

## **THE PROGRAMMES WHEREUNDER THE EUR 7 BILLION FROM THE EU ARE ALLOCATED**

With its membership in the European Union Bulgaria joined the global **European Regional Policy**. It aims at strengthening the economic and social cooperation in the Community and diminishing the disparities in the development of the various regions. These actions are supported with funds from the EU Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund (SCF). The financial assistance will be used for implementation of the objectives and priorities laid down in the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF).

The receipt of the funds is organized in

### **Seven Operational Programmes (OPs)**

The Operational Programme is a strategic document, approved by the EC, for development through the implementation of certain operations and activities. These are grouped around priority axes.

The seven OPs whereunder Bulgaria has the opportunity to receive grants from the EU are as follows: Transport; Environment; Human Resources Development; Development of the Competitiveness of the Bulgarian Economy; Administrative Capacity; Regional Development; and Technical Assistance.

**OP Transport** is the programme for which the greatest amount of resources from the European Structural Funds is provided. It supports investments in the construction, modernization and rehabilitation of the national transport road and railway infrastructure, the improvement of transport connectivity with the neighbouring countries, the navigation and safety in the Bulgarian maritime spaces and inland-waterways, the development of a combined transport and a sustainable urban transport. The programme is financed from the Cohesion Fund (CF) and the European Regional Development Fund).

**OP Environment** is the programme whereunder the second largest amount is provided. It will be allocated to projects related to the construction of the required infrastructure for water and waste water, waste treatment, preservation and restoration of biodiversity. Similarly to OP Transport, it will receive funds from CF and ERDF.

**OP Regional Development** will support measures for urban reconstruction and regeneration, development of tourism, elaboration of local and regional transport schemes and integrated initiatives for regional and local development. The funds under this programme come from ERDF.

In the framework of **OP Human Resources Development** investments will be made in projects which protect the concept of acquisition of new knowledge and skills. The aim is to strengthen the practice of professional life-long learning, to ensure higher quality of the workforce as well as access to quality education and training for all. Under OP Human Resources Development financing will be provided to projects which ensure equal opportunities and promote the development of social economy. The funds under this programme come from ESF.

**OP Development of the Competitiveness of the Bulgarian Economy** has been created in order to support activities that increase enterprises efficiency and contribute to business environment development, improve the access to financing, and develop the knowledge-based economy and innovation activities. The beneficiaries of the programme can rely on funding

for strengthening the international market positions of the Bulgarian economic subjects. The funds under the programme come from ERDF.

**OP Administrative Capacity** will support measures for strengthening the administrative capacity at all levels – central, regional and local. The aim is to support the effective functioning of the administration, which will lead to higher quality of the services delivered to citizens and businesses. The funds under the programme come from ESF.

**OP Technical Assistance** will support projects which contribute to the performance of the intra-institutional activities funded under SCF, the coordination of programmes, the improvement of the Management Information System for the EU funds. The programme will work towards raising the public awareness about the EU Structural Instruments and will be financed through ERDF.

Operational Programme	Amount (EUR million), Funds	Potential beneficiaries	Priorities	Managing Authority
Transport	1624 CF and ERDF	Municipalities, the National Railway Infrastructure Company, the National Road Infrastructure Fund, the Executive Agency for Exploration and Maintenance of the Danube River, the Maritime Administration Executive Agency	Development of: the railway infrastructure along the trans-European and major national transport axes, the road infrastructure along the trans-European and major national transport axes; Improvement of: the intermodality for passengers and freight transport, the conditions for the maritime and inland-waterway navigation	Coordination of Programmes and Projects Directorate at the Ministry of Transport <a href="http://www.mtc.government.bg">www.mtc.government.bg</a>
Environment	1466 CF and ERDF	Municipal administrations, municipal companies, regional associations, associations of municipalities, public water supply and sewerage companies	Improvement and development of water and wastewater infrastructure in settlements with over 2000 PE; Improvement and development of waste treatment infrastructure; Preservation and restoration of biodiversity	Programming of Regional Development Directorate at the Ministry of Regional Development <a href="http://www.mrrb.government.bg">www.mrrb.government.bg</a>
Regional Development	1361 ERDF	Municipalities, municipal companies, associations of municipalities, non-profit organizations in partnership with local authorities	Sustainable and integrated urban development; Regional and local accessibility; Sustainable tourism development, Establishment of regional and local networks; Cooperation and capacity building	Programming of Regional Development Directorate at the Ministry of Regional Development <a href="http://www.mrrb.government.bg">www.mrrb.government.bg</a>
Human Resources	1032 ESF	Educational, training and science institutions, centres for vocational training, NGOs, science organizations, labour market institutions at national and regional	Promotion of jobs creation and development of inclusive labour market, Raising the productivity and adaptability of the employed persons, Improving the quality of education and training in correspondence with	European Funds, International Programmes and Projects Directorate at the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy <a href="http://www.mlsp.government.bg">www.mlsp.government.bg</a>

		level, consultancy companies, socio-economic partners, branch organisations, employers, research centres, municipalities, sports clubs and youth organisations, community centers	the labour market needs for building a knowledge-based economy, Improving the access to education and training, Social inclusion and promotion of social economy, Improving the effectiveness of labour market institutions and of social and healthcare services, Transnational and interregional cooperation	<a href="#">bg</a>
Competitiveness	988 ERDF	Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); large enterprises; R&D institutions; universities; organizations operating as guarantee funds, micro-loan funds or seed and venture capital funds, investing in SMEs; public and private organizations working in the area of standardization, certification and testing	Development of a knowledge-based economy and innovation activities; Increasing efficiency of enterprises and promoting supportive business Environment; Financial resources for enterprises development; Strengthening the international market positions of Bulgarian economy	European Funds for Competitiveness Directorate at the Ministry of Economy and Energy <a href="http://www.mee.government.bg">www.mee.government.bg</a>
Administrative Capacity	153 ESF	Structures of the state administration at all levels, bodies of the judiciary and structures of the civil society	Good governance; Human resources management in the state administration, the judiciary and the civil society structures; Quality administrative service delivery and e-governance development	Management of Projects and Programmes Directorate at the Ministry of State Administration and Administrative Reform <a href="http://www.mdaar.government.bg">www.mdaar.government.bg</a>
Technical Assistance	48 ERDF	Structures within the Ministry of Finance - Central Coordination Unit, Certifying Authority, Audit Authority, Managing Authority of Operational Programme Technical Assistance; units assisting in the dissemination of information about the Structural Instruments at regional and local level	Support to the implementation of the activities performed by the Central Coordination Unit, the Certifying Authority, the Audit Authority and the NSRF Monitoring Committee; Further development and support to the functioning of the Unified Management Information System for the EU Structural Funds; Dissemination of general information about the EU Structural Funds	Management of EU Funds at the Ministry of Finance <a href="http://www.minfin.bg">www.minfin.bg</a>

You can find the full texts of the programmes on [www.eufunds.bg](http://www.eufunds.bg).

