0 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M">

2.A.3 Fund, category of region and calculation basis for Union support

(Repeated for each combination under a priority axis)

Fund	<2A.7 type="S" input="S""SME" > ERDF
Category of region	<2A.8 type="S" input="S""SME" > Less

	Developed Regions
<i>Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)</i>	<2A.9 type="S" input="S" "SME" > Total
<i>Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)</i>	<2A.9 type="S" input="S" > N/A

2.A.4 Investment priority

(Repeated for each investment priority under the priority axis)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<2A.10 type="S" input="S" "SME" > Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
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2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

(Repeated for each specific objective under the investment priority)

(Reference: points (b)(i) and (ii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>ID</i>	<2A.1.1 type="N" input="G" "SME" > 1
<i>Specific objective</i>	<2A.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M" "SME" > Increasing the tourist frequentation of cultural monuments of national and world importance
<i>The results that the Member State seeks to achieve with Union support</i>	<2A.1.3 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M" "SME" > The priority axis is aimed at conservation, preservation, promotion and development of the cultural heritage through development of fully operational tourist products for cultural sites of national and world importance. The priority axis will provide conditions for mitigating seasonal pressure on the Black Sea coast and mountain resorts, as through sustainable management, promotion and development of the sites the number of visits by tourists inside the regions will increase. The main results will be preservation and development of cultural heritage, but also improved competitiveness of Bulgarian tourism, strengthening of business and local business initiatives in the regions.

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

(Reference: point (b)(ii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>ID</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Measurement unit</i>	<i>Category of region (where relevant)</i>	<i>Baseline value</i>	<i>Baseline year</i>	<i>Target value⁶⁵ (2023)</i>	<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
61	Internal tourism consumption; Target: increase	Mil. euro	Less developed regions	3 663	2012	3 700	NSI Public UMIS, MC, municipalities	Twice during the period: 2018 and 2022

⁶⁵ For ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, the target values may be qualitative or quantitative.

2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority

(by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96 (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<2A.2.1.1 type="S" input="S"> 6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
<2A.2.1.2 type="S" maxlength="17500" input="M"> Indicative eligible activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of cultural heritage sites of national and world importance, including religious ones, through conservation and restoration, regeneration, protection, exhibiting, socialising, promotion, equipping, introducing techniques and programmes for interpretation and animation, etc.;• Landscaping activities, improvement of the adjacent spaces, as well as support of the development of tourist products (on the basis of the the supported attractions) and market information such as marketing and researches of the impact, regional surveys of the visitors, development of marketing and advertisement strategies and programmes for the tourist products, development of tourist packages and advertising activities - preparation and distribution information and advertising materials for the tourism products, digitalization of the respective site, etc., directly related to the supported attractions and their link with the surrounding natural environment;• Development of tourist infrastructure needed for the attractions (tourist paths and health paths, climbing routes, horse riding and biking routes, picnic areas, signs, visitor information centres);• Development of additional small-scale technical infrastructure in the area of the attractions needed for visiting the attractions (water supply and sewage, children's playgrounds, recreation and sports facilities, parking areas, green areas, toilets, lighting and electricity installation, small facilities for garbage collection, public utilities and facilities, that serve the tourist attraction and visitors, necessary for the development of a complete tourist product);• Small-scale income-generating investments in trade and food areas, accommodation, leisure and recreational facilities, within the cultural site or directly linked to it within the integrated tourist product, that could be financed with financial instruments.	

- Additional small-scale non-infrastructure activities directly related to the supported attractions (organisation of events in the area of the attractions, marketing and advertising activities);
- Related training for the staff, working at the supported attractions.
- Participation in regional, national and international tourist exchanges, exhibitions and fairs and organising of expedition trips, visits of travel agents, tour operators, writers of travel guides, journalists for promoting the supported attractions;
- Public awareness, including through campaigns for raising the awareness of the cultural heritage and its protection and conservation;
- Improving the access of people with disabilities to the cultural heritage sites and the adjacent infrastructure.

Direct beneficiaries in terms of public or private body, responsible for initiating or both initiating and implementing operations:

- Ministry of Culture for the sites – state property, managed by the MC, including in cooperation with NGOs for activities for development of regional tourist products (where applicable);
- Municipalities for the sites – municipal property (or for the sites – state property with management right granted to municipalities), including in cooperation with NGOs for activities for development of regional tourist products (where applicable);
- Religious institutions and their local structures – legal entities for the sites owned by religious institutions and their local structures – legal entities, including in cooperation with NGOs for activities for development of regional tourist products (where applicable).

Direct beneficiaries in the context of financial instruments:

- Bodies implementing Financial instruments;

Final recipients of the aid:

- Public and private organizations and public-private partnerships in terms of a legal or natural person receiving financial support from a financial instrument.

Target groups:

- The population of the regions where investment will be implemented.
- Visitors and guests of tourist sites and regions.
- People with disabilities – the improving of the accessibility of the environment for people with disabilities will contribute to their social inclusion.

Justification:

The experience in cultural tourism development under OP “Regional Development” shows that projects based on cultural sites of world and national importance have financial viability and huge potential for repaying the investments if the restoration and

conservation activities are combined with activities promoting and developing the cultural site as tourist attraction.

In order to achieve the planned results each project must include both actions for restoration and conservation of the cultural heritage site of national and world significance, and all other identified eligible activities that will lead to the formation of a comprehensive, integrated viable tourism product which attracts enough visitors to cultural sites to ensure financial stability and return of investments in the long term and at the same time ensuring sustainable preservation of cultural heritage.

Therefore, the projects will be funded with financial instruments as well as a combination of grant funding and financial instruments, depending on the business plan of the project.

The projects can be implemented in cooperation with NGOs for activities for the development of regional tourist products, where applicable

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment Priority</i>	<p><2A.2.2.1 type="S" input="S"></p> <p>6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage</p>
<p><2A.2.2.2 type="S" maxlength="5000" input="M"></p> <p>The following guiding principles will be observed in the selection of operations under this investment priority:</p> <p>Identifying the most important cultural heritage sites:</p> <p>The Priority axis will support conserving, restoration, protecting, promoting and developing of cultural heritage sites of national and world importance.</p> <p>Financial instruments:</p> <p>Projects shall apply prior to financial instrument(s) selected under the Priority Axis. Grants will be delivered at project level only after a profound review of the project business plan is done by the relevant Financial instrument, which identifies the market gap and the need of top up grant to be provided at project level in order to provide financial viability of the project.</p> <p>Needs-based financing:</p> <p>Wherever possible the interventions for conservation, protection, promoting and development of cultural heritage will build on the measures financed in the 2007-2013 period under OPRD 2007-2013. Isolated or difficult to access sites that do not have the potential to attract tourists will not be funded.</p> <p>Sustainable development:</p> <p>Considering that investments in tourism contribute for the growth and for the creation of new jobs in cases where these investments are planned as a complete integrated</p>	

solution tailored to the specific local conditions, within the priority axis will be funded comprehensive integrated tourist products under which the restoration activities of the relevant sites will be accompanied by infrastructure and marketing activities, as well as by small-scale income-generating investments within the cultural attraction or directly linked to it. Thus will be given the opportunity to combine and support of various elements of a project in order to ensure the overall sustainable development and functioning of a site and its transformation into an integrated tourist product.

Projects contributing the enhancement of the environment with clear environmental effect and impact will be financed. PA “Regional Tourism” of the programme does not include activities that might in any way whatsoever result in mass tourism becoming a threat for the cultural heritage.

In accordance to the Bulgarian legislation the restoration and conservation activities of sites of national and world importance should be coordinated and approved by the Ministry of Culture and the National Institute for Immovable Cultural Heritage, after a decision taken by the Specialized Expert Council for Fine Arts to the Minister of Culture.

The use of necessary expertise in the field of cultural heritage will be required from the Financial instrument with regards project selection.

Taking into account OPRD 2007-2013 lessons learnt specific monitoring and control on implementation of the specific conservation and restoration activities will be ensured by the Managing Authority in order to ensure compliance with issued permits and regulations.

Small scale projects:

Only small scale projects for cultural and sustainable tourism as referred to Article 3(1)(e) of the ERDF Regulation will be supported.

A project will be considered as a small-scale if its total cost is below or equal to EUR 5 million; this threshold is raised to EUR 10 million in the case of infrastructure considered as world cultural heritage in the sense of Article 1 of the 1972 Convention concerning the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage listed by UNESCO.

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment Priority</i>	<2A.2.3.1 type="S" input="S"> 6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
<i>Planned use of financial instruments</i>	<2A.2.3.2 type="C" input="M"> 42 821 250

<2A.2.3.3 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M">

It is envisaged the possibility for implementation of financial instruments for support of the projects under the priority axis.

The measures supported by financial instruments may comprise separate components or integrated project solutions and to be combined with grants in case of proven needs. The potential of the project to generate revenues and to provide sufficient resources to be able to repay the loan should be identified in the project business plan..

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96 (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment Priority</i>	<2A.2.4.1 type="S" input="S"> Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
<2A.2.4.2 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"> It is not envisaged major projects.	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

(Reference: point (b)(iv) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators

(by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023) ⁶⁶			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
CO09	Increase in expected number of visits to supported	visits/year	ERDF	Less developed regions			– 482 034	Public UMIS, MC, Municipa	Annually

⁶⁶ For the ESF, this list includes common output indicators for which a target value has been set. Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. For the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, gender breakdown is in most cases not relevant. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

	sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions							lities	
611	Developed tourist products for cultural heritage of national and world importance	number	ERDF	Less developed regions			18	Public UMIS, MC, Municipalities	Annually

2.A.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7⁶⁷

Specific provisions for ESF⁶⁸, where applicable (by priority axis and, where relevant, category of region): social innovation, transnational cooperation and ESF contribution to thematic objectives 1 to 7.

Description of the contribution of the planned actions of the priority axis to:

- social innovation (if not covered by a dedicated priority axis);
- transnational cooperation (if not covered by a dedicated priority axis);
- thematic objectives referred to in points (1) to (7) of the first paragraph of Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

Priority axis	<2A.3.1 type="S" input="S">
	<2A.3.2 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M"> N/A

⁶⁷ Only for programmes supported by the ESF.

⁶⁸ For the ESF, this list includes common output indicators for which a target value has been set and all programme-specific output indicators.

2.A.8 Performance framework

(Reference: point (b)(v) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2), and Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 6: Performance framework of the priority axis

(by fund and, for the ERDF and ESF, category of region)⁶⁹

<i>Priority axis</i>	<i>ID</i>	<i>Indicator type (Key implementation step, financial, output or, where appropriate, result indicator)</i>	<i>Indicator or key implementation step</i>	<i>Measurement unit, where appropriate</i>	<i>Fund</i>	<i>Category of region</i>	<i>Milestone for 2018⁷⁰</i>	<i>Final target (2023)⁷¹</i>	<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate</i>

⁶⁹ Where YEI is implemented as part of a priority axis, YEI milestones and targets must be distinguished from other milestones and targets for the priority axis in accordance with implementing acts referred to in the fifth subparagraph of Article 22(7) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, as YEI resources (specific allocation and matching ESF support) are excluded from the performance reserve.

⁷⁰ Milestones may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

⁷¹ Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

							M	W	T	M	W	T				
6	1	financial	Certified amount	euro	ERDF	Less developed regions	14	861	493				100 882,00	755	Public UMIS	The milestone is calculated based on forecast for timing for contracting of each operation and expected duration of the projects
6		Key implementation step.	Financial instrument for tourism development established. Mechanism for combination of support through FI and grants developed. Started					1					1			

			construction works for some investments.									
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework
(optional)

<2A.4.12 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M">

The milestone value for the financial indicator includes the amounts certified for completed projects which products will contribute to the milestone for output indicator as well as the certified amounts for uncompleted projects.

The milestone is based on the lessons learned in the programming period 2007-2013 and precise calculation of estimations for project contracting and subsequent verification and certification of the amount paid.

The key implementation step set in the Performance Framework is calculated taking into account the following:

1. The time required to preparatory activities for establishment of financial instrument for support under PA 6.
2. The first grant scheme for projects will be launched in 2016.
3. The project duration is scheduled to be 3 years with possible extension of the grant and loan agreements if necessary.

2.A.9 Categories of intervention

(Reference: point (b)(vi) of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support.

Tables 7-11: Categories of intervention⁷²

(by Fund and category of region, if the priority axis covers more than one)

Table 7: Dimension 1 – Intervention field		
Fund	<2A.5.1.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N > ERDF	
Category of region	<2A.5.1.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N > Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
6	94	85 642 499

Table 8: Dimension 2 – Form of finance		
Fund	<2A.5.2.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N > ERDF	
Category of region	<2A.5.2.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N > Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
6	01	42 821 249
6	03	4 282 125
6	04	38 539 125

Table 9: Dimension 3 – Territory type		
Fund	<2A.5.3.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N > ERDF	
Category of region	<2A.5.3.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N > Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
6	07	85 642 499

Table 10: Dimension 4 – Territorial delivery mechanisms		
Fund	<2A.5.4.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N > ERDF	

⁷² Amounts include total Union support (the main allocation and the allocation from the performance reserve).

Category of region	<2A.5.4.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N > Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
6	07	85 642 499

Table 11: Dimension 6 – ESF secondary theme⁷³ (ESF only)		
Fund	<2A.5.5.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Category of region	<2A.5.5.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
N/A	N/A	

2.A.10 Summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries (where appropriate)

(by priority axis)

(Reference: point (b)(vii) of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Priority axis</i>	<3A.6.1 type="S" input="S">
	<2A.6.2 type="S" maxlength="2000" input="M"> N/A

2.A.1 Priority axis 7

ID of the priority axis	<2A.1 type="N" input="G""SME» > 1 7
Title of the priority axis	<2A.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M""SME" > Regional Road Infrastructure

<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented	<2A.3 type="C">
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⁷³ Include, where appropriate, quantified information on the ESF's contribution to the thematic objectives referred to in points (1) to (7) of the first paragraph of Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

solely through financial instruments	<i>input="M"></i>
<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level	<i><2A.4 type="C" input="M" "SME" ></i>
<input type="checkbox"/> The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development	<i><2A.5 type="C" input="M"></i>
<input type="checkbox"/> For the ESF: The entire priority axis is dedicated to social innovation or to transnational cooperation, or both	<i><2A.6 type="C" input="M"></i>

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region, thematic objective or Fund (where applicable)

(Reference: Article 96(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<2A.0 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M">

2.A.3 Fund, category of region and calculation basis for Union support

(Repeated for each combination under a priority axis)

<i>Fund</i>	<i><2A.7 type="S" input="S" "SME" ></i> ERDF
<i>Category of region</i>	<i><2A.8 type="S" input="S" "SME" ></i> Less Developed Regions
<i>Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)</i>	<i><2A.9 type="S" input="S" "SME" ></i> Total
<i>Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where</i>	<i><2A.9 type="S" input="S" ></i> N/A

<i>applicable)</i>	
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2.A.4 Investment priority

(Repeated for each investment priority under the priority axis)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<p><2A.10 type="S" input="S" "SME" ></p> <p>Enhancing regional mobility through connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes</p>
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2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

(Repeated for each specific objective under the investment priority)

(Reference: points (b)(i) and (ii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>ID</i>	<2A.1.1 type="N" input="G" "SME" > 1
<i>Specific objective</i>	<p><2A.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M" "SME" ></p> <p>Improving connectivity and accessibility with the TEN-T network for freights and passengres.</p>
<i>The results that the Member State seeks to achieve with Union support</i>	<p><2A.1.3 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M" "SME" "></p> <p>The main results of the investment priority targeted at better integration with the common European transport network, acceleration of regional cohesion, thus contributing to better access to the common European market and to the sustainable development of the economy and improvement of the environmental situation in the country.</p> <p>The results which are sought are to connect the key regional transport nodes, such as regional airports, ports, large and medium sized cities, which lie on key transport axes, important crossroads or intermodal terminals to the TEN-T network.</p> <p>This will result in better social and regional cohesion, enhance competitiveness of the regions and will increase their economic development and growth and job creation.</p> <p>Furthermore, this will also improve the access of peripheral and economically less developed territories to the large industrial centres.</p> <p>Due to the importance of the tourist travels in the overall passenger flow the investment priority will affect positively the development of the internal year-round tourism.</p>

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

(Reference: point (b)(ii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>ID</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Measurement unit</i>	<i>Category of region (where relevant)</i>	<i>Baseline value</i>	<i>Baseline year</i>	<i>Target value⁷⁴ (2023)</i>	<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
71	Passenger flow Target: increase	thousand people	Less developed regions	102 383	2013	126 507	Road Infrastructure Agency	Twice during the period: 2018 and 2022
72	Freight flow Target: increase	thousand tone	Less developed regions	160 267	2012	172 770	Road Infrastructure Agency	Twice during the period: 2018 and 2022

⁷⁴ For ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, the target values may be qualitative or quantitative.

2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority

(by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96 (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<2A.2.1.1 type="S" input="S"> 7b - Enhancing regional mobility through connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes
<2A.2.1.2 type="S" maxlength="17500" input="M"> Indicative eligible activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Connectivity and accessibility to the TEN-T network ensuring intraregional connections between cities and providing opportunities for the development of the specific economic potential through construction, reconstruction and rehabilitation of 1st and 2nd class roads (outside the Trans-European Transport Network) and 3rd class roads.• Engineering solutions for green infrastructure in the implementation of the above activities - preventing and guidance equipment (silencing green walls, fences, loose ramps, slopes) traffic signs (signs, lamps, reflective devices), construction equipment crossing over and under infrastructure (eco-overpasses for wildlife, landscape tunnel channels and culverts, shadowy tunnels for amphibians and small animals) and others, where necessary. Direct beneficiaries in terms of public or private body, responsible for initiating or both initiating and implementing operations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Road Infrastructure Agency Main target groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The support is targeted at the entire population of Bulgaria and in particular the population of peripheral remote regions, which due to the better connectivity and mobility opportunities will be able to benefit from the services offered in urban centres, in the context in the cooperation between urban and rural areas.• The activities address directly the representatives of the local and regional business, which will be provided with better access to the single European market. Justification: <p>The concept is to finance a pre-defined number of road sections of national and</p>	

regional importance, ensuring connectivity of secondary and tertiary nodes with the TEN-T network, defined in advance based on a developed Methodology and criteria for prioritising road sections, with which the Road Infrastructure Agency will apply for financing under OPRG 2014–2020. The investments under this priority axis are intended to improve the accessibility of Bulgarian cities and their connection with the TEN-T network.

With the design of prioritized road sections under OPRG 2014-2020, the implementation of green infrastructure will be included, in respect of which measures will be carried out against the noise in urban environments, as well as measures to recover the connectivity between habitats. Measures for the implementation of green infrastructure will be included in varying degrees in the design of road sections, depending on what kind of construction of road sections will be implemented.

When constructing new roads a mandatory condition will be the preparation of cost-benefit analysis, and implementing EIA according to the Bulgarian legislation.

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment Priority</i>	<p><2A.2.2.1 type="S" input="S"></p> <p>7b - Enhancing regional mobility through connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes</p>
<p><2A.2.2.2 type="S" maxlength="5000" input="M"></p> <p>Need-based financing:</p> <p>The projects will be selected according to the Methodology and criteria for prioritising road sections developed by the Road Infrastructure Agency.</p> <p>The methodology includes the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criteria for eligibility - assessment of road sections according to their links with the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) - road sections that provide no direct connection with TEN-T network are not evaluated in the below-mentioned criteria; • Evaluation of road sections by providing access to other modes of transport (water, land or air) – the nearer end of the section should not be more than 50 kilometers from the linkage to the other modes of transport. • Assessment of road sections according to the value of time savings in Euro / year per kilometer resulting from the rehabilitation / reconstruction of the section; • Evaluation of road sections for the extent to which they liaise border crossing points (BCPs) of the Republic of Bulgaria to the European transport network; • Assessment of road sections according to their contribution to the development 	

<p>of the regions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of road sections according to their technical and operational conditions; • Evaluation of road sections according to the indicator for comfort while traveling; • Assessment of road sections by the extent to which they link cultural and natural heritage sites to the trans-European transport network; <p>Eligibility criterion automatically puts road sections that do not provide a direct link to the TEN-T network outside OPRG 2014-2020 the scope of funding.</p> <p>In accordance with the operation selection criteria, projects will be financed combining the most pressing needs and the largest importance for the development of the regions.</p>
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2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment Priority</i>	<p><2A.2.3.1 type="S" input="S"></p> <p>7b - Enhancing regional mobility through connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes</p>
<i>Planned use of financial instruments</i>	<p><2A.2.3.2 type="C" input="M"></p> <p><2A.2.3.3 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M"></p> <p>No use of financial instruments is envisaged.</p>

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96 (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Investment Priority</i>	<p><2A.2.4.1 type="S" input="S"></p> <p>Enhancing regional mobility through connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes</p>
	<p><2A.2.4.2 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"></p> <p>No use of major projects is envisaged.</p>

2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

(Reference: point (b)(iv) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators

(by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023) ⁷⁵			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
CO14	Roads: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	kilometres	ERDF	Less developed regions			665	RIA, Public UMIS	Annually

2.A.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7⁷⁶

Specific provisions for ESF⁷⁷, where applicable (by priority axis and, where relevant, category of region): social innovation, transnational cooperation and ESF contribution to thematic objectives 1 to 7.

Description of the contribution of the planned actions of the priority axis to:

- social innovation (if not covered by a dedicated priority axis);
- transnational cooperation (if not covered by a dedicated priority axis);
- thematic objectives referred to in points (1) to (7) of the first paragraph of Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

⁷⁵ For the ESF, this list includes common output indicators for which a target value has been set. Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. For the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, gender breakdown is in most cases not relevant. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

⁷⁶ Only for programmes supported by the ESF.

⁷⁷ For the ESF, this list includes common output indicators for which a target value has been set and all programme-specific output indicators.

<i>Priority axis</i>	<i><2A.3.1 type="S" input="S"></i>
<i><2A.3.2 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M"></i> <i>N/A</i>	

2.A.8 Performance framework

(Reference: point (b)(v) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2), and Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 6: Performance framework of the priority axis

(by fund and, for the ERDF and ESF, category of region)⁷⁸

Priority axis	Indicator or type (Key implementation step, financial, output or, where appropriate, result indicator)	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018 ⁷⁹			Final target (2023) ⁸⁰			Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate		
							M	W	T	M	W	T				
7	financial	1	Certified amount	euro	ERDF	Less developed	65	827	910			194	526	920,00	Public UMIS	The milestone

⁷⁸ Where YEI is implemented as part of a priority axis, YEI milestones and targets must be distinguished from other milestones and targets for the priority axis in accordance with implementing acts referred to in the fifth subparagraph of Article 22(7) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, as YEI resources (specific allocation and matching ESF support) are excluded from the performance reserve.

⁷⁹ Milestones may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

⁸⁰ Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

						regions						is calculated based on forecast for timing for contracting of each operation and expected duration of the projects
7	output	CO 14	Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	kilometres	ERDF	Less developed regions	38			665	Public UMIS	The selected output indicator is representative for Priority axis 7 as it is related to 100 % of the resources allocated

2.A.9 Categories of intervention

(Reference: point (b)(vi) of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support.

Tables 7-11: Categories of intervention⁸¹

(by Fund and category of region, if the priority axis covers more than one)

Table 7: Dimension 1 – Intervention field		
Fund	<2A.5.1.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N > ERDF	
Category of region	<2A.5.1.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N > Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
7	34	165 347 882,00

Table 8: Dimension 2 – Form of finance		
Fund	<2A.5.2.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N > ERDF	
Category of region	<2A.5.2.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N > Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
7	01	165 347 882,00

Table 9: Dimension 3 – Territory type		
Fund	<2A.5.3.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N > ERDF	
Category of region	<2A.5.3.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N > Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
7	07	165 347 882,00

⁸¹ Amounts include total Union support (the main allocation and the allocation from the performance reserve).

Table 10: Dimension 4 – Territorial delivery mechanisms		
Fund	<2A.5.4.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N > ERDF	
Category of region	<2A.5.4.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N > Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
7	07	165 347 882,00

Table 11: Dimension 6 – ESF secondary theme⁸² (ESF only)		
Fund	<2A.5.5.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Category of region	<2A.5.5.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
N/A	N/A	

2.A.10 Summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries (where appropriate)

(by priority axis)

(Reference: point (b)(vii) of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Priority axis	<3A.6.1 type="S" input="S">
	<2A.6.2 type="S" maxlength="2000" input="M">

2.B Description of the priority axes for technical assistance

(Reference: point (c) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

⁸² Include, where appropriate, quantified information on the ESF's contribution to the thematic objectives referred to in points (1) to (7) of the first paragraph of Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

2.B.1 Priority axis 8 (repeated for each Technical Assistance priority axis)

<i>ID of the priority axis</i>	<2B.0.2 type="N" maxlength="5" input="G"> 8
<i>Title of the priority axis</i>	<2B.0.3 type="S" maxlength="255" input="M"> Technical Assistance

2.B.2 Justification for establishing a priority axis covering more than one category of region (where applicable)

(Reference: Article 96(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<2B.0.1 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"> N/A

2.B.3 Fund and category of region (repeated for each combination under the priority axis)

<i>Fund</i>	<2B.0.4 type="S" input="S"> ERDF
<i>Category of region</i>	<2B.0.5 type="S" input="S"> Less developed regions
<i>Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)</i>	<2B.0.6 type="S" input="S"> Total

2.B.4 Specific objectives and expected results

(repeated for each specific objective under the priority axis)

(Reference: points (c)(i) and (ii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>ID</i>	<2B.1.1 type="N" maxlength="5" input="G"> 1
<i>Specific objective</i>	<2B.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M"> Strengthening the effectiveness of the Managing Authority
<i>Results that the Member</i>	<2B.1.3 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"> The specific objective is orientated at strengthening and increasing the

<p><i>State seeks to achieve with Union support</i>⁸³</p>	<p>institutional capacity of the Managing Authority of OPRG 2014-2020. The result sought is to ensure smooth implementation, monitoring, evaluation, information and control of the programme, thus ensuring a high level of absorption of EU funds.</p> <p>The best practices from the 2007-2013 period will continue - such as the system for training and qualification of the staff of the Managing Authority, providing external training in carrying out on-the spot visits, ensuring sufficient working and archive facilities, as well as the necessary equipment.</p> <p>Practice shows that the best results are in direct relation with the motivation of employees, especially when the additional remuneration is based on objective assessment of the results achieved by the employee. This approach will continue to be applied according to the national legislation.</p> <p>Additional support will be provided for expertise in specific areas such as public procurement, state aid and financial instruments.</p>
<p>Identification</p>	<p><2B.1.1 type="N" maxlength="5" input="G"> 2</p>
<p>Specific objective</p>	<p><2B.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M"> Improvement of the administrative capacity of OPRG beneficiaries 2014-20</p>
<p><i>Results that the Member State seeks to achieve with Union support</i>⁸⁴</p>	<p><2B.1.3 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"></p> <p>The aim is to improve the administrative capacity of OPRG 2014-2020 beneficiaries, in order to efficiently implement the programme.</p> <p>In this regard, within the OPRD 2007-2013 an analysis has been made for the capacity of the direct beneficiaries of OPRG 2014-2020 (ministries and agencies) and 36 beneficiary municipalities of the big and medium-sized cities and action plans for strengthening their capacity have been prepared. The analysis is aimed both at identifying the needs of the beneficiaries in connection with the preparation and implementation of projects in the period 2007-2013, and to assess the capacity and readiness of the beneficiaries for the next programming period.</p> <p>The analysis of the capacity of beneficiaries is structured in several key areas as follows: strategic planning; structures involved in the projects; human resources; procedures and processes; previous experience; financial resources; technical resources. Within the respective areas relevant areas for improvement have been identified and measures to improve the capacity have been identified. In addition, general recommendations are made at central administration level: MA of OPRG 2014-2020, Council of Ministers and other central administrations.</p> <p>The basic needs of OPRG 2014-2020 beneficiaries can be summarized in</p>

⁸³ Required where Union support for technical assistance in the programme exceeds EUR 15 million.

⁸⁴ Required where Union support technical assistance program exceeds 15 million euros.

	<p>the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continuing need to increase the competence of the personnel engaged in the preparation and management of projects; • need to increase motivation and remuneration of the experts involved in the preparation and management of projects; • need to provide equipment for units engaged in the preparation and management of projects, including computers, specialized software, etc. <p>In addition, taking into account the strong urban orientation of OPRG 2014-2020, Priority Axis "Technical assistance" will enable the activation of networks of cities and cooperation with the European network of cities and participation in European city forums.</p> <p>The Priority Axis aims to meet these needs of the beneficiaries in order to ensure effective use of resources and quality implementation of projects.</p>
Identification	<p><2B.1.1 type="N" maxlength="5" input="G"></p> <p>3</p>
Specific objective	<p><2B.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M"></p> <p>Raising OPRG 2014-2020 public awareness</p>
Results that the Member State seeks to achieve with Union support ⁸⁵	<p><2B.1.3 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"></p> <p>Given the scope and the number of potential beneficiaries the measures of publicity and awareness are essential.</p> <p>The objective is aimed at implementation of the national communication strategy of Bulgaria and the requirements of Art. 115 of Regulation 1303/2013.</p> <p>The aim is to inform the public on financial support from the EU, to encourage wider public participation in the formulation of projects and monitoring of their quality implementation, but also to inform programme beneficiaries about funding opportunities, best practices, results achieved, etc.</p>

2.B.5 Result indicators⁸⁶

Table 12: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)

(for ERDF/ESF/Cohesion Fund)

(Reference: point (c)(ii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

⁸⁵ Required where objectively justified given the content of the action and where Union support for technical assistance in the programme exceeds EUR 15 million.

⁸⁶ Required where objectively justified given the content of the action and where Union support for technical assistance in the programme exceeds EUR 15 million..

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value			Baseline year	Target value ⁸⁷ (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
			M	W	T		M	W	T		
81	Average time required to pay the beneficiary from the submission date of the reimbursement application	days			50	2013			40	Evaluations of OPRG 2014-2020	When preparing evaluations of OPRG 2014-2020
84	Average time for a project approval (between submission of a project's application and signing of a contract)	days			118	2011			83	Evaluations of OPRG 2014-2020	When preparing evaluations of OPRG 2014-2020
82	Level of satisfaction of OPRG beneficiaries with training and technical support	%			73,7	2014			75	Evaluations of OPRG 2014-2020	When preparing evaluations of OPRG 2014-2020
83	Level of general public	%			15,00	2013			40,00	Evaluations of OPRG	When preparing evaluations of

⁸⁷ Target values may be qualitative or quantitative. Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender, the baseline values may be adjusted accordingly. "M" = men, "W"=women, "T"= total.

awareness about OPRG 2014-2020									2014-2020	OPRG 2014-2020
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2.B.6 Actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives (by priority axis)

(Reference: points (c)(i) and (iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

2.B.6.1 A description of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives

(Reference: points (c)(i) and (iii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<i>Priority axis</i>	<2.B.3.1.1 type="S" input="S"> Technical Assistance
<2.B.3.1.2 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M"> Indicative eligible activities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical support, consultations, research, analyses, studies, etc. required for the correct management, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and control of OPRG 2014-2020; • Delivery and maintenance of computers (hardware and software), IT and office equipment required for the management, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and control of OPRG 2014-2020; • Delivery of hardware and software for beneficiaries related to the OPRG 2014-2020 implementation and to the implementation of the plans for strengthening the capacity of the beneficiaries. • Evaluation of the OPRG 2014-2020 implementation (including on-going evaluations); • Support for monitoring the implementation of beneficiaries' projects – on the spot visit and related reports, internal control systems, compliance with procurement procedures, etc. • Support for financial control and audit (including on-the-spot verifications and related reports, internal control systems, observing the compliance with public procurement procedures, etc.); • Support for implementation of internal control over the activities of the regional departments of the MA – on the spot visits, organizing meetings, etc. • Support for the processes of evaluation and selection of projects (organisation of evaluation committees, database of independent experts possessing the required technical knowledge and experience, hiring of experts, etc.), independent evaluations 	

of projects;

- Work organisation, running costs and trainings of the OPRG 2014-2020 Monitoring Committee;
- Rent and maintenance of fixed assets for the purposes of the MA of OPRG 2014-2020;
- Providing support for activities related to the closure of the 2007-2013 programming period;
- Supporting the development and dissemination of analyses, questionnaires, surveys and polls;
- Consultancy support for identifying project ideas etc.;
- Remuneration including insurances, and additional financial incentives for OPRG 2014-2020 Managing Authority and beneficiaries; travels of employees directly involved in the planning, management, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and control of OPRG 2014-2020;
- Staff training of MA of OPRG 2014-2020 and of beneficiaries (workshops, seminars, exchange of good practices and experiences, etc..) with particular focus on procurement and preliminary procurement control and requirements in the field of State aid and financial instruments for the interventions under OPRG;
- Participation in programmes for exchange of experience and sharing best practices, both for the Managing Authority and the beneficiaries.
- Support for activities related to the implementation of the applicable ex-ante conditionalities.
- Support for the preparation of documents related to the next programming period (consultations, studies, manuals, etc.);
- Development and maintaining of a web site, media appearances, information films and videos on TV, advertisements and other contacts with the press;
- Publications, bulletins, leaflets, posters, manuals, etc.;
- Organising of conferences, “travelling” exhibitions and seminars, information campaigns, community analyses, round tables and focus groups, publications, questionnaires, surveys, seminars for stimulating civil society support and ownership of the proposed investments.
- Support for increasing public awareness and raising public awareness of the scope, objectives and results of the OPRG 2014-2020 and the Community contribution;
- Support to attract the interest of potential beneficiaries OPRG 2014-2020, information on funding opportunities provided by the ERDF 2014-2020 by OPRG and explain the eligibility criteria for the financial resources of the program;
- Support for dissemination of documents related to OPRG 2014-2020 (rules, procedures, guidelines, methodologies, etc.)
- Development and implementation of Action Plans to strengthen the administrative

capacity of the OPRG 2014-2020 beneficiaries based on the assessments made;

- Assessment of training needs and consultation;
- Providing technical assistance to urban beneficiaries under Priority Axis 1 for the creation of urban networks and participation in events at EU level and integrated urban sustainable development.
- Development and implementation of training programmes (hiring of experts, organising training events, training materials, etc.) for facilitating the OPRG 2014-2020 implementation;
- Providing support for the preparation of projects to be financed under OPRG 2014-2020;

Direct beneficiaries in terms of public or private body, responsible for initiating or both initiating and implementing operations:

- Managing Authority of OPRG 2014–2020;
- Beneficiaries of OPRG 2014–2020.

Justification:

The capacity building activities are a key element for the MA staff and the OPRG 2014-2020 beneficiaries to ensure successful management and implementation. Based on the results and knowledge acquired during the projects, financed and implemented during the previous programming period, Priority Axis Technical Assistance will continue paying special attention to the strengthening and development of the administrative capacity for programme implementation at central, regional and local level in addition to the focus the MA places on human resources development.

Special attention will be given to activities such as to avoid the administrative burden associated with verification controls or issuance of methodological guidelines and their compliance with the National Strategy for the Development of the Procurement Sector in Bulgaria for the period 2014-2020 and its implementation plan. Training of the staff of all stakeholders, at all territorial levels and at all stages – programming, management, monitoring, control, implementation and evaluation of OPRG 2014-2020, generation of projects and selection of project proposals, raising the awareness, strengthening the capacity of potential beneficiaries, dissemination of information, knowledge and skills throughout Bulgaria, will be supported.

The support under this Priority Axis will be oriented at activities related to the continuous reporting on the progress in the OPRG 2014-2020 management and implementation, the execution of different types of surveys, analyses and reports facilitating the implementation and assessing the impact of the measures envisaged under OPRG 2014-2020 in the light of the efficient and effective utilisation of the ERDF funding.

2.B.6.2 Output indicators expected to contribute to results (by priority axis)

(Reference: point (c)(iv) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 13: Output indicators (by priority axis)

(for ERDF/ESF/Cohesion Fund)

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023) ⁸⁸ (optional)			Source of data
			M	W	T	
811	Supported salaries with a full-time equivalent	number			157	Public UMIS
821	Trained people from beneficiaries	number			4 000	Public UMIS
831	Conducted information campaigns and publicity activities	number			60	Public UMIS

2.B.7 Categories of intervention (by priority axis)

(Reference: points (c)(v) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Corresponding categories of intervention based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and an indicative breakdown of Union support.

Tables 14-16: Categories of intervention⁸⁹

Table 14: Dimension 1 – Intervention field		
Category of region: <type="S" input="S"> Less developed		
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
8	121	40 295 000,00
8	122	640 000,00
8	123	3 600 000,00

⁸⁸ Target values for output indicators under technical assistance are optional. Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

⁸⁹ Amounts include total Union support (the main allocation and the allocation from the performance reserve).

Table 15: Dimension 2 – Form of finance		
Category of region: <type="S" input="S">		
<i>Priority axis</i>	<i>Code</i>	Amount (EUR)
8	01	44 535 000,00

Table 16: Dimension 3 – Territory type		
Category of region: <type="S" input="S">		
<i>Priority axis</i>	<i>Code</i>	Amount (EUR)
8	07	44 535 000,00

SECTION 3 FINANCING PLAN

(Reference: point (d) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

3.1 Financial appropriation from each fund and amounts for performance reserve

(Reference: point (d)(i) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 17

	Fund	Category of region	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		Total	
			Main allocation ⁹⁰	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	Performance reserve
(1)	ERDF	Less developed regions	35 885 195,00	2 290 545,00	161 241 784,00	10 292 029,00	198 041 617,00	12 640 954,00	195 704 357,00	12 491 767,00	202 639 663,00	12 934 447,00	237 610 539,00	15 166 630,00	201 879 350,00	12 885 916,00	1 233 002 505,00	78 702 288,00
(2)		In transition regions																
(3)		In more developed regions																
(4)		Total	35 885 195,00	2 290 545,00	161 241 784,00	10 292 029,00	198 041 617,00	12 640 954,00	195 704 357,00	12 491 767,00	202 639 663,00	12 934 447,00	237 610 539,00	15 166 630,00	201 879 350,00	12 885 916,00	1 233 002 505,00	78 702 288,00

⁹⁰ Total allocation (Union support) less allocation to performance reserve.

3.2 Total financial appropriation by fund and national co-financing (EUR)

(Reference: point (d)(ii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

1. The table sets out the financial plan by priority axis.
2. Where a priority axis covers more than one fund, the Union support and national counterpart is broken down by fund with a separate co-financing rate within the priority axis for each fund.
3. Where the priority axis covers more than one category of region, the Union support and national counterpart is broken down by category of region with a separate co-financing rate within the priority axis for each category of region.
4. The EIB contribution is presented at priority axis level.

Table 18a: Financing plan

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Basis for calculation of Union support (Total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	Union support	National counterpart	Indicative breakdown of national counterpart		Total funding	Co-financing rate	For information EIB contributions	Main allocation (total funding less performance reserve)		Performance reserve		Performance reserve amount as proportion of total Union support
						National public funding	National private funding (1)				Union support	National counterpart	Union support	National counterpart ⁹²	
				(a)	(b) = (c) + (d)	(c)	(d)	(e) = (a) + (b)	(f) = (a)/(e) (2)	(g)	(h)=(a)-(j)	(i) = (b) - (j) (k)	(j)	(k) = (b) * (l) ((j)/(a))	(l) = (j)/(a)

⁹² The national counterpart is divided pro-rata between the main allocation and the performance reserve.

																*100
<i>Priority axis 1. Sustainable and integrated urban development</i>	ERDF	Less developed	Total eligible cost	714 381 675,00	126 067 355,00	126 067 355,00	-	840 449 030,00	85,00%	-	347 670 012	118 237 474	44 369 328	7 829 881	6,21%	
<i>Priority Axis 2. Support for energy efficiency in support centres in peripheral areas</i>	ERDF	Less developed	Total eligible cost	89 848 981,00	15 855 703,00	15 855 703,00	-	105 704 684,00	85,00%	-	576 84 268	14 870 926	5 580 405	984 777	6,21%	
<i>Priority axis 3. Regional educational infrastructure</i>	ERDF	Less developed	Total eligible cost	97 662 011,00	17 234 473,00	17 234 473,00	-	114 896 484,00	85,00%	-	349 91 596	16 164 062	6 065 662	1 070 411	6,21%	
<i>Priority axis 4. Regional health infrastructure</i>	ERDF	Less developed	Total eligible cost	71 057 716,00	12 539 597,00	12 539 597,00	-	83 597 313,00	85,00%	-	413 66 644	11 760 779	4 413 303	778 818	6,21%	
<i>Priority axis 5. Regional social infrastructure</i>	ERDF	Less developed	Total eligible cost	43 229 029,00	7 628 653,00	7 628 653,00	-	50 857 682,00	85,00%	-	130 40 544	7 154 847	2 684 899	473 806	6,21%	
<i>Priority axis 6. Regional tourism</i>	ERDF	Less developed	Total eligible cost	85 642 499,00	15 113 383,00	15 113 383,00	-	100 755 882,00	85,00%	-	353 80 323	14 174 710	5 319 146	938 673	6,21%	
<i>Priority axis 7. Regional road infrastructure</i>	ERDF	Less developed	Total eligible cost	165 347 882,00	29 179 038,00	29 179 038,00	-	194 526 920,00	85,00%	-	337 155 078	27 366 765	10 269 545	1 812 273	6,21%	
<i>Priority axis 8. Technical assistance</i>	ERDF	Less developed	Total eligible cost	44 535 000,00	7 859 118,00	7 859 118,00	-	52 394 118,00	85,00%	-	000 44 535	7 859 118	-	-	0,00%	
Total	ERDF	Less developed	Total eligible cost	1 311 704 793	231 477 320	231 477 320	-	1 543 182 113	85,00%	-	505 1 233 002	217 588 681	78 702 288	13 888 639	6,00%	
Total	ERDF	Transition		Equals total (2) in Table 17												

Total	ERDF	More developed		Equals total (3) in Table 17											
Total	ERDF	Special allocation to outermost regions or northern sparsely populated regions		Equals total (11) in Table 17											
Total	ESF ⁹³	Less developed		This does not equal total (5) in Table 17, which includes ESF matching support to YEI ⁹⁴											
Total	ESF ⁹⁵	Transition		This does not equal total (6) in Table 17, which includes ESF matching support to YEI											
Total	ESF ⁹⁶	More developed		This does not equal total											

⁹³ ESF allocation without the matching support for the YEI.
⁹⁴ The sum of total ESF support in less developed, transition and more developed regions and the resources allocated to the YEI in Table 18a equals the sum of total ESF support in such regions and the specific allocation to the YEI in Table 17.
⁹⁵ ESF allocation without the matching support for the YEI.
⁹⁶ ESF allocation without the matching support for the YEI.

		d		(7) in Table 17, which includes ESF matching support to YEI												
Total	YEI ⁹⁷	NA		This does not equal total (9) in Table 17, which only includes the YEI-specific allocation												
Total	Cohesion Fund	NA		Equals total (10) in Table 17												
Grand total					1 311 704 793	231 477 320	231 477 320	-	1 543 182 113	85%	-	1 233 002 505	217 588 681	78 702 288	13 888 639	6,00%

(1) To be completed only when priority axes are expressed in total costs.

(2) This rate may be rounded to the nearest whole number in the table. The precise rate used to reimburse payments is the ratio (f).

⁹⁷ Includes the YEI special allocation and the matching support from the ESF.

Table 18b: Youth Employment Initiative – ESF- and YEI-specific allocations⁹⁸ (where appropriate)

	Fund ⁹⁹	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) (<u>2</u>)
						National public funding (c)	National private funding (d) (1)		
1	YEI-specific allocation	NA			0				100%
2	ESF matching support	less developed							
3	ESF matching support	transition							

⁹⁸ To be completed for every (part of a) priority axis which implements the YEI.

⁹⁹ The YEI (specific allocation and matching ESF support) is considered a Fund and appears as a separate row even if it is part of a priority axis.

4	ESF matching support	more developed							
5	TOTAL: YEI [part of] Priority axis	[Must equal [part of] Priority axis 3]		Sum (1:4)	Sum (1:4)				
6			Ratio of ESF for less developed regions $2/\text{sum}(2:4)$	<i><3.2.c.1 1 type="P" input="G"></i>					
7			Ratio of ESF for transition regions $3/\text{sum}(2:4)$	<i><3.2.c.1 3 type="P" input="G"></i>					
8			Ratio of ESF for more developed regions $4/\text{sum}(2:4)$	<i><3.2.c.1 4 type="P" input="G"></i>					

			4)			
--	--	--	----	--	--	--

(1) To be completed only when priority axes are expressed in total costs.

(2) This rate may be rounded to the nearest whole number in the table. The precise rate used to reimburse payments is the ratio (f).

Table 18c: Breakdown of the financial plan by priority axis, fund, category of region and thematic objective

(Reference: point (d)(ii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Priority axis	Fund¹⁰⁰	Category of region	Thematic objective	Union support	National counterpart	Total funding
Priority axis 1. Sustainable and integrated urban development	ERDF	Less developed	TO 4: Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	319 568 375,00	56 394 420,00	375 962 795,00
	ERDF	Less developed	TO 6: Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	203 992 363,00	35 998 653,00	239 991 016,00
	ERDF	Less developed	TO 10: Investing in education, skills and lifelong learning	71 990 228,00	12 704 158,00	84 694 386,00
	ERDF	Less developed	TO 9: Promoting	118 830 709,00	20 970 124,00	139 800 833,00

¹⁰⁰ For the purposes of this table, the YEI (specific allocation and matching ESF support) is considered as a fund.

			social inclusion and combating poverty			
Priority axis 2. Support for energy efficiency in support centres in peripheral areas	ERDF	Less developed	TO 4: Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	89 848 981,00	15 855 703,00	105 704 684,00
Priority axis 3. Regional educational infrastructure	ERDF	Less developed	TO 10: Investing in education, skills and lifelong learning	97 662 011,00	17 234 473,00	114 896 484,00
Priority axis 4. Regional health infrastructure	ERDF	Less developed	TO 9: Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty	71 057 716,00	12 539 597,00	83 597 313,00
Priority axis 5. Regional social infrastructure	ERDF	Less developed	TO 9: Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty	43 229 029,00	7 628 653,00	50 857 682,00

Priority axis 6. Regional tourism	ERDF	Less developed	TO 6: Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	85 642 499,00	15 113 383,00	100 755 882,00
Priority axis 7. Regional road infrastructure	ERDF	Less developed	TO 7: Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	165 347 882,00	29 179 038,00	194 526 920,00
Total				1 267 169 793,00	223 618 202,00	1 490 787 995,00

Table 19: Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives

(Reference: Article 27(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)¹⁰¹

Priority axis	Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)	Proportion of total allocation to the operational programme (%)
<3.2.C.8 type="S" input="G">	<3.2.C.9 type="N" input="G"> Decision=N>	<3.2.C.10 type="P" input="G"> Decision=N>
1	339 261 888,60	25,86%

¹⁰¹ This table is generated automatically on the basis of tables on categories of intervention under each priority axis.

2	89 848 981,0	6,85%
Total	429 110 869,60	32,71%

SECTION 4 INTEGRATED APPROACH TO TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

(Reference: Article 96(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Description of the integrated approach to territorial development taking into account the content and objectives of the operational programme having regard to the Partnership Agreement and showing how it contributes to the accomplishment of the objectives of the operational programme and expected results

<4.0 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M">

The concept of OPRG 2014-2020 provides the support for development of a polycentric territorial system on the one hand, and on the other - to support territorial dimension of sectoral policies of regional importance.

Within the programme an integrated priority axis 1 "Sustainable and integrated urban development" is included, which aims to fund projects for sustainable urban development in 10 cities- centers of growth and a network of medium size cities. This Priority axis will be implemented in accordance with art. 7 of the ERDF Regulation 1301/2013. The approach which is followed is to give opportunity for the urban authorities to coordinate sectoral policies such as energy efficiency, urban environment, activities to attract private investments, local social and educational policy and sustainable urban transport at city level, thus taking into account the needs and potential of the territory at the lowest territorial level. In this context the main priority of the operational programme will address needs and potentials of local importance, which are identified within the urban strategies - Integrated Plans for Urban Regeneration and Development.

The sectoral priority axes of the operational programme recognizes the territorial dimension of the sectoral priorities of the Partnership Agreement, which contribute to the sustainable regional development. Sectoral priorities such as regional educational, health, social infrastructure, regional tourism and regional road infrastructure are not limited to specific groups of territories and cover the whole territory of the country, due to their higher level of importance – regional or national.

In most cases, the territorial focus of the sectoral policies is concentrated in the network of the large and medium cities which forms the polycentric system of the territorial development due to the fact that within them, the main part of public services is concentrated. In this regard the investments of the sectoral axes will be complementary to the sustainable urban development under PA 1 although these sectoral policies are of national and regional importance and the investments will be implemented according to the relevant sectoral strategic documents.

Demarcation between sectoral priorities, on the one hand, and PA 1 on the other, will be ensured on the basis of types of supported infrastructure - Priority Axis 1 will support infrastructure of local importance, which in most cases is municipal property, and sectoral priorities – state infrastructure or municipal property from a higher level, which is clearly described in the respective lists of priority projects and sectoral strategic documents.

4.1 Community-led local development (where appropriate)

(Reference: point (a) of Article 96(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

The approach to the use of community-led local development instruments and the principles for identifying the areas where they will be implemented

<4.1 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M" PA=Y>

It is not envisaged programme activities to be implemented through community-led local development.

4.2 Integrated actions for sustainable urban development (where appropriate)

(Reference: point (b) of Article 96(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013; Article 7(2) and (3) of Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹⁰²)

Where appropriate the indicative amount of ERDF support for integrated actions for sustainable urban development to be implemented in accordance with the provisions under Article 7(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 and the indicative allocation of ESF support for integrated action.

<4.2.1 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M">

The integrated actions for sustainable urban development will be implemented through PA1 “Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development” **in accordance with paragraph 2, article 7 of Regulation 1301/2013. The approach will be as follows:**

1. Participating cities will be selected according to the polycentric model for development adopted by the **National Concept for Spatial Development 2013-2025** - 10 big cities – centers of growth and the network of balancing medium sized cities, according Section 1.1.1.
2. Funding will be based on strategies that set out integrated actions to tackle the economic, environmental, climate, demographic and social challenges affecting urban areas, namely the **Integrated Plans for Urban Regeneration and Development (IPURDs)**.
3. The Managing authority delegates the task of selecting the operations of selected cities acting as intermediary bodies under Art. 123 (6) of Regulation 1303/2013;
4. The urban authorities develop investment programs that include only measures of IPURDs, which will be implemented through Priority Axis 1 of OPRG 2014-2020. The investment programs include provisions for management and monitoring based on the established in IPURDs mechanism for implementation;
5. The Managing authority approves the investment programs of the urban authorities and evaluates their compliance and respectively the compliance of

¹⁰² 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).

IPURDs with the following criteria:

- Each strategy should be based on the real development needs of the area concerned following a robust territorial and demographic analysis which identifies the strengths and the weaknesses, the opportunities (in the specific area and in relation to the wider area) and the challenges as well as a development strategy (indicative actions, measures, investments, projects):
 - It should set out a long-term vision (until at least 2020).
 - It should be comprised of a system of integrated actions which seek to bring about a lasting improvement in the economic, environmental, climate, social and demographic conditions of an urban area.
 - It should clearly refer and link to other major investments within the concerned urban area including ESI-funded investments.
 - It should be coherent with the overall development targets of the municipality/region and Member State.
 - It should be realistic in terms of the capacity to implement it and the financial resources available.
 - The projects in the strategy to be funded by ESI Funds must be linked to the objectives.
 - It should clearly demonstrate how local citizens, civil society, other governance levels are involved in the implementation of the urban strategies and investment programs.
 - It should present a clear management structure for implementation of each investment program and should demonstrate adequate administrative and technical capacity to implement it under Priority axis 1. Based on the assessment of the MA, beneficiaries will be allowed to apply for technical assistance in order to strengthen their administrative and technical capacity for implementing the investment programs.
6. In accordance with Article 7, paragraph 5 of Regulation (EC) № 1301/2013, the Managing Authority may retain the right to undertake a final verification of eligibility of operations before approval.

Table 20: Integrated actions for sustainable urban development – indicative amounts of ERDF and ESF support

Fund	ERDF and ESF support (indicative) (EUR)	Proportion of fund's total allocation to programme
Total ERDF	714 381 675	54,46%
Total ESF	-	-

TOTAL ERDF+ESF	714 381 675	54,46%
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4.3 Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) (where appropriate)

(Reference: point (c) of Article 96 (3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

The approach to the use of Integrated Territorial Investments (ITIs) (as defined in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) other than in cases covered by 4.2, and their indicative financial allocation from each priority axis.

OPRG 2014-2020 does not envisage to apply the ITI approach as defined in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

Table 21: Indicative financial allocation to ITI other than those mentioned under point 4.2

(aggregate amount)

Priority axis	Fund	Indicative financial allocation (Union support) (EUR)
Total	N/A	

4.4 The arrangements for interregional and transnational actions, within the operational programme, with beneficiaries located in at least one other Member State (where appropriate)

(Reference: point (d) of Article 96(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<4.4.1 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M" PA=Y>

N/A

4.5 Contribution of the planned actions under the programme to macro-regional and sea-basin strategies, subject to the needs of the programme area as identified by the Member State (where appropriate)

(Where the Member State and regions participate in macro-regional strategies and sea basin strategies)

(Reference: point (e) of Article 96(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

<4.4.2 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M" >

EU Strategy for the Danube Region:

The Danube Strategy will be implemented in the entire territory of Bulgaria. Nevertheless, with a view to focusing the resources and achieving an effect from the realised investments, it is appropriate to focus the support on the development of Northwestern and North Central regions at NUTS 2 level, which directly border to Danube River.

Through support for the urban development under PA 1 of the cities from North western, North Central and North eastern region of NUTS 2 level, which have a greater role for the Danube Strategy, OPRG 2014-2020 will support the fulfilment of the objectives of Priority Area 6 - "To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soil" and Priority Area 7 - "To develop knowledge society through research, education and information technologies". OPRG 2014-2020 will contribute through renovation of urban environment, complete regeneration of deprived urban areas and measures for municipal educational infrastructure of local importance.

The intervention logic of OPRG 2014-2020 allows for targeting the support under the programme's sectoral priorities in accordance with the Danube Strategy which will complement the investments envisaged for urban development in the framework of IPURDs. Direct contribution to Priority Area 3 of the Danube Strategy "To promote culture and tourism, people to people contacts", which is coordinated by Bulgaria, will be achieved through Priority Axis 6 of OPRG 2014-2020 "Regional tourism". Within PA 6 the support for the implementation of integrated tourism products based on the cultural heritage of national and world IMPORTANCE will be provided.

The contribution of the projects under the OPRG 2014-2020 to achieve the objectives of the Danube Strategy will be reported regularly, and the required information will be submitted to the Secretariat of the National group for coordination of the activities for the implementation of the Strategy.

The coordination of the Danube Strategy at national level is performed through a national coordination mechanism. The National Coordinator for implementation of the Danube Strategy is MRDPW and assisted by the directorate "European Coordination and International Cooperation" in MRDPW, which plays the role of Secretariat. The approved projects under the Priority Axes will be submitted to the Secretariat of the national group for coordination of the activities for the implementation of the Danube Strategy, which will contribute to the effective implementation, monitoring and reporting of the results achieved and the objectives of the Strategy.

SECTION 5 SPECIFIC NEEDS OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS MOST AFFECTED BY POVERTY OR TARGET GROUPS AT HIGHEST RISK OF DISCRIMINATION OR SOCIAL EXCLUSION (WHERE APPROPRIATE)

(Reference: point (a) of Article 96(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

5.1 Geographical areas most affected by poverty/target groups at highest risk of discrimination or social exclusion

<5.1.1 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M" Decision= N PA=Y>

The main target groups at highest risk of discrimination, which will be specially supported under OPRG 2014–2020, are marginalised groups, including Roma, within the IPURDs of the large and medium cities – Direct beneficiaries of the PA 1 of the Programme. The identified possible areas of intervention are based on the results from an analysis of national strategic and operating documents, envisaging support for marginalised groups, including Roma, as well as an analysis of the IPURDs. The overall picture of the territorial distribution of the Roma population in the country and in NUTS 2 and NUTS 3 regions is based on information from the last census conducted in 2011.

Based on the data, 3 groups of level NUTS 2 were formed depending on the share of the Roma population in the overall population. The groups were formed based on the following criteria: first group – below 80% of the country average share of the Roma population; second group – from 80% to 120% of the country average share of the Roma population; third group – over 120% of the country average share of the Roma population. Data shows that 2 regions fall within the first group – SWR and NCR, 2 regions fall within the second group – SCR and NER, and 2 regions fall within the third group – NWR and SER.

With regard to districts, the grouping is as follows: 8 districts fall within the first group with a share of the Roma population below 3.9% of their total population; 7 districts fall within the second group-the share of the Roma population is between 3.9% and 5.8%. The third group is the largest. It includes 13 districts with a share of the Roma population of over 5.8%, the leading districts being Montana and Sliven, respectively with 12.7% and 11.8%.

As a whole, the average share of the Roma population in Bulgaria in the total population is 4.9%. There are large and medium-sized cities with significant Roma population – Sliven, Montana, Lom, Vidin, Pazardzhik.

The main needs identified in the analysis of the marginalised groups, including Roma, are related to the maximum coverage of the Roma children by the educational system and keeping them within it, the provision of high-quality education in a multi-cultural educational environment, the ensuring of equal access to high-quality healthcare services and preventive programmes, the improving of the housing conditions, including the adjacent technical infrastructure, the improving of the access of Roma to the labour market and increasing the share of employed Roma, the creating of conditions for equal access of the Roma community to the public cultural life and preserving the traditional Roma culture and art.

5.2 Strategy to address the specific needs of geographical areas most affected by poverty/target groups at highest risk of discrimination or social exclusion, and where relevant, the contribution to the integrated approach set out in the Partnership Agreement

<5.2.1 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M" Decision= N PA=Y>

Bulgaria has developed an extensive strategic framework orientated at the problems of marginalised groups and in particular Roma. It is in line with the requirements of international standards in the field of human rights and rights of people, belonging to minorities. The European and national strategic documents, and in particular the National Roma Integration Strategy 2012–2020, are guided by the principles of the European Union political framework for protection of human rights, compliance with the principle of providing equal opportunities to all citizens, and not allowing discrimination based on different characteristics, including ethnic origin.

OPRG 2014–2020 aims at addressing mainly the need for improving the housing conditions, including the adjacent technical infrastructure, which will have a direct impact on the remaining formulated needs. In this context, the main measures and activities, which OPRG 2014–2020 will continue supporting during the programming period, are related to the construction and rehabilitation of social housing for vulnerable and minority groups and other groups in a disadvantaged position, including Roma, and will contribute to the achievement of the objectives set out in the documents. During the 2007–2013 programming period, a pilot model was launched for integrated interventions under OPRD for repair and construction of social housing, complemented by measures under OPHRD for providing education, employment, healthcare and social inclusion to representatives of marginalised groups, placed in the renovated / newly constructed social housing. This initiative will be upgraded during the 2014–2020 programming period.

The strategy of PA 1 of OPRG 2014–2020 in this direction will be to place special focus on the development of the social intervention zones of the IPURDs with a view to address as much as possible the needs of the marginalised groups, and especially the Roma, which are concentrated mainly in these zones. Within the IPURD, each municipality will allocate at least 5% for measures in support of the development of appropriate social infrastructure, incl. social housing. The interventions implemented under the Programme will contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the more general strategy for combating poverty and social exclusion.

The data from the analyses carried out, mentioned above, support the selected strategy, and the coverage of the approved intervention zones in IPURDs shows that municipalities consider the inclusion in the intervention zones of neighbourhoods with compact Roma population as a priority. The reason is that in many cities there are areas with compact Roma population, living in the worst conditions. The planned interventions will contribute to the provision of adequate living conditions for this population, as well as to the social integration of Roma, by integrating the ghettos within the broader social intervention zones of the large and medium cities.

Northwest region

In the Northwest region is envisaged a number of other unfavorable characteristics of Bulgarian regions as highly degraded demographics, risk of poverty, high levels of

migration, problems with employment and receiving of quality social services.

Bulgaria envisages implementation of Strategy for targeted support in Northwest Region (NWR) (NUTS II). The targeted support to the NWR will be implemented on the basis of Integrated Strategy for Territorial Development of Northwest Region. For the targeted support of NWR a multi ESIF funding will be provided by envisaging various operational programs to contribute, according to their specificity and logic of interventions.

In this respect, OPRG 2014-2020 will contribute to the NWR targeted support by supporting cities for integrated and sustainable urban development under PA 1. The mechanism for integrated urban development is described in point 4.2. In NWR are identified 2 urban centers of hierarchic level 2 of regional importance (Vidin and Pleven) and 4 cities of hierarchic level 3, which will benefit from the proposed support under PA 1.

In addition to investments in sustainable urban development of large and medium cities within the Priority Axis 1, in accordance with the Partnership Agreement, OPRG 2014-2020 will provide support for NWR also under sectoral priority axes – road infrastructure, tourism, social and health infrastructure in accordance with the priorities and eligible program activities.

Table 22: Actions to address specific needs of geographical areas most affected by poverty/target groups at highest risk of discrimination or social exclusion¹⁰³

Target group/geographical area	Main types of planned action as part of integrated approach	Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Investment priority
Northwest Region NWR (NUTS II)	<p>NWR priorities supported by the ERDF in accordance with the Partnership Agreement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures for sustainable integrated urban development incl. sustainable urban transport and energy efficiency. • Measures to improve regional health infrastructure. • Measures to improve the regional social infrastructure. • Measures to develop the 	<p>Priority Axis 1 Priority Axis 2 Priority Axis 4 Priority Axis 5 Priority Axis 6 Priority Axis 7</p>	ERDF	Less Developed Regions	<p>4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector</p> <p>4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of</p>

¹⁰³ If the programme covers more than one category of region, a breakdown by category may be necessary.

	<p>cultural tourism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures to improve the regional road infrastructure. 			<p>sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures</p> <p>9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services</p> <p>6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage</p> <p>7b - Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes</p>
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Marginalized communities incl. Roma population / Urban areas	<p>The following planned infrastructure actions are part of integrated approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provision of modern social housing to vulnerable, minority and marginalised groups of the population and other disadvantaged groups through construction, reconstruction, renovation and expansion of social housing for the target group; - General renovation/reconstruction/ construction of adequate municipal infrastructure for provision of community-based services to the elderly and to people with disabilities outside the state policy on deinstitutionalisation: day-care centres, shelters, crisis assistance centres, social hostels, etc. including the adjacent yard; - General renovation/reconstruction/ construction of adequate municipal infrastructure for provision of community-based services to children outside the state policy on deinstitutionalisation: centres for support of homeless children, crisis assistance centres, day-care centres, counselling centres, etc. including the adjacent yard. 	Priority Axis 1 - Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development	ERDF	Less Developed Regions	9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contribute to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services.
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SECTION 6 SPECIFIC NEEDS OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS WHICH SUFFER FROM SEVERE AND PERMANENT NATURAL OR DEMOGRAPHIC HANDICAPS (WHERE APPROPRIATE)

(Reference: point (b) of Article 96(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013).

<6.1 type="S" maxlength="5000" input="M" Decisions=N PA=Y>

Not applicable

SECTION 7 AUTHORITIES AND BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGEMENT, CONTROL AND AUDIT AND THE ROLE OF RELEVANT PARTNERS

(Reference: Article 96(5) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

7.1 Relevant authorities and bodies

(Reference: points (a) and (b) of Article 96(5) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 23: Relevant authorities and bodies

Authority/body	Name of authority/body and department or unit	Head of authority/body (position or post)
Managing authority	Directorate General “Programming of Regional Development” at the MRDPW	Denitsa Nikolova – Deputy Minister and Head of the Managing Authority
Certifying authority, where applicable	“National Fund” Directorate, Ministry of Finance	Karina Karaivanova – Deputy Minister and Head of the Certifying Authority
Audit authority	“Audit of EU funds” EA	Lyudmila Rangelova – Executive Director
Body to which Commission will make payments	“National Fund” Directorate, Ministry of Finance	Karina Karaivanova – Deputy Minister and Head of the Certifying Authority

7.2 Involvement of relevant partners

(Reference: point (c) of Article 96(5) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

7.2.1 *Actions taken to involve the relevant partners in the preparation of the Operational programme, and the role of those partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programme*

<7.2.1 type="S" maxlength="14000" input="M" Decisions=N "SME">

Pursuant to Article 2 b) of Council of Ministers’ Decision (CMD) 328 of 25/04/2012 on approving a list of thematic objectives to be included in the Partnership Agreement of the Republic of Bulgaria for the 2014–2020 programming period, a list of programmes and a leading authority in the development of each programme, the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works has been designated as a leading authority in the development of the Operational programme for regional development for the 2014–2020 period, named Operational Programme “Regions in Growth” 2014–2020 (OPRG 2014–2020). The department within the MRDPW in charge of the drafting of OPRG 2014–2020 is Directorate General “Programming of Regional Development”, in accordance with Article 30, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph 2 of the Structural Regulations of the

MRDPW.

In developing the Operational Programme, the drafting team uses the experience which the Directorate has gained in programming, management and implementation of OP “Regional Development” 2007–2013, in its capacity as a Managing Authority.

OPRG 2014–2020 is developed in cooperation and consultations with the administrative, social and economic partners.

The inclusion of stakeholders as well as the preparation of OPRG 2014-2020 is based upon Council of Ministers’ Decree No. 5 of 18/01/2012 on the development of the strategic and programming documents of the Republic of Bulgaria related to the management of the funds within the Common Strategic Framework of the European Union for the 2014–2020 programming period. In this context, with Order № RD-02-14-1884 dated 25/07/2012 a thematic working group (TWG) for elaboration of OPRG 2014–2020 was established.

The TWG for the development of OPRG 2014-2020 was set up in compliance with the principle of partnership as stated in the national documents. The partnership process in the programming of OPRG 2014-2020 has been held in close cooperation with the public authorities at national and regional level, as well as with the private and non-governmental sectors. Part of the TWG were representatives of public bodies at national level that are mandated in Council of Ministers’ Decree No. 5 of 18/01/2012 and would make a substantial contribution both for ensuring a proper distinction between the OP in question and other operational programmes and in terms of their expertise on individual parts of the Operational Programme.

Representatives of the National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regional Development Councils were also invited, thus ensuring broad representation and practical expertise. The social partners are likewise represented to the TWG by labour unions such as Confederation of Labour “Podkrepa” and the Confederation of Independent Trades Unions in Bulgaria, as well as the Confederation of Employers and Industrialists in Bulgaria. The economic partners, which are the key factor for stimulating the development, innovation and competitiveness, are represented to the TWG by organisations such as the Bulgarian Industrial Association and the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The religious organizations have also been included in the TWG. To ensure equal treatment of all religions and denominations, a representative of the Directorate of Religious Affairs of the Council of Ministers has been included in order to present the interests of other religious communities in Bulgaria.

Pursuant to the Mechanism of Selection of Non-governmental Organisations whose representatives would participate in the working groups drafting the Partnership Agreement and the programmes of the Republic of Bulgaria for the 2014–2020 programming period, a selection of NGOs has been conducted. On the basis of this mechanism, the TWG for OPRG 2014–2020 comprises representatives of the non-governmental sector from the following groups of NGOs: social, environmental, involved in education, science and culture, involved in the field of development policy. The total number of NGOs represented in the TWG is 23.

Last but not least in importance, a selection of representatives of the academic community was conducted in accordance with the methodology and with the assistance of the Ministry of Education and Science.

The partners participate equally in the preparation of the operational programme. Within the programming process opinions and comments of their competencies were presented and the partners participated with voting rights in meetings of the TWG. In order to correctly reflect all received opinions and comments, a table was prepared, which registers all received opinions and the position of the MA.

11 meetings and one absentia meeting were held in accordance with a clear procedure as provided under the internal rules of conduct, at suitable locations in buildings fitted with disabled access amenities.

All the most important decisions regarding the program are taken as a result of serious discussion or because of the proposal of the TWG. This has been supported by prior acquaintance with all documents and materials for the meetings, which were sent at least 5 working days prior to the date for the meeting, through official channels of communication and/or by electronic mail.

To keep the partners and stakeholders outside the TWG informed, the presentations made and all decisions adopted during a meeting are posted on the website of the Managing Authority www.bgregio.eu, as well as on the Single information web portal for the management for Structural and Cohesion Funds of the EU – www.eufunds.bg.

The partnership principle will also be applied as regards to the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the OPRG 2014-2020. The involvement of the administrative, social and economic partners, identified in the course of the development of the programme, will be ensured through the Monitoring Committee of OPRG 2014–2020. The latter will monitor the progress in the achievement of the objectives and strategy of the OP, thus ensuring its effective and high-quality implementation.

7.2.2 Global grants (for the ESF, where appropriate)

(Reference: Article 6(1) Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013)

<7.2.2 type="S" maxlength="5000" input="M" Decisions=N>

N/A

7.2.3 Allocation of an amount for capacity building (for the ESF, where appropriate)

(Reference: Article 6(2) and (3) of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013)

<7.2.3 type="S" maxlength="14000" input="M" Decisions=N>

N/A

SECTION 8 COORDINATION BETWEEN THE FUNDS, THE EAFRD, THE EMFF AND OTHER UNION AND NATIONAL FUNDING INSTRUMENTS, AND WITH THE EIB

(Reference: point (a) of Article 96(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

The mechanisms to ensure coordination between the Funds, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and other Union and national funding instruments, and with the European Investment Bank (EIB), taking into account the relevant provisions laid down in the Common Strategic Framework.

<8.1 type="S" maxlength="14000" input="M" Decisions=N PA=Y>

OPRG 2014-2020 provides a coordinated and complementary implementation with other operational programmes, incl. co-financed by the ESIF, to achieve an integrated approach and added value of the Fund's investment in the target areas.

Coordination with other programmes under CSF:

Operational Programme “Environment” (OPE):

The activities related to the rehabilitation of the urban environment, including streets, other public open spaces and infrastructure facilities supported under OPRG 2014-2020, are complemented by and will be coordinated with the activities related to the construction / rehabilitation / reconstruction of water supply and sewage infrastructure (network), supported under OPE, within the intervention zones in the large and medium sized cities as well as in the entire urban territory of large and medium cities, where the coordination is with regard to activities related to integrated urban transport;

Investments under OPRG 2014–2020 in water supply and sewage installations in buildings, parallel to the energy efficiency measures, will support interventions for encouraging the reduced consumption of water in public and private residential buildings and enterprises, as well as introducing other water-saving methods: developing and introducing technologies for recycling and reuse of water (in applicable activities).

OPRG 2014-2020 supports the conservation, promotion and development of cultural heritage of national and world importance in the entire territory of Bulgaria. Whenever possible measures under Priority Axis “Regional tourism” will promote the surrounding natural heritage to the developed cultural sites, thus complying OPE support to natural heritage sites.

OPE supports measures for prevention of the risk of landslides and floods.

The coordination regarding measures for public urban transport under OPRG and measures for improvement of the air quality under OPE will be ensured.

Operational Programme “Transport and Transport Infrastructure” (OPTTI):

OPRG 2014-2020 is orientated at improving the connectivity to the TEN-T network. It finances 1st, 2nd and 3rd class roads outside the TEN-T network, defined in advance based on a methodology for their prioritising, developed by the Road Infrastructure Agency. OPTTI finances projects on the development of road infrastructure along the

TEN-T network.

OPRG 2014–2020 investments in sustainable urban mobility under PA 1 will be coordinated with the Sofia Metro project supported by OP “Transport and Transport Infrastructure”.

Operational Programme “Innovations and competitiveness” (OPIC):

OPRG 2014-2020 supports the development of zones with a potential for economic development within IPURDs.

Coordination between the two programmes will be sought within the zones with potential for economic development, identified in the IPURDs as OPRG 2014-2020 will support improvement /upgrading and reconstruction of existing, or construction/development of new technical infrastructure related to promotion of business and entrepreneurship. Additional priority for OPIC can be given to the eligible enterprises that develop economic activity or intend to invest in the identified areas with potential for economic development within the IPURDs.

Complementarity between the programmes will be achieved also in the field of energy efficiency as OPRG 2014-2020 supports energy efficiency measures in residential buildings, students dormitories, administrative buildings of the state and municipal administrations as well as municipal objects of social, cultural and educational infrastructure in support centers in peripheral areas while OPIC supports energy efficiency measures in SMEs.

Operational Programme “Human Resources Development” (OPHRD):

Investments in social and healthcare infrastructure under OPRG 2014–2020 will be complemented by the implementation of the activities related to the provision of social and healthcare services, envisaged in OPHRD.

In the 2007-2013 programming period a pilot model for integrated interventions to support marginalized groups of society, including investments for social housing under OP "Regional Development" and under OPHRD (procedure "Integra") has been applied. This model has been reported as a good example of coordination and complementarity between the two programmes which is to be upgraded during the period 2014-2020 and the experience shows that it is more appropriate "soft" measures under OP HRD to start at an earlier stage - before interventions in infrastructure under OPRD are performed.

A similar model will be addressed for the measures for deinstitutionalization, as in 2007-2013 when under OPRD and OPHRD were supported common target groups and beneficiaries in order to achieve the complementarity of investments and to ensure quality community-based social services. Complementarity between programmes can be provided and guaranteed by an interdepartmental working group that oversees the overall policy on deinstitutionalization, including the coordinated announcement and implementation of the schemes under both programmes.

OPHRD will provide financial resources to support sustainable urban development through additional funding of social projects within the IPURDs. These resources will be used to finance projects through "soft" measures, upgrading investments in social infrastructure included in the IPURD and implemented under the OPRG.

Complementarity between OPHRD and OPRG in the healthcare sector will be achieved,

as the main demarcation line between the two programmes is the types of activities that will be supported, namely: under OPHRD - soft measures for human resources development and the improvement of institutional capacity in the health sector.

The OP HRD investments in human resources development in industrial zones and high-tech enterprises may complement the business and industrial infrastructure investments under OPRG.

Operational Programme “Science and Education for Smart Growth” (OPSESG):

OPRG 2014-2020 finances state educational and municipal educational infrastructure from national and regional significance and university infrastructure in the entire territory of Bulgaria, and municipal educational infrastructure of local importance within the IPURDs of the large and medium cities and energy efficiency measures in municipal educational infrastructure in small cities support centers in peripheral areas.

OPSESG provides funding through the European Social Fund of „soft measures“ for institutions in the system of education, supported under OPRG 2014-2020 sites of educational infrastructure.

OPRG will finance educational infrastructure within the state universities except for buildings and premises, which are renovated under projects for the creation and the development of excellence and competence centers under OPSESG. The support under OPRG will focus on energy efficiency measures and improvement of facilities at the universities associated with the organization and conduct of the learning process, rather than scientific research. In this respect, equipment related to the educational environment in universities under OPRG will be financed and not specific scientific equipment.

Within Priority Axis 1 of OPSESG funding for the science and research infrastructure is ensured through ERDF. OPRG will not fund science and research infrastructure.

The equipment for projects beneficiaries financed under OPSESG, will be linked to the logic of the implementation of soft measures within the scope of individual projects, namely tools for training, such as sports equipment and will not have the major focus of the financial interventions.

OPSESG can upgrade projects from IPURDs with activities to improve the quality and access to education.

Within Priority 3 of OPSESG will be funded projects for municipalities, schools and non-governmental organizations for educational integration and reintegration. The municipalities will be encouraged through OPRG to invest in facilities included in OPSESG schools and kindergartens.

Operational Programme “Good Governance” (OPGG):

OPRG 2014-2020 will support interventions in the infrastructure of the emergency medical care system.

OPGG will support the development of systems and registers of e-health.

OPGG will finance the elaboration of municipal development plans.

Rural Development Programme (RDP):

Both programmes will be coordinated both territorially and sectorially.

PA 1 of OPRG 2014-2020 finances infrastructure of local importance (municipal educational, social, sports and cultural) and energy efficiency measures in residential and administrative buildings of the state and municipal administration and urban environment within the urban territories of the cities from the 1st to the 3rd level of the national polycentric system. Financing of the functional links of the cities with their periphery is admissible for the cities of levels 1, 2 and 3 for municipal educational, social, sports and cultural infrastructure and zones with potential of economic development.

RDP funds are a mirror to the measures in urban areas under PA 1 of OPRG 2014-2020 - aimed at municipal educational, cultural, social and sports infrastructure, urban environment and energy efficiency measures in rural areas outside the planned investments under OPRG 2014-2020.

OPRG 2014-2020 will support energy efficiency measures in residential and administrative buildings of the state and municipal administration and municipal public buildings of the educational, cultural and social infrastructure in support centres in peripheral areas. Sectoral priorities which are not territorially restricted under OPRG 2014-2020 support infrastructure of higher (regional or national importance) which does not fall within the scope of the Rural Development Programme.

OPRG 2014-2020 supports 1st, 2nd and 3rd class roads outside the TEN-T network and the RDP supports municipal roads.

OPRG 2014-2020 supports infrastructural measures for the conservation, promotion and development of cultural heritage of national and world significance and the RDP will support small-scale tourism infrastructure in relation to local natural and cultural heritage.

OPRG 2014-2020 finances infrastructural measures for deinstitutionalisation of children and elderly people, healthcare infrastructure and educational infrastructure of regional and national importance in the entire territory of Bulgaria. RDP will not finance similar measures.

Programme for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries 2014-2020 (PMAF)

OPRG 2014-2020 supports activities for regeneration of urban environment in the large and medium sized cities as well as investments in improving the zones with potential for economic development.

PMAF 2014-2020 focuses on the support for rehabilitation of ports, wharves, building and renovation of shelters and development of terrain.

Energy efficiency measures under OPRG 2014-2020 concerning residential and public administrative buildings and student dormitories and those under PMAF 2014-2020, will be implemented within the fishing ports, industry aquaculture and fish processing factories.

If the Fisheries Local Action Groups cover municipalities whose territories are affected by the implementation of Integrated plans for urban regeneration and development, when implementing the strategies of the fishery groups have to comply with the above

mentioned demarcation.

Territorial cooperation programmes (TCP):

The interventions under the Territorial Cooperation Programmes complement the envisaged under OPRG 2014-2020 investments through the support of soft measures and activities of small scale. The main demarcation line is the strong cross border character of their projects, implemented in partnerships between the two neighbouring countries, and which have clear cross border impact. OPRG 2014-2020 finances infrastructure measures and performs long term investments on the basis of lists with predefined projects under the sectorial priority axes. All officially adopted and approved projects lists under the priority axes will be submitted to Directorate General „Management of territorial cooperation“ as a Managing Authority, and will be used during the preparation of the documents and the launching of the relevant schemes under the territorial cooperation programmes.

During the programming stage, the coordination, demarcation and the complementarity between OPRG 2014-2020 and TCP is ensured through the participation of representatives of DG „Management of Territorial Cooperation“ within the Thematic working group for the elaboration of OPRG 2014-2020 and participation of representatives of Directorate General „Programming of regional Development“ in the Joint working groups for the elaboration of the territorial cooperation programmes.

Coordination during the phase of implementation will be ensured through the participation of representatives of the managing authorities in the respective Monitoring Committees.

LIFE: Environment and Climate Action 2014-2020

When implementing actions related to preservation, popularisation and development of the cultural heritage of world and national importance, a synergy with programme „LIFE“ will be looked for. This will be achieved through information and promotional materials supporting tourist sites which will contain information on the natural area which is close to the cultural site, included in the financed tourist product under OPRG. In the context of the implementation of integrated projects to achieve added value and effective regional tourism product, promotion of cultural heritage, if necessary, the support will be complemented with measures to create ecopaths and recreation areas to the nearest natural object.

Coordination and demarcation with the National Programme for Energy Efficiency

The National Programme for Energy Efficiency of Multi-Family Residential Buildings was adopted with Council of Ministers Ordinance № 18 from 2 February 2015. It has the following key characteristics:

- The Programme will be implemented in 265 municipalities in the country
- Each municipality is responsible for the implementation of entire process of residential buildings renovation in its territory;
- The Programme will be implemented with financial resources of BGN 1 billion;
- Applications under the program will be received permanently within years 2015

and 2016.

- Eligible for support under the Programme are all multi-family residential buildings industrially built: large-panel housing construction; batch raised panels; large-area shuttering; sliding shuttering, with minimum 36 separate sites with residential use.
- Buildings for whose renovation applications for assistance are approved will receive up to 100% grant funding.

Key principles for ensuring complementarity with the National Programme for Energy Efficiency of Multi-Family Residential Buildings shall include among other the following criteria:

- OPRG support could be provided to multifamily buildings (massive buildings), designed before April 26, 1999, which are outside the scope of the National Programme for Energy Efficiency of Multi-Family Residential Buildings;
- Industrially built residential buildings with up to 36 separate sites with residential use;

SECTION 9 EX-ANTE CONDITIONALITIES

(Reference: point (b) of Article 96(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

9.1 Ex-ante conditionalities

Information on the assessment of the applicability and the fulfilment of ex-ante conditionalities (optional)

<9.0 type="S" maxlength="14000" input="M" PA=Y>

A list with actions, dead-lines and responsible institutions for the fulfilment of the conditionalities is adopted by the Council of Ministers. The process of assessment of the ex-ante conditionalities is coordinated by the Deputy Prime Minister for EU Funds and Economic Policies, who presents regular reports on the progress to the Council of Ministers. With an order of responsible Deputy Prime Minister is established an interdepartmental working group to ensure the monitoring and reporting the process of the fulfilment of the ex-ante conditionalities for European structural and investment funds for the 2014-2020 programming period, including ensuring the implementation of Action plan for the performance of unfulfilled applicable ex-ante conditionalities part of the Partnership Agreement, including those concerning the OPRG 2014-2020. The responsible institutions for each ex-ante conditionality are represented in a sub-group on the ex-ante conditionalities in the framework of the working group for the elaboration of the Partnership Agreement. The tasks of the sub-group include monitoring of the ex-ante conditionalities' status and the implementation of the tasks for their fulfilment, as well as preparation of information for the assessment and an Action plan until 2016 for the fulfilment of the unfulfilled applicable ex-ante conditionalities. Most of the ex-ante conditionalities applicable to OPRG 2014-2020 are already fulfilled.

Table 24: Applicable ex-ante conditionalities and assessment of their fulfilment

Ex-ante conditionality	Priority axes to which conditionality applies	Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (yes/no/partially)	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (yes/no)	Reference (reference to strategies, legal act or other relevant documents, incl. relevant sections, articles or paragraphs, accompanied by web-links or access to full text)	Explanations
4.1. Actions have been carried out to promote cost-effective improvements of energy end use efficiency and cost-effective investment in Energy efficiency when constructing or renovating buildings.	Priority Axis 1 Priority Axis 2	Yes	These actions include: Measures to ensure minimum requirements are in place related to the energy performance of buildings consistent with Article 3, Article 4 and Article 5 of Directive 2010/31/EU.	Yes	Bulgaria has adopted a methodology for calculating the energy performance of buildings, which is regulated in Article 15 of the Energy Efficiency Act (EEA), promulgated in SG 24, dt 12.03.2013, and in the provisions of Ordinance No ПД-16-1058 on indicators for energy consumption and energy performance of buildings of MEE and MRD and in the provisions of Ordinance No. 7 on energy efficiency, heat and energy savings in buildings of MIP and Appendix No 3 of Ordinance No 7. http://www.seea.government.bg/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9250&Itemid=227&lang=bg http://www.seea.government.bg/documents/Naredba%207.pdf	According to the methodology for calculating the energy performance of buildings, the latter is determined on the basis of the calculated or measured amount of energy needed to meet the energy needs associated with typical consumption for the building which includes heating, cooling, ventilation, hot water and lighting. The needs of heating, cooling, ventilation and hot water for domestic use and for non-residential lighting are reflected. The energy performance of a building is expressed in a transparent manner and includes an indicator of energy use and digital indicator for primary energy use. The methodology takes into account the aspects affecting energy performance as follows: Features of the building and energy plants: heating, hot water supply, air conditioning, ventilation, lighting, solar systems and protection, indoor climatic conditions, etc.; aspects that positively influence the energy performance: local solar exposure, active solar systems, other heating and electricity systems based on renewable

					energy sources, electricity produced from co-generation, systems for heating / cooling of the district or block of flats, natural lighting and more.
		Measures necessary to establish a system of certification of the energy performance of buildings consistent with Article 11 of Directive 2010/31/EU	YES	<p>Section II of the Energy Efficiency Act, promulgated, SG No. 24 of 12/03/2013 regulates the system of certification of the energy performance of buildings</p> <p>as well as</p> <p>Ordinance No. №16-1594 of 13.11.2013 on energy efficiency surveys, certification and evaluation of energy savings of the buildings and the Appendixes to the ordinance.</p> <p>http://www.seea.government.bg/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9250&Itemid=227&lang=bg</p>	Pursuant to the mentioned regulations governing the certification system of buildings, there are in place energy performance certificates to allow the owners or tenants of the building or building part to compare and assess its energy performance;
		Measures to ensure strategic planning on energy efficiency, consistent with Art. 3 of Directive 2012/27/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council (2);	YES	<p>Strategic planning of energy efficiency is accomplished with the Energy Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria.</p> <p>http://www.mi.government.bg/bg/themes/energiina-strategiya-na-republika-balgariya-do-2020-g-147-295.html</p> <p>http://www.minfin.bg/bg/page/573 - p.36</p> <p>In terms of residential buildings a National Housing Strategy and National Program for Renovation of Residential Buildings in the Republic of Bulgaria are in effect.</p>	Bulgaria has defined a national target for 25% increase of the energy efficiency until 2020 according to the requirements of Art. 3 of Directive 2012/27/EU
		Measures consistent with Article 13 of Directive 2006/32/EC on energy end-use efficiency and energy services to	YES	<p>Regulations related to measures under Article 13 of Directive 2006/32/EC are: The Energy Act (EA) and Ordinance No 16-334 for heat supply</p> <p>For electricity - Art. 120 of EA;</p> <p>For newly constructed multifamily buildings -</p>	Heating systems in multifamily buildings with central heating in Bulgaria until 1995. are performed exclusively as two pipe, vertical systems. In these installations, radiators of various properties located

			ensure the provision to final customers of individual meters in so far as it is technically possible, financially reasonable and proportionate in relation to the potential energy savings		<p>Ordinance № 15 of 28.07.2005</p> <p>For district heating - Art. 139, para. 1; Art. 140, para. 1; Art. 140a to Art. 145 and Art. 156 of EA; Art. 43; Art. 52, Art. 1 to 5; Art. 62 and Methodology for distribution of heat for buildings - condominium, Appendix to Art. 61 of Ordinance No 16-334.</p> <p>Regulatory framework for billing by energy distributors is in Art. 38 of the Energy Efficiency Act (EEA).</p> <p>Provisions relating to the general conditions of the contracts approved by the State Energy and Water Regulatory Commission are spelled in Art. 150, para. 1 and Art. 149b of the EA</p>	<p>vertically above each other, join the vertical part of the building installation. For this type of prevailing buildings, the only technical possibility of measuring the consumed thermal energy in housing and its distribution is by the installation of individual valves on each radiator in the multifamily buildings.</p> <p>For newly build buildings, well before the introduction of the requirements of the Directive, the national legislation has introduced the requirement for the design and construction of horizontal heating systems (Ordinance No 15 of 28.07.2005). For this type of heating systems, the radiators for each plot are with horizontal pipes for each property and a technical possibility is available for individual measuring of the heating energy consumed by each separate property.</p> <p>Bulgaria has introduced in its legislation the requirements of Directive 2012/27/EC.</p>
7.1. Transport: The existence of a comprehensive plan or plans or framework or frameworks for transport investment in	Priority Axis 7 “Regional Road Infrastructure”	Partially	<p>The existence of a comprehensive transport plan or plans or framework or frameworks for transport investment which complies with legal requirements for strategic environmental assessment and sets out:</p> <p>— the contribution to the single European Transport Area consistent with Article</p>	NO	<p>Strategy for the development of the transport system of the Republic of Bulgaria until 2020.</p> <p>On 07.04.2010, with Protocol No 13, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria approved the Strategy for Development of the Transport System of the Republic of Bulgaria 2020.</p> <p>General Transport Master Plan</p>	<p>For OPRG are prepared Methodology and criteria for prioritization of roads sections, in accordance with draft Strategy for the development of Road Infrastructure 2014-2020 and a list of priority road sections, that will be supported by OPRG 2014-2020, prioritized under methodology.</p>

accordance with the Member States' institutional set-up (including public transport at regional and local level) which supports infrastructure development and improves connectivity to the TEN-T comprehensive and core networks.7.1.			10 of Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council (5), including priorities for investments in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — the core TEN-T network and the comprehensive network where investment from the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund is envisaged; and — secondary connectivity; — a realistic and mature pipeline for projects for which support from the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund is envisaged; 		Strategic assessment of the environmental impact (of the General Transport Master Plan). Master Plan for Environmental Monitoring.	
			– Measures to ensure the capacity of intermediary bodies and beneficiaries to deliver the project pipeline.	YES	Projects under the OPRD 2007-2013 are performed for project preparation for the programming period 2014-2020 and for improving the administrative capacity of the beneficiaries under the program.	Project BG161PO001/5-01/2008/059 supports the strengthening the capacity of the Road Infrastructure Agency to manage and implement projects under OPRD 2007–2013 and OPRG 2014–2020 and for preparation of mature projects to be financed in the next programming period Under the Project BG161PO001/5-01/2008/052 a detailed analyses of the RIA as specific beneficiary of OPRD 2007-2013 was prepared as well as an Action plan for improving the capacity of RIA for preparation and implementation of projects

						under OPRD/OPRG Additional measures will be scheduled for implementation in the future OPRG 2014-2020.
9.1 The existence and the implementation of a national strategic policy framework for poverty reduction aiming at the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market in the light of the Employment guidelines	Priority Axis 1 Priority Axis 5	YES	A national strategic policy framework for poverty reduction, aiming at active inclusion, is in place that: — provides a sufficient evidence base to develop policies for poverty reduction and monitor developments; — contains measures supporting the achievement of the national poverty and social exclusion target (as defined in the National Reform Programme), which includes the promotion of sustainable and quality employment opportunities for people at the highest risk of social exclusion, including people from marginalized communities; — involves relevant stakeholders in combating poverty; — depending on the identified needs, includes measures for the shift from institutional to community based care;	YES	National Strategy for Reducing Poverty and Promoting Social Inclusion 2020 (NSRPPSI) National Strategy for Long-Term Care Updated Employment Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria 2013-2020. National Action Employment Plan 2014	These strategic documents contain relevant measures supporting the achievement of the national target in relation to poverty and social exclusion (as defined in the National Reform Program), which includes sustainable and quality supply of employment opportunities for people at high risk of social exclusion, including people of marginalized communities.

			Upon request and where justified, relevant stakeholders will be provided with support for submitting project applications and for implementing and managing the selected projects.	YES	Such measures are included in the guidance describing the internal rules and procedures of the Operational Program "Human Resources Development", to be implemented by the MA and IBs in the current programming period. Measures related to information for potential beneficiaries and publicity are included in the communication plan of the OPHRD 2007-2013 (http://ophrd.government.bg/view_file.php/14408) It is envisaged tis practice to continue in the next period 2014-2020	
9.2. A national Roma inclusion strategic policy framework is in place	Priority Axis 1 Priority Axis 5	Partially	A national Roma inclusion strategy is in place that: - sets achievable national goals for Roma integration to bridge the gap with the general population. These targets should address the four EU Roma integration goals relating to access to education, employment, healthcare and housing. - identifies where relevant those disadvantaged micro-regions or segregated neighbourhoods, where communities are most deprived, using already available socio-economic and territorial indicators	NO	A National Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria for Roma Integration (NSRBRI) 2012 – 2020, adopted by the CoM • Two working groups operate within the Commission: Interagency Working Group for resource support Roma integration with funds of the European Union and the Interagency Working Group for monitoring the implementation of the National Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria for Roma Integration (2012 - 2020) and legal amendments. On September 23, 2014 a meeting of the NCCEII was conducted in which a review of progress in implementing the Action Plan for the National Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria for Roma Integration 2012-2020 priorities in education and employment; responsible ministries reported to the process of preparing the second period of the Action Plan – for the 2014-2020 period, - on the	OPRG 2014-2020: It is foreseen specific concentration of resources in social services and social inclusion. Currently pilot integrated measures for social housing (ERDF) are implemented for representatives of disadvantaged groups and integrated services are provided. After performance analysis and results of this pilot model, it will be multiplied in the programming period 2014-2020

			<p>(i.e. very low educational level, long-term unemployment, etc.);</p> <p>- includes strong monitoring methods to evaluate the impact of Roma integration actions and a review mechanism for the adaptation of the strategy;</p> <p>- is designed, implemented and monitored in close cooperation and continuous dialogue with Roma civil society, regional and local authorities.</p>		<p>respective priorities.</p>	
			<p>Upon request and where justified relevant stakeholders will be provided with support for submitting project applications and for implementing and managing the selected projects.</p>	YES	<p>A National Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria for Roma Integration (NSRBRI) 2012-2020</p> <p>The employees from the NCCEII Secretariat assist and support the regional and municipal experts on ethnic and integration issues - both by preparing methodological guidelines and through on-site visits - for example during the development of local action plans. This practice will continue in the development of municipal action plans until 2020.</p>	<p>The relevant stakeholders for the measures under OPRG 2014-2020 are the municipalities. Measures for support of the beneficiaries for project preparation and implementation are foreseen in the operational programme.</p>
9.3. Health: The existence of a national or regional	Priority Axis 4	Partially	A national and/or regional strategic policy framework for health is in place that:	YES	<p>National Health Strategy 2014-2020, adopted by the CoM with Protocol №52/21.12.2013</p> <p>In the Action Plan of the National Health Strategy</p>	<p>The draft law on Health provides:</p> <p>- Creating the legal basis for the establishment and maintenance by the Minister of Health of the National Health Information System and the</p>

strategic policy framework for health within the limits of Article 168 TFEU ensuring economic sustainability			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contains coordinated measures to improve access to health services; - contains measures to stimulate efficiency in the health sector through deployment of service delivery models and infrastructure; - contains a monitoring and review system. 		<p>2014-2020 there are specific deadlines for the implementation of the measures envisaged, the sources of funding and the responsible institutions.</p> <p>More specifically in Politics № 4 “Ensuring equal access to quality health services adequate to their health needs”, it is clearly stated prioritization and time framework for implementation of specific measures.</p> <p>One of the sections of the National Health Strategy 2014-2020 is "Implementation and Monitoring" (page 76-79).</p>	<p>introduction of electronic health card for the patient. - Changes in the regulatory mechanism for the creation and updating of the National Health Map through which to identify and to plan based on territorial principle the public demand for affordable outpatient and hospital care. - Introduction of rules for the establishment and operation of structures providing integrated health and social care services in the home environment;</p> <p>-Creation of the necessary legal framework for the implementation of National Strategy for Long-term Care.</p>
			<p>A Member State or region has adopted a framework outlining available budgetary resources on an indicative basis and a cost-effective concentration of resources on prioritised needs for health care.</p>		NO	<p>The approved Strategy presents coordinated measures for improvement of the access to healthcare services, includes measures on stimulating of effectiveness in the health sector through establishment of models for delivering of services and infrastructure, has a system for monitoring and review and framework, defining the available budget and cost-effective concentration of resources in prior needs of the healthcare service.</p>
10.1. The existence of a strategic policy framework to reduce early school leaving	Priority Axis 1, Priority Axis 3	YES	<p>A system for collecting and analysing data and information on early school leaving (ESL) at relevant levels is in place that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provides a sufficient evidence-base to develop 	YES	Register of the movement of children and pupils	<p>Since the academic year 2012/2013 a web-based register of movement of children and pupils has been introduced, which tracks the number of pupils in kindergartens, general and vocational high schools, culture schools and special schools.</p>

(ESL) within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.			targeted policies and monitors developments;			
			<p>A strategic policy framework on ESL is in place that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is based on evidence; - covers relevant educational sectors, including early childhood development and addresses prevention, intervention and compensation measures ; - involves all policy sectors and stakeholders that are relevant to address ESL. 			
10.2. Higher education: The existence of a national or regional strategic policy framework for increasing tertiary education	Priority Axis 3	YES	<p>- A national or regional strategic policy framework for tertiary education is in place with the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - where necessary, measures to increase participation and attainment that: <p>increase higher education participation among low</p>	YES	<p>National Youth Strategy (2010-2020) is in place.</p> <p>Adopted by Decision of CoM on 06.10.2010, excerpt of Protocol No. 35.</p> <p>The Strategy for the development of higher education in the Republic of Bulgaria for the period 2014-2020.</p>	<p>Draft Updated Youth Strategy 2014-2020 is currently being prepared. By Decision of 18.12.2013, the Council of Ministers adopted the proposal to the National Assembly for approval of the document. The Updated Youth Strategy was supported by the Committee on Education and Science with the National Assembly.</p> <p>The Strategy for the development of higher education in the Republic of Bulgaria for the period 2014-2020 was adopted by the National Assembly in</p>

attainment, quality and efficiency within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.			<p>income groups and other underrepresented groups with special regard to disadvantaged people, including people from marginalised communities ;</p> <p>reduce drop-out rates/improve completion rates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - measures to increase employability and entrepreneurship, which: - encourage the development of "transversal skills", including entrepreneurship in relevant higher education programmes; - reduce gender differences in terms of academic and vocational choice. 			February 2015. The Strategy was published in the State Gazette in March 2015 (SG 18/10.03.2015).
1. The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union anti-	Priority Axis 1 Priority Axis 2 Priority Axis 3 Priority Axis 4	YES	- Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the involvement of bodies responsible for the promotion of equal treatment of all persons throughout the	YES		

discrimination on law and policy in the field of ESI Funds	Priority Axis 5 Priority Axis 6 Priority Axis 7 Priority Axis 8		preparation and implementation of programmes, including the provision of advice on equality in ESI fund-related activities;			
			- Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of Union anti-discrimination law and policy	YES		
2. The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and	Priority Axis 1 Priority Axis 2 Priority Axis	YES	- Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the involvement of bodies responsible for gender	YES		

application of Union gender equality law and policy in the field of ESI Funds	3 Priority Axis 4 Priority Axis 5 Priority Axis 6 Priority Axis 7 Priority Axis 8		equality throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes, including the provision of advice on gender equality in ESI Fund-related activities;			
			- Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of Union gender equality law and policy as well as on gender mainstreaming.	YES		
3. The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of the United Nations	Priority Axis 1 Priority Axis 2 Priority Axis 3 Priority Axis 4 Priority Axis	YES	- Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the consultation and involvement of bodies in charge of protection of rights of persons with disabilities or representative organisations of persons	YES		

<p>Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) in the field of ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC (1)</p>	<p>5 Priority Axis 6 Priority Axis 7 Priority Axis 8</p>		<p>with disabilities and other relevant stakeholders throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes;</p>			
			<p>- Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of applicable Union and national disability law and policy, including accessibility and the practical application of the UNCRPD as reflected in Union and national legislation, as appropriate;</p>	<p>YES</p>		
			<p>- Arrangements to ensure monitoring of the implementation of Article 9 of the UNCRPD in relation to the ESI Funds</p>	<p>YES</p>		

			throughout the preparation and the implementation of the programmes.			
4. The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	Priority Axis 1 Priority Axis 2 Priority Axis 3 Priority Axis 4 Priority Axis 5 Priority Axis 6 Priority Axis 7 Priority Axis 8	Partially	- Arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement rules through appropriate mechanisms;	NO		
			- Arrangements which ensure transparent contract award procedures;	YES		
			- Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the	NO		

			implementation of the ESI funds;			
			- Arrangements to ensure administrative capacity for implementation and application of Union public procurement rules.	NO		
5. The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds..	Priority Axis 1 Priority Axis 2 Priority Axis 3 Priority Axis 4 Priority Axis 5 Priority Axis 6 Priority Axis 7 Priority Axis 8	YES	- Arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules;	YES		
			- Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff	YES		

			involved in the implementation of the ESI funds;			
			- Arrangements to ensure administrative capacity for implementation and application of Union State aid rules.	YES		
6. The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union environmental legislation related to EIA and SEA.6.	Priority Axis 1 Priority Axis 2 Priority Axis 3 Priority Axis 4 Priority Axis 5 Priority Axis 6 Priority Axis 7 Priority Axis 8	YES	- Arrangements for the effective application of Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council (2) (EIA) and of Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (3) (SEA);	YES		
			- Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the	YES		

			EIA and SEA Directives;			
			- Arrangements to ensure sufficient administrative capacity.	YES		
7. The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes . The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and	Priority Axis 1 Priority Axis 2 Priority Axis 3 Priority Axis 4 Priority Axis 5 Priority Axis 6 Priority Axis 7 Priority Axis 8	Partially	Arrangements for timely collection and aggregation of statistical data with the following elements are in place: - the identification of sources and mechanisms to ensure statistical validation; - arrangements for publication and public availability of aggregated data;	YES		

to undertake impact evaluation.						
			<p>An effective system of result indicators including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the selection of result indicators for each programme providing information on what motivates the selection of policy actions financed by the programme; - the establishment of targets for these indicators; - the consistency of each indicator with the following requisites: robustness and statistical validation, clarity of normative interpretation, responsiveness to policy, timely collection of data; 	NO		
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Procedures to ensure that all operations financed by the program adopt an effective system of indicators. 	NO		

9.2 Description of actions to fulfil ex-ante conditionalities, responsible bodies and timetable ¹⁰⁴

Table 25: Actions to fulfil applicable general ex-ante conditionalities

General ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible
4. The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	1-Arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement rules through appropriate mechanisms; Existence of a framework for the effective implementation of EU legislation on public procurement in the EU structural and investment funds.	Action 1. Establishing codified, sustainable and simple legislation on public procurement by adopting a new law on public procurement and regulations for its implementation.	2016-01-31	MEE PPA
		Action 2 Introduction of measures to strengthen the systems for management and control of EU funds, incl. effective cooperation in order to ensure consistency between the actions in the preliminary and follow-up control	2016-01-31	OP MAs CCU AEUFEA PPA SE ASFI
		Action 3. Review of the appeal system and proposals for its optimization (ie safeguards against abuse of the	2016-01-31	CPC SAC

¹⁰⁴ Tables 25 and 26 cover only applicable general and thematic ex-ante conditionalities which are completely unfulfilled or partially fulfilled (see Table 24) at the time of submission of the programme.

		right to appeal, etc.)		PPP
	2- Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the ESI funds.	Action 1. Design and implementation of a program of training and development of staff involved in the management of EU funds (including training on public procurement within the Training Academy for ESIF); In the Catalogue of IPA for 2015 two new courses at PPL are included - basic and upgrade which will be held in cooperation with PPA.	2016-12-31	IPA OP MAs PPA
		Action 2 Reviewing and updating the existing systems for dissemination and exchange of information between the staff from the managing authorities and beneficiaries and the other stakeholders in relation to public procurement rules in order to establish a uniform practice.	2016-12-31	OP MAs CCU AEUFEA PPA SE ASFI
	3-Arrangements to ensure administrative capacity for implementation and application of Union public procurement rules.	Action 1 Strengthening and stability of the administrative capacity of the PPA by increasing the staff and conducting specialized training.	2015-12-31	MEE PPA
		Action 2 Providing technical assistance to those who apply	2016-12-31	IPA

		the rules of public procurement by organizing and conducting ongoing training and other necessary measures / actions identified after a study and consultation with the relevant target groups.		OP MAs PPA
7. The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation	1-An effective system of result indicators including: — the selection of result indicators for each programme providing information on what motivates the selection of policy actions financed by the programme; — the establishment of targets for these indicators; — the consistency of each indicator with the following requisites: robustness and statistical validation, clarity of normative interpretation, responsiveness to policy, timely collection of data;	Action 1 Selection of result indicators for each operational program. For statistical validation will apply an unified system for requirements of collection of microdata, for applicable methodologies and definitions of their scope and for the applicable procedure for processing and aggregating data. A target work group is formed at the NSI to work on the preparation and monitoring of operational programmes. In January 2015, the meetings between NSI and the Managing Authority of each operational program were held. The preparation of a Manual handbook for beneficiaries in terms of the indicators of the program was discussed.	Deadline for Action 1: Within two months after the adoption of each OP	NSI together with OP MAs
	2- Procedures in place to ensure that all operations financed by the programme adopt an effective system of indicators	Action 1 Development of procedures to collect and process the microdata necessary to assess the contribution of operations to specific objectives of each OP. A target work group is formed at the NSI to work on the preparation and monitoring of operational programmes.	Deadline for Action 1: Within two months after the adoption of each OP	NSI together with OP MAs

		The specific procedures for processing of microdata and level of aggregation of the result indicators were discussed during the meetings conducted in January 2015.		
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Table 26: Actions to fulfil applicable thematic ex-ante conditionalities

Thematic conditionality	ex-ante	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible
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<p>T.7.1. Transport: The existence of a comprehensive plan or plans or framework or frameworks for transport investment in accordance with the Member States' institutional set-up (including public transport at regional and local level) which supports infrastructure development and improves connectivity to the TEN-T comprehensive and core networks.</p>	<p>The existence of a comprehensive transport plan or plans or framework or frameworks for transport investment which complies with legal requirements for strategic environmental assessment and sets out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the contribution to the single European Transport Area consistent with Article 10 of Regulation (EU) N1315/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, including priorities for investments in: - the core TEN-T network and the comprehensive network where investment from the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund is envisaged; and - secondary connectivity; - a realistic and mature pipeline for projects for which support from the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund is envisaged; 	<p>Action</p> <p>Adoption of Strategy for Development of Road Infrastructure in the Republic of Bulgaria 2014-2020</p> <p>This Strategy will partially update the General Transport Plan, in terms of inventory of the available financial funds, administrative capacity, steps and deadlines for implementation of Bulgarian transport targets. During the preparation of Multimodal transport strategy, this Strategy for Development of Road Infrastructure in the Republic of Bulgaria will be also considered.</p> <p>With the Strategy will be adopted a Midterm operational program for implementation of the Strategy.</p> <p>The drafts of the documents are prepared.</p>	<p>Deadline for Action</p> <p>June 2015</p>	<p>MTITC MRDPW</p>
<p>T. 9.2. A national Roma inclusion strategic policy</p>	<p>A national Roma inclusion strategic policy framework</p>	<p>Action 1.</p>	<p>Deadline for Action 1:</p>	<p>NCCEII</p>

<p>framework is in place</p>	<p>is in place that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sets achievable national goals for Roma integration to bridge the gap with the general population. These targets should address the four EU Roma integration goals relating to access to education, employment, healthcare and housing; - identifies where relevant those disadvantaged micro-regions or segregated neighborhoods, where communities are most deprived, using already available socio-economic and territorial indicators (i.e. very low educational level, long-term unemployment, etc); - includes strong monitoring methods to evaluate the impact of Roma integration actions and a review mechanism for the adaptation of the strategy; - is designed, implemented and monitored in close cooperation and continuous dialogue with Roma civil society, regional and local 	<p>Development of basic functionalities of the System for monitoring and controlling the implementation of the National Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria for Roma Integration 2012-2020</p> <p>System for monitoring and control will perform accumulation, compilation, data processing, which will improve the process of tracking and analyzing the results and will contribute to more effective evaluation of the implementation of integration policies at national, regional and municipal level. Secretariat will be beneficiary during 2014-2020 programming period under OPHRD and will elaborate a system for monitoring and controlling the implementation of the National Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria for Roma Integration 2012-2020.</p> <p>The criteria for selection of operations "Development and Implementation of a System for monitoring, evaluation and control of the National Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria for Roma Integration 2012-2020" are approved on 12.12.2014 at a meeting of the Monitoring committee of OP HRD 2014-2020.</p> <p>The Guidelines for this procedure are published in January 2015 and at the end of February 2015 the project proposal was submitted in MA of OPHRD..</p>	<p>December 2015</p>	
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	authorities.			
T. 9.3. Health: The existence of a national or regional strategic policy framework for health within the limits of Article 168 TFEU ensuring economic sustainability.	A Member State or region has adopted a framework outlining available budgetary resources on an indicative basis and a cost-effective concentration of resources on prioritised needs for health care.	Action 1. Development of a mechanism for the National Health Strategy's implementation, monitoring and reporting. By Order of the Minister of Health a Standing Committee was established to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the National Health Strategy 2014-2020.	Deadline for Action 1: 2015-12-31	Ministry of Health
		Action 2. Development of a new model for emergency medical care Part of the action is fulfilled.	2015-12-31	Ministry of Health

SECTION 10 REDUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN FOR BENEFICIARIES

(Reference: point (c) of Article 96(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Summary of the assessment of the administrative burden for beneficiaries and, where necessary, the actions planned accompanied by an indicative timeframe to reduce administrative burden

<10.0 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M" decision=N PA=Y>

Reduction of the administrative burden for beneficiaries is a horizontal priority, which will be in the focus of attention of the Managing Authority not only during the stage of the programme preparation and the procedures for its implementation, but throughout the implementation period.

The main factors creating administrative burden were identified during the 2007–2013 programming period and considerable effort for their overcoming has been made. During the 2007–2013 programming period OPRG 2014-2020 beneficiaries implemented for the first time projects, financed from the EU Structural and Cohesion Funds. The administrative burden for beneficiaries was among the main factors for the slower implementation rates of the programme at the beginning of the multiannual period. The assessment of the administrative burden during the 2007–2013 period shows that the following factors, affecting adversely the overall functioning of the system, were allowed:

- The expenditure envisaged for control, such as human resources and time, does not correspond as a whole to the possible financial risk. This conclusion was also confirmed within the mid-term evaluation of OPRD 2007-2013, which stated that the administrative requirements need to be proportional to the potential risk of the interventions.
- During the period 2007–2013 the burden resulting from administrative processes (such as ex-ante control of public procurement carried out by beneficiaries) was a considerable hindrance to payments within the planned deadlines. The burden in this area can be reduced by streamlining of the process of verification of requests for payment and avoiding the overlaps between verifications carried out by the regional departments and the central structures of the MA.
- The unbalanced number of on-the-spot checks in connection with the interim payments is also among the factors leading to high administrative burden for beneficiaries during the period 2007–2013. It is possible to reduce the administrative burden in this area by reducing the number of on-the-spot checks for each project and placing higher reliance on the risk assessments.
- During the period 2007–2013 OP “Regional Development” provided support through schemes for its direct beneficiaries and through schemes based on competitive selection. With a view to the nature of the OPRD measures, beneficiaries under individual schemes were public institutions and mainly municipalities, where the approach of implementing schemes based on competitive selection turned out to be part of the factors for increasing the

administrative burden for beneficiaries due to the bigger requirements in the preparation of the package of application documents. This approach also resulted in a further adverse effect of unbalanced allocation of aid at territorial level, depending on the capacity of the administration of a given municipality and not on the needs of the municipality and its residents from the point of view of achieving sustainable and balanced growth.

Based on the findings described above and resulting in higher administrative burden, measures were undertaken for reducing the burden, which were already introduced and will be applied during the period 2014–2020, as follows:

- Optimization of the processes for the purpose of speeding up verification:
 - use of external experts for carrying out investor control in on-the-spot checks;
 - use of external experts for legal services resulting in speeding up the process of processing irregularity alerts;
 - optimization of the structure of the MA by structuring a Department “Ex-post control” for a more focused and effective control and faster and more effective work;
- Optimization of the processes at the application stage;
 - Joining the stages of administrative assessment and eligibility assessment, increasing the deadline for submission of project proposals for infrastructural projects;
 - Introducing an obligation for preliminary public discussion of the guidelines for applicants.

During the period 2014–2020 further actions will be undertaken to achieve the optimal balance between effective control and limiting the administrative burden. The following specific measures are envisaged:

- Wider use of forms of support, alternative to and/or complementary to grants. A considerable portion of the funds under the programme will be provided through financial instruments, within the management cycle of which the required documents and procedures are significantly alleviated;
- Wider use of opportunities for applying flat rates with regard to indirect costs;
- Within the procedures for awarding and reporting financial assistance no documents will be required, which have already been submitted and are valid;
- It will be provided grants from priority axes for technical assistance through budget lines based on approved by MA financial plan, which will be updated on an annual basis, instead of applying with projects with the corresponding documentation;
- Electronic reporting and submission of projects;
- Preparation of project pipeline list with funds under OPRD 2007-2013.

Further to the measures described above, within OPRG 2014–2020 the approach of determining direct beneficiaries of the programme in advance, as well as financing of

predefined projects will be applied.

Reduction of the administrative burden will also be sought in the direction of alleviating the requirements for providing financial resources by beneficiaries for prefinancing / co-financing and securing advance payments.

The electronic application through UMIS was introduced in 2012 as under OPRD 2007-2013 were launched 4 grant schemes with electronic submission of applications only. In addition MA of OPRD was carried out 3 practical trainings for electronic application for the beneficiaries under OPRD.

MA intends project proposals under all grant schemes of OPRG 2014-2020 to be submitted through electronic application (after provision of opportunity under UMIS 2020).

In the process of implementation of the program additional measures for reducing the administrative burden for beneficiaries, that result from the National strategy for development of public procurement sector in Bulgaria for the period 2014-2020, will be introduced. The Strategy foresees till January 2016 to establish a codified, sustainable and simplified legislation on public procurement by adopting a new Public Procurement Act and secondary legislation for its implementation. In addition, no later than December 2016 will be reviewed and updated the existing systems for dissemination and exchange of information between the MA personnel and beneficiaries and other interested bodies regarding public procurement rules with view of establishing a uniform practice in accordance with the commitments undertaken by Bulgaria in the Partnership Agreement.

SECTION 11 HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES

(Reference: Article 96(7) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

11.1 Sustainable development

Description of specific action to take into account environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster resilience and risk prevention and management, in the selection of operations.

<13.1 type="S" maxlength="5500" input="M" decision=N>

Projects under OPRG 2014-2020 will be funded only in case of compliance and implementation of procedures under the Environmental Protection Act and the Biodiversity Act.

Compliance of OPRG 2014-2020 with the guidelines for integration of the Environmental policy (EP) and the Climate change policy (CCP)

In pursuance of the new requirements for integration of EP and CCP in the EU Funds for the next programming period, OPRG 2014-2020 applies the principle of integration of EP and CCP in the programming process through the selection of thematic objectives and intervention priorities, falling within the scope of environment and climate.

In particular, through its measures OPRG 2014-2020 contributes to the implementation of the following interventions from the guidelines:

Intervention 1. “Interventions required for better water management to achieve better environmental status, higher effectiveness of this resource and dealing with the consequences of climate change on waters”:

Under Direction “More effective use of waters, including eco innovations, new technologies in the field of waters and methods in the field of assessments of the condition, monitoring and management, purification of waters” OPRG 2014-2020 will have a contribution to this direction for measures, comprising part of the repair and reconstruction of buildings subject to financing under OPRG 2014-2020.

Intervention 4 “Interventions required for climate actions: energy efficiency and RES”:

Under Directions 4.1. “Increasing the energy efficiency, including changing the fuels used in: 4.1.1. Public buildings (state and municipal), 4.1.2. Multifamily residential buildings, and 4.1.3. healthcare and social establishments (commercial companies)”, OPRG 2014-2020 contributes through Priority Axis 1: “Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development”, Priority axis 2: “Support of energy efficiency in support centers in peripheral areas”, Priority Axis 3: “Regional Educational Infrastructure”, Priority Axis 4 “Regional Health Infrastructure” and Priority Axis 5 “Regional Social Infrastructure” to the implementation of energy efficiency measures, applied in public and residential buildings, subject to financing under OPRG 2014-2020.

Intervention 5 “Investments required for climate actions: improving the air

quality and reducing the greenhouse gas emissions”:

Under Direction 5.1. “Implementation of measures for improving the ambient air quality: 5.1.1. Renovation and extension of the systems for sustainable urban transport, and 5.1.2. Other measures, pursuant to the municipal programmes for reducing the levels of pollutants and reaching the established standards”, OPRG 2014-2020 contributes through Priority Axis 1 “Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development” and the implementation of activities related to the development and enhancing of integrated urban transport.

Under Direction 5.5. “Reconstruction and modernisation of the road and street network, as well as pavements in the territory of settlements; construction of bicycle lanes”, OPRG 2014-2020 contributes through Priority Axis 1 “Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development” with activities aimed at improving the urban environment within the intervention zones identified in the IPURDs.

Compliance of OPRG 2014-2020 with a document "Risk analysis and vulnerability assessment of sectors of the Bulgarian economy to climate changes”.

The document is the first stage in elaboration of the National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change, it should be noted that in the document an risk analysis and vulnerability assessment are made on the sectors urban environment, road transport, healthcare, tourism, which are supported under OPRG 2014-2020.

The interventions under OPRG 2014-2020 will help to reduce the identified in the framework document negative effects on the respective sectors as a result of climate change. As an infrastructure programme, under OPRG 2014-2020 will be ensured disasters resilience for the objects of intervention. In this regard, during the preparation of infrastructure projects, construction and during the exploitation period of the infrastructures developed under OPRG 2014-2020 it is envisaged also measures aimed to increase the resilience to natural risks. For example:

- Interventions in energy efficiency in residential buildings will help for adaptation of urban living environment to expected climate changes and will respond to the needs for energy renovation of housing stocks as it is set out in the framework document;
- Interventions in urban environment will respond to the needs for additional costs for improvement the asphalt coverage of urban street network. Risks of cardiovascular disease and stroke, as well as for respiratory diseases will be reduced by OPRG 2014-2020 support, increase of green spaces which contribute to the filtration of contaminants in the environment. The interventions to improve public urban transport will also contribute to this. The benefits from intervention in urban environment and urban transport are related to the reduce the energy consumption, and greenhouse gas emissions.

11.2 Equal opportunities and non-discrimination

Description of specific action to promote equal opportunities and prevent discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation during the preparation, design and implementation of the operational programme and in particular in relation to access to funding, taking account of the needs of the various target

groups at risk of such discrimination and in particular the requirements to ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities.

<13.2 type="S" maxlength="5500" input="M" decision=N>

The applying of the principles of gender equality, non-discrimination and accessibility is enshrined in the Bulgarian legislative and institutional systems and affects all areas of social life, including employment, education and training, healthcare, property, social protection, access to social services, economic activities, etc. These principles were also observed in the preparation of OPRG 2014-2020.

OPRG 2014-2020 envisages special measures for promotion of equal opportunities and non-discrimination. All sub-priorities and priorities of the programme, orientated at construction, repair and reconstruction of buildings, as well as the measures for improvement of the urban environment include the mandatory horizontal activity “Improving the access for people with disabilities to these buildings”.

The programme has a strong focus on social inclusion and the following priorities will contribute specifically to the achievement of the objective of poverty reduction and social inclusion:

Priority Axis 1 “Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development”

Priority Axis 4 “Regional Health Infrastructure”

Priority Axis 5 “Regional Social Infrastructure”

In the implementation of these directions of the operational programme, specific criteria will be set with regard to the groups in risk of social exclusion.

In compliance with the Position of the Commission Services on the development of Partnership Agreement and programmes in Bulgaria for the period 2014–2020, the programme gives special attention to the support to provide modern social housing for vulnerable, minority, and indigent groups of the population and other disadvantaged groups, as well as to the deinstitutionalisation of services for children at risk and elderly people with disabilities.

The main target groups with highest risk of discrimination that will receive special support under OPRG 2014-2020 are the marginalized groups of population, including Roma within IPURDs of target cities within PA 1. All IPURDs targeted the problems with marginalized groups in the cities, as for some of them are considered a special type sections like “Social sphere with a focus on the provision of social services and problems of marginalized social groups”.

The analyses of the scope of the intervention zones in the large cities shows that the municipalities considered as priority the inclusion of neighbourhoods with compact Roma population in the intervention zones. Most often these neighbourhoods are included in the zones with predominantly social character, but there are examples for inclusions in the zones with potential for economic development (Burgas), or in zones with public functions and of high public importance (Varna), which shows striving for their social inclusion and integration among the rest of the population. Typical example in this regard is Varna where the compact Roma population in “Vladislav Varnenchik” neighborhood is included in the zone with predominantly social character, and roma

neighbourhood “Maksuda” is included in zone with public functions and of high public importance.

The main needs which are identified in a survey of marginalized communities, including Roma, are connected with maximum coverage and retention of children and pupils in the educational system, provisions for quality education in a multicultural learning environment, provisions for equal access to quality health services and prevention programs, improvement of housing conditions including related technical infrastructure, improvement the access of Roma people to the labour market and increasing the share of employed among them, creation of conditions for equal access of Roma community to public cultural life and preservation and development of traditional Roma culture and creativity.

Solving each of the abovementioned problems requires both specific measures and integrated approach to address them, insofar as they are due to each other and are mutually complement. The achievement of integrated approach will be realized through provide better access to the labour market, social, educational and health services, incl. support of families at risk of child care and parental capacity building, inclusion of children from an early age in kindergarten for early socialization, and increasing professional qualification of marginalized groups, incl. Roma. This will be supported under OPHRD, but construction of technical infrastructure in roma neighbourhoods and ensuring modern social housing for needy families, including Roma will be financed under OPRG 2014-2020.

The principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination will be observed in the setting up of a monitoring committee and evaluation committees, and in the implementation of all projects financed under OPRG 2014-2020.

11.3 Equality between men and women

Description of contribution of the operational programme to the promotion of equality between men and women and, where appropriate, the arrangements to ensure the integration of the gender perspective at operational programme and operation level.

<13.2 type="S" maxlength="5500" input="M" decision=N>

Activities that will be supported under OPRG 2014-2020, are mainly infrastructure and are related to interventions on public infrastructure, buildings and facilities. In this regard, the operational program will contribute to the promotion of equality between men and women, as restriction in terms of accessibility will not be encouraged and created.

In addition, in the process of implementation of the programme the principles of gender equality will be adhered where applicable (eg. In the preparation of the tender documentation by beneficiaries).

The principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination will be observed in the setting up of a monitoring committee and evaluation committees, and in the implementation of all projects financed under OPRG 2014-2020.

The effect of OPRG 2014-2020 on horizontal principles, including in terms of equality

between men and women, will be subject to a special evaluation during the programming period.

SECTION 12 SEPARATE ELEMENTS

12.1 Major projects to be implemented during programming period

(Reference: point (e) of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 27: List of major projects

Project	Planned notification/submission date (year, quarter)	Planned start of implementation (year, quarter)	Planned completion date (year, quarter)	Priority Axes/Investment Priorities
Improving the system of emergency medical care	2015	2016	2018	PA 4

12.2 Performance framework of operational programme

Table 28: Performance framework by fund and category of region (summary table)

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023) ¹⁰⁵		
						M	W	T
1	ERDF	Less Developed regions	Certified amount	euro	242 467 439			840 449 030
1	ERDF	Less Developed regions	Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	kWh/year	15 732 281			83 682 347
1	ERDF	Less Developed regions	Open space created or rehabilitated in urban areas	square metres	598 728			3 184 724
1	ERDF	Less Developed regions	Capacity of supported childcare or education infrastructure	persons	14 395			76 571
1	ERDF	Less Developed regions	Rehabilitated housing in	housing units	65			560

¹⁰⁵ The target value may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender.

		regions	urban areas				
1	ERDF	Less Developed regions	Population covered by improved social services	persons	25 570		264 383
1	ERDF	Less Developed regions	Public or commercial buildings built or renovated in urban areas	square metres	4 060		94 910
2	ERDF	Less Developed regions	Certified amount	euro	26 455 240		105 704 684
2	ERDF	Less Developed regions	Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	kWh/year	5 140 348		56 963 073
3	ERDF	Less Developed regions	Certified amount	euro	26 754 509		114 896 484
3	ERDF	Less Developed regions	Capacity of supported childcare or education infrastructure	persons	6 304		103 876
4	ERDF	Less Developed regions	Certified amount	euro	7 858 147		83 597 313
4	ERDF	Less Developed regions	Key implementation step: major project approved		1		1
4	ERDF	Less developed regions	Purchased modern ambulances	Number	0		400
5	ERDF	Less Developed regions	Certified amount	euro	9 561 244		50 857 682
5	ERDF	Less Developed regions	Number of supported facilities of social infrastructure in the process of	objects	8		137

			deinstitutionalization					
6	ERDF	Less Developed regions	Certified amount	euro	14 861 493			100 755 882
6	ERDF	Less Developed regions	Financial instrument for tourism development established. Mechanism for combination of support through FI and grants developed. Started construction works for some investments.	number	1			1
7	ERDF	Less Developed regions	Certified amount	euro	65 827 910			194 526 920
7	ERDF	Less Developed regions	Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	kilometres	38			665

12.3 Relevant partners involved in preparation of programme

<12.3 type="S" maxlength="10500" input="M" decision=N>

The working group for development of OPRG 2014–2020 comprises representatives of the following departments and organizations:

Certifying Authorities,

- State Fund “Agriculture” – Certifying Authority of the costs under OP Fisheries Sector Development and the Rural Development Programme
- “National Fund” Directorate, Ministry of Finance;

Audit Authorities, Ministry of Finance

- Audit of European Union Funds Executive Agency – Ministry of Finance

Council of Ministers

- “Coordination of EU Affairs” Directorate
- “Programming of EU Funds” Directorate
- Operational Programme “Technical Assistance” Directorate

- “Systems for management of EU funds” Directorate
- “Economic and Social Policy” Directorate
- National Council for Cooperation on Ethnic and Integration Affairs
- “Religious Denominations” Directorate

Ministry of Transport, Information Technology, and Communications

- “Coordination of Programmes and Projects” Directorate
- “Information technologies and e-Governance” Directorate

Ministry of Economy

- “European Funds for Competitiveness” Directorate-General
- “Economic policies to promote” Directorate

Ministry of tourism

- “Tourism Policy” Directorate-General

Ministry of energy

- “Energy Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Energy Development” Directorate

Ministry of Environment and Water

- “Operational Programme Environment” Directorate-General
- Executive Environment Agency

Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

- “European Funds, International Programmes and Projects” Directorate-General
- Employment Agency
- Social Assistance Agency
- State Agency for Child Protection
- Agency for People with Disabilities
- National Association of Employers of People with Disabilities

Ministry of Finance

- Operational Programme “Administrative Capacity” Directorate
- “Economic and Financial Policy” Directorate

Ministry of Agriculture and Food

- “Rural Development” Directorate
- National Agency of Fisheries and Aquaculture
- State Fund “Agriculture”

Ministry of Education and Science

- “State Property and Public Procurement” Directorate

Ministry of Health

- “Medical activities and crisis management” Directorate

Ministry of Culture

- “European Programmes and Projects” Directorate

Ministry of youth and sports

- “European programs and projects and international cooperation” Directorate

Ministry of Interior

- “Protection of the Financial Interests of the EU” (AFCOS) Directorate
- “International Projects” Directorate

Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works

- Directorate General “Programming of Regional Development”
- Directorate General “Strategic Planning of Regional Development and Administrative – Territorial Structure”
- Directorate General “Management of Territorial Cooperation”
- “Public works and geoprotection” Directorate
- “Housing policy” Directorate
- “Technical rules and standards” Directorate
- “Spatial Planning and national expertise” Directorate
- “Water Supply and Sewage” Directorate
- Road Infrastructure Agency
- Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Agency

National Statistical Institute

- “Demographic and Social Statistics” Directorate

Public Procurement Agency

- “Methodology, Analysis and Control of Public Procurement” Directorate

Regional Development Boards

- Regional Development Council – North-Western Region
- Regional Development Council – North Central Region
- Regional Development Council – North-Eastern Region
- Regional Development Council – South-Western Region
- Regional Development Council – South Central Region
- Regional Development Council – South-Eastern Region

Representatives of the academic community

- Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

- Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”
- University of National and World Economy
- University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy
- Technical University – Sofia

Non-governmental organisations

- **Group 1 “Social Organisations”**
 - “Civil Society Forum” Association
 - National Patients Organisation
- **Group 2 “Environmental Organisations”**
 - “Information and Nature Protection” Foundation
 - Alliance for Environment
 - Association of environmental experts from Bulgarian municipalities
 - Bulgarian Society for Bird Protection (BSBP)
 - Association “For the Earth”
 - “Energy Agency Plovdiv” Foundation
- **Group 3 “Organisations working in the field of education, science and culture”**
 - “Institute for European Values” SNC
 - Human Resources Development Agency
 - Agency for Sustainable Development and European Integration – Ecoregions
- **Group 4 “Organisations working in the field of development policies”**
 - Association for partnership and support of the civil activity “Balkan Assist”
 - “National Network for Business Development” Association
 - Bulgarian Association of EU Programmes Consultants
 - Business Centre for Supporting Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises – Rouse
 - Bulgarian Association of Regional Development Agencies (BARDA)
 - “European Institute” Foundation
 - Agency for Regional Economic Development – Stara Zagora
 - “Regional Initiatives” Foundation
 - Bulgarian Sustainable Development Board
 - Bulgarian Association for Geospatial Information Systems
 - Agency for Economic Development – Varna
- **Group 5 “Other organisations, the activity of which is relevant to the thematic objectives and measures”**
 - “Shelter for Humanity” Foundation

Other

- National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria
- Bulgarian Union of Private Entrepreneurs “Vazrazhdane”
- Confederation of Employers and Industrialists in Bulgaria
- Association of Industrial Capital in Bulgaria
- Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Bulgarian Industrial Association
- Economic Initiative Union
- Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria
- Confederation of Labour “Podkrepa”
- Invest Bulgaria Agency
- Commission for Protection against Discrimination
- Bulgarian Orthodox Church
- Catholic Church in Bulgaria

ANNEXES (uploaded to electronic data exchange system as separate files):

- Draft report of ex-ante evaluation with executive summary (mandatory)
(Reference: Article 55(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)
- Documentation on assessment of applicability and fulfilment of ex-ante conditionalities (as appropriate)
- Opinion of national equality bodies on sections 11.2 and 11.3 (as appropriate)
(Reference: Article 96(7) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)
- Citizens' summary of operational programme (as appropriate)