

*Investing in your future!*

# *Operational Programme Regional Development 2007-2013*



EUROPEAN UNION  
European regional  
development fund



**OPRD**







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**OPRD**



**Overall objective:**  
*To improve the quality of living and working  
environment with better access to basic services  
and new opportunities for improved regional  
competitiveness and sustainable development.*

**Programme budget:**  
**BGN 3 131 821 212**

*OPRD is financed by the European  
Regional Development Fund and  
state budget of the Republic of  
Bulgaria*

### **Priority axis 1: Sustainable and integrated urban development**

**Budget:** BGN 1 875 344 313

**Beneficiaries:** Municipalities on the territory of 86 urban agglomeration areas, European Investment Bank (in the capacity of a JESSICA Holding Fund), Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Health, Social Assistance Agency, Employment Agency, Ministry of Interior / Directorate General "Fire Safety and Protection of Population from Disasters", Ministry of Education and Science, "Renovation of Residential Buildings" Directorate in Ministry of regional development (MRD), Housing Renovation Fund, non-profit organizations in partnership with the municipalities, non-governmental organizations and universities, when acting as non-profit operators for provision of health, social, educational and cultural services.

### **Priority axis 2: Regional and local accessibility**

**Budget:** BGN 645 439 513

**Beneficiaries:** Road Infrastructure Agency, 86 municipalities situated within urban agglomeration areas, Ministry of Economy and Energy, Executive Agency "Electronic Communication Networks and Information Systems".

### **Priority axis 3: Sustainable tourism development**

**Budget:** BGN 305 862 595

**Beneficiaries:** Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Economy and Energy, Council of Ministers, 264 municipalities, including in partnership with associations of municipalities, local, regional and national tourism organizations registered in the National Tourism Register, public authorities managing immovable cultural valuables of national and world significance.

### **Priority axis 4: Local development and cooperation**

**Budget:** BGN 199 377 316

**Beneficiaries:** District administrations, 178 municipalities outside urban agglomeration areas, non-governmental organizations in partnership with municipalities or district administrations.

### **Priority axis 5: Technical assistance**

**Budget:** BGN 105 797 473

**Beneficiaries:** The Managing Authority of OPRD, "Renovation of Residential Buildings" Directorate and "Internal Audit" Directorate within MRD and „Technical rules and norms" Directorate at the Ministry of investment planning, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Economy and Energy, Ministry of Interior, Road Infrastructure Agency, Social Assistance Agency, Employment Agency, Executive Agency "Electronic Communication Networks and Information Systems".



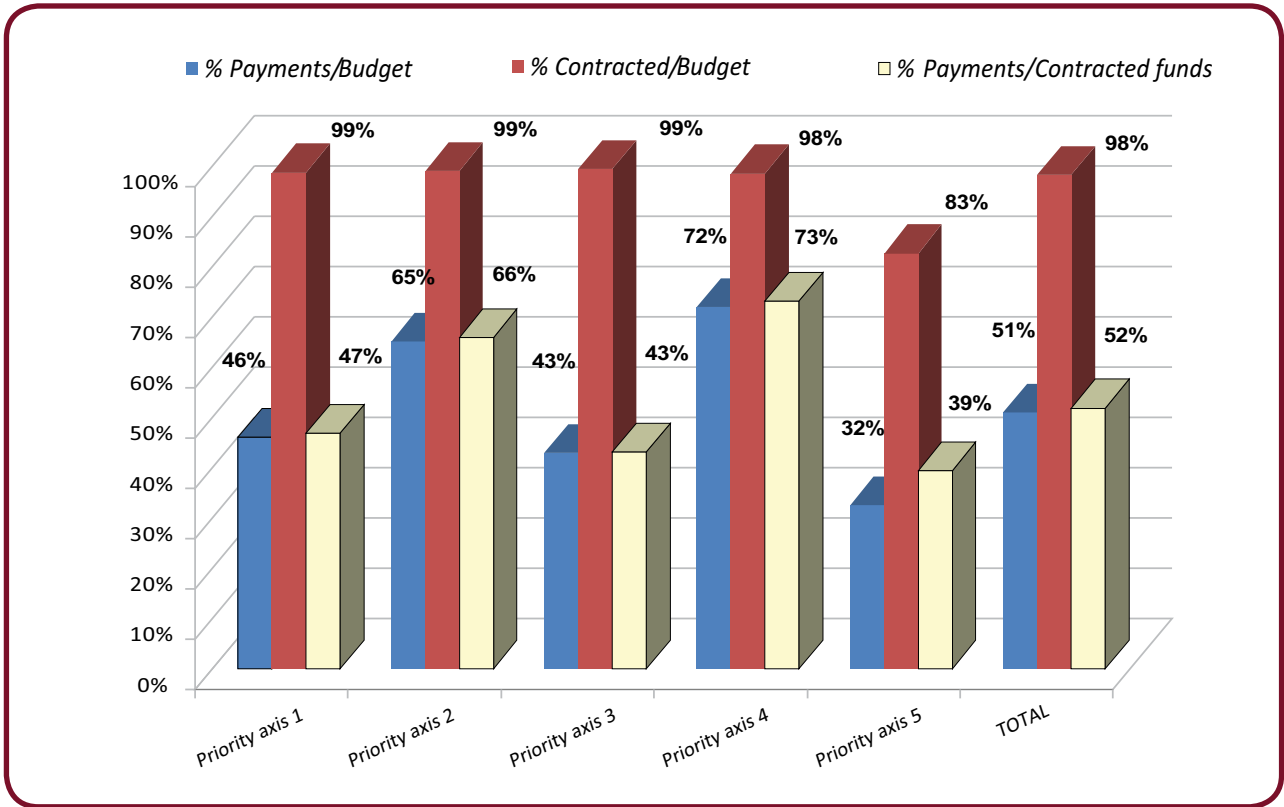


## INDICATORS OF THE OVERALL PROGRESS OF OP “REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT” 2007-2013

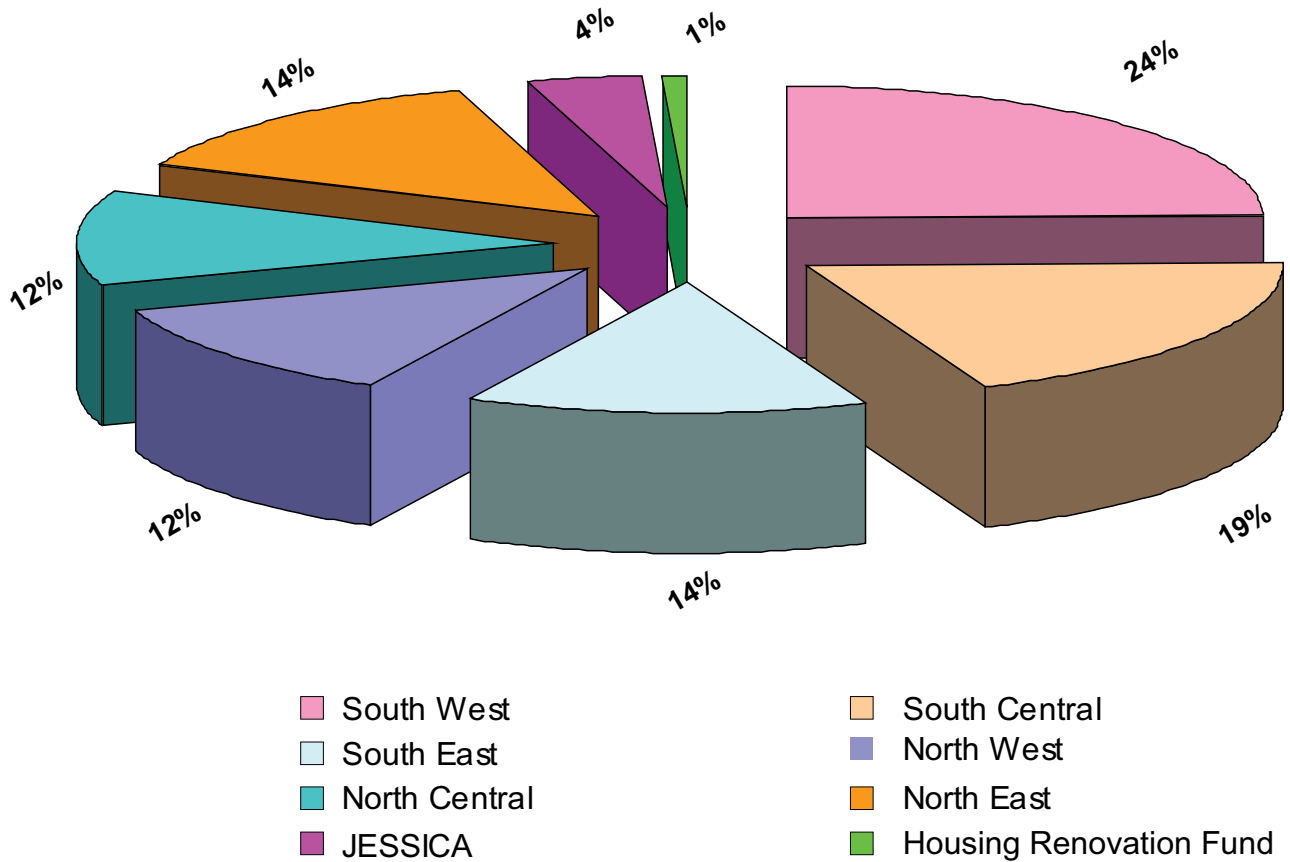
- **48 grant schemes** were published for a total of **BGN 3,131 billion** or above **100 %** of the OPRD budget;
- In 2013 the released resources under the programme are reallocated to scheme “Support for restraining and preventing risks and damages caused by fire in urban agglomeration areas” with specific beneficiary the Ministry of Interior with regard to transforming the project of Ministry of Interior into a major project within the meaning of Article 39 of Regulation (EC) № 1083/2006 with total value BGN 99,7 million. After accumulating the total amount envisaged for the major project of Ministry of Interior the released funds under the programme will be reallocated for funding already completed or at an advanced stage of implementation road projects, corresponding to the OPRD eligible activities with specific beneficiary – Road Infrastructure Agency (2nd and 3rd class roads) and total grant amount up to BGN 45 million, and also for funding a major project “Construction of North Speed Tangent from km 0+000 to km 16+540” with total grant amount up to BGN 235 million. Under the programme as of 01.10.2013 were submitted a total of 1 896 project proposals and were signed 1 067 contracts to a total amount of grant – BGN 3,074 billion or over 98 % of the programme’s budget (BGN 3,131 billion);
- The total amount of payments as of 01.10.2013 adds up to **BGN 1,592 billion** or **52 % of contracted funds** and **51 % of OPRD budget**. The total amount of certified funds is **BGN 1,216 billion**.

As a result of implemented so far 460 projects on OPRD are achieved the following results: enhanced and more attractive urban environment, with more than 3,1 million people use renewed urban environment, built/rehabilitated parks, green areas, playgrounds (over 2,8 million sq.m.), hiking areas, cycling routes, sidewalk (over 759 thousand sq.m), secured parking near the nodal transport points suburban areas – 3 125. Over 2,2 million people are using renewed 777 buildings of educational, social and cultural infrastructure, which achieved significant energy savings as a result of the investment. Landslides are fortified with a total area of over 1.162 million sq m, a favorable treatment accorded population of these investments is over 623 thousand people.

With these indicators OPRD finds its place among the most successful programmes in Bulgaria. Through supported activities the programme reaches to every region of the country, demonstrating visible results and contributing for improved quality of living and working environment of each Bulgarian citizen with **better access to basic services and new opportunities for increased regional competitiveness and sustainable development**.



Financial implementation of OPRD for the 01.01.2007 - 01.10.2013 period



Percent paid funds by regions at NUTS 2 level for the 01.01.2007- 01.10.2013 period

## KEY PROJECTS OF OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT 2007-2013

### *1. Deinstitutionalization of children in the Republic of Bulgaria*

Within Operation 1.1 "Social infrastructure" a grant scheme "**Support for deinstitutionalization of social institutions providing services to children at risk**" is in implementation. Specific beneficiaries are 62 municipalities in urban agglomerations. The scheme **supports construction/ reconstruction/ renovation of an adequate infrastructure on the territory of urban agglomerations**, to replace institutional care and provide new opportunities to children with disabilities and their families. So they will get support within the community and in their natural environment. Signed were **62 contracts** with a total amount of **BGN 103 million**. With the implementation of the projects are **to be established 133 Accommodation Centers of Family Type and 27 Protected Homes**. As of 01.10.2013 three accommodation centers of family type and 2 protected homes are already built. Under implementation is a project of Ministry of Health for total amount of BGN 10 million for the restructuring of **8 pilot Children's Medical and Social Care Homes**. The purpose is to provide innovative and integrated deinstitutionalization services and prevent abandonment of children aged 0-3 years.





## ***2. Support for reconstruction, renovation and equipping of state and municipal medical and healthcare institutions.***

**BGN 139 million have been provided** as a grant to the Ministry of Health for reconstruction and renovation of **15 state medical institutions**. BGN 140 million are envisaged for reconstruction and renovation of **municipal** medical facilities (2 grant schemes under Priority axis 1 and Priority axis 4). As of 01.10.2013 **33 contracts** with a total amount of **BGN 133 million are under implementation**.



## ***3. Reconstruction and rehabilitation of second- and third-class roads***

Main objective of the scheme is to encourage accessibility, interconnectivity and cohesion within regions through improvement and rehabilitation of regional and local roads. Beneficiary is the Road Infrastructure Agency with the total amount of the grant scheme **BGN 501 million**. Together with the projects the following indicators will be achieved: 992,716 km reconstructed and rehabilitated 2nd and 3rd class roads and 16,540 km newly constructed 1-st class roads. As of 01.10.2013 **52 contracts** with a total amount of **BGN 494 million** are under implementation and 355 km. road sections were rehabilitated and put into exploitation. **On 30.09.2013 the Managing Authority of OPRD approved the major project „Construction of Northern Speed Tangent from km 0+000 to km 16+540“, which is expected to be approved by the European Commission.**

The total length of the rehabilitated municipal road network is 277 km.





#### 4. Support for urban transport in the big cities

Within Priority axis 1: “Sustainable and integrated urban development”, Operation 1.5 “Sustainable urban transport systems” under Operational Programme Regional Development were provided grants to the amount of **BGN 403 million** for development of integrated urban transport in the 7 big cities of the country – Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna, Bourgas, Pleven, Russe and Stara Zagora. The focus is mainly on creating more effective and speedy urban transport with less energy consumption, construction of more accessible secondary infrastructure of public transport networks and introduction of environmentally friendly modes of public transport. The **Unit for Management of Projects for Integrated Urban Transport** within the Managing Authority of OPRD is continuing its work.

##### - Integrated urban transport project of Bourgas Municipality

The “**Integrated urban transport in Bourgas**” project is the **first major project** within the meaning of Article 39 of Regulation (EC) 1083/2006 under OPRD. The total amount of the project adds up to **BGN 131 million**, of which the grant amount under OPRD is **BGN 101 million** and **BGN 30 million** is the contribution by Bourgas Municipality. The grant contract was signed on 26 November 2010 and will be implemented for 48 months. The project was approved by the European Commission on 16 August 2011 and provides **a set of measures for modernization of public transport and encourages transportation in alternative ways** (on foot or by bicycle), as well as **studies for further investments** to build on the results achieved.

##### Components of the urban transport projects:

- Renovation of rolling stock and maintenance facilities;
- Building of a central bus station and renovation of bus terminals;
- Introduction of a new optimized and attractive bus route network and a system for prompt bus service;
- Construction of bicycle routes and pedestrian overpasses;
- Introduction of an integrated e-ticket system and real time passenger information system at bus stops and on the buses;
- Integrated center for control and management of the traffic, supported by systems for video surveillance and public transport control;
- Traffic lights systems with priority for the buses of the public transport.

As of 01.10.2013 28 articulated diesel buses and 39 single body CNG buses are delivered. Under elaboration are technical investment projects for Bus Rapid Transit route (BRT), terminals and a network of cycling routes; for reconstruction and modernization of bus depot and workshop, diesel and CNG filling station.





## - Integrated urban transport project of Sofia Municipality

The “**Support for integrated urban transport in Sofia Municipality**” project is the **second major project** within the meaning of Article 39 of Regulation (EC) 1083/2006 under OPRD. The total amount of the project adds up to **BGN 122 million**, of which the grant amount under OPRD is BGN 98 million and **BGN 25 million** is the contribution by Sofia Municipality. The grant contract was signed on 23 August 2011 and will be implemented for 36 months. The project was approved by the European Commission on 13 June 2012.

The project envisages **a set of measures for improving the quality of public transport and encourages the use of environmentally friendly urban transport.**

### Components of the projects:

- Intelligent traffic management system;
- Electronic information boards;
- Delivery of 50 new trolleybuses;
- Marketing and legal research for public transport sheds;
- Modernization of the tram line on “Bulgaria” Blvd.;
- New tram line from the Seminary to “Darvenitsa” district.

As of 01.10.2013 Sofia Municipality has signed contracts for delivery of 50 new trolleybuses, for reconstruction of tram line, catenary and cables network on Bulgaria Blvd, for construction supervision.

## - Integrated urban transport projects in big cities

For implementation of urban transport modernization projects in other big cities in Bulgaria under OPRD are envisaged funds to the amount of **BGN 204 million** allocated between the big cities based on number of residents, population using public transport and tourist flow. In June and August 2012 were signed contracts with the municipalities of Pleven, Plovdiv, Russe and Stara Zagora. The total amount of the projects adds up to **BGN 125,9 million**, of which the grant amount under OPRD is **BGN 112,5 million**.

### Components of the urban transport projects

- Planning of transport for transition from personal vehicles to public transport, bicycles or walking;
- Intelligent traffic management system;
- E-ticketing system;
- Environmentally friendly rolling stock of buses/trolley buses;
- Improvement and development of the urban transport infrastructure;
- Configuration of routes with the purpose of ensuring special priority lanes.



### - Integrated urban transport project of Varna

The “Integrated urban transport in Varna” project is the third major project within the meaning of Article 39 of Regulation (EC) 1083/2006 under OPRD. The total amount of the project adds up to **BGN 114 million**, of which the grant amount under OPRD is **BGN 90 million** and **BGN 23 million** is the contribution by Varna Municipality. The grant contract was signed on 9 July 2012 and will be implemented for 36 months. The project was approved by the European Commission on 17 December 2012 and envisages the realization of 10 components, in accordance to the main strategic objectives of the OPRD for establishment of proper urban transport.

#### Components of the urban transport projects:

- Automated ticket system;
- Priority of vehicles for the mass urban public transport (MUPT);
- System information to passengers in real time;
- Management Centre MUPT;
- BRT corridor;
- Rolling stock;
- Facilities for cycling;
- Improvement to the three final stops;
- Improvement of the production/technical facilities;
- Measures for accessibility and improvement of the static information at the stops of the public transport.

Varna Municipality is expected to sign a contract for delivery of 70 buses. There is a signed contract with consultant to prepare the public procurement papers and to support conducting of the procedures for selection of contractor.



## 5. Support for housing policy

### - Support for energy efficiency in multifamily residential buildings

Operational Programme “Regional Development” supports implementation of energy efficiency measures through scheme “**Support for energy efficiency in multifamily residential buildings**” in 36 urban centers. The scheme was launched on 18.07.2011 as an integral part of the National Housing Strategy and will contribute to long-term improvements in the living conditions of the cities. Specific beneficiary is “Renovation of Residential Buildings” Directorate within the Ministry of Regional Development. The total amount of the project’s budget comes up to **BGN 65 million**, of which the grant amount under OPRD is **BGN 50 million**. Up to 75% of the budget for energy renovation for each approved building under the project will be grant. The other 25% will be provided with own or borrowed funds by the condominium. The project envisages implementation of energy efficiency measures in multifamily residential buildings in 36 urban centers, including energy efficiency audits and introduction of energy efficiency measures (insulation, replacement of woodwork, local installations and/or connections to gas and heating systems).

As of 01.10.2013 341 expressions for interest and support from 32 municipalities are submitted. 198 residential buildings are approved and indicative budgets for renovation are being prepared. 29 requests for financial support and implementation of renovation for energy efficiency are received and 20 agreements for financial support are signed. Technical observation audits, energy audits and detailed design are under preparation depending on the implementation stage of the building renovation. 2 buildings have already approved detailed designs and constructing permission.

### - Support for establishment of a financial engineering instrument Housing Renovation Fund.

In March 2012, after public procurement procedure was signed a contract with Corporative Commercial Bank for the establishment of a Housing Renovation Fund (HRF) with a budget of **BGN 12,467 million** provided by OPRD and **BGN 1 million** co-financing by CCB. HRF is a financial engineering instrument for provision of loans / bank guarantees to owners of properties in multifamily residential buildings to be used for securing financial participation in the process of housing fund renovation in Bulgaria.



Before

After



## 6. Support for social homes of vulnerable groups

In a process of implementation is a scheme “Support of modern social housing for vulnerable, minority and socially disadvantaged groups as well as other disadvantaged population groups” launched on 30.08.2011 with a budget of **BGN 16 million**. It is aimed at providing modern social housing for disadvantaged groups, through renovation and change of use of existing buildings owned by public authorities or non-profit purpose. It will contribute to social inclusion of vulnerable people through improving their living standard and overall improvement of the quality of housing in urban communities. Under implementation are three contracts with Vidin, Devnya and Dupnitsa municipalities with total grant amount of **BGN 10,2 million**. The projects aim to establish pilot models providing contemporary social homes and sustainable solution of problems in this field.

## 7. Joint European Initiative JESSICA

The **JESSICA** initiative aims to support sustainable and integrated urban development. In Bulgaria JESSICA is implemented through OPRD – a Holding Fund managed by the European Investment Bank and two Urban Development Funds (UDF) supporting public-private partnerships and other urban development projects on the territory of Sofia and the six big cities – Plovdiv, Varna, Bourgas, Russe, Stara Zagora and Pleven.

The **Fund for Sustainable Urban Development of Sofia** provides low interest loans and equity for sustainable projects on the territory of Sofia City. The amount of financial resources to be invested in projects by the Fund is **BGN 49,2 million**, including BGN 24,6 million provided by OPRD and 24,6 million provided by the Fund Manager.

The **Regional Urban Development Fund** provides low interest loans and equity for projects on the territory of the six big cities. The amount of financial resources to be invested in urban development projects by the Fund is **BGN 110,7 million**, including BGN 36,9 million provided by OPRD and BGN 73,8 million provided by the Fund Manager.

The Urban Development Funds work on a broad portfolio of potential projects to be financed by low-interest loans under the JESSICA initiative.

As of 20.09.2013 the Urban Development Funds under JESSICA have approved loans totaling BGN 12.9 million for investments in the following projects:

- Reconstruction and capital refurbishment of the “Women’s Bazaar” in Sofia;
- Reconstruction of the Vrabnitsa Market in Sofia;
- Reconstruction of the Central Municipal Bazaar in Stara Zagora;
- Refurbishment of the former underground facility with defense functions (bomb shelter) in an amusement attraction facility “Underground City” in Bourgas.





### **8. Development of cultural infrastructure – Key projects of the Ministry of Culture**

The Ministry of Culture is implementing **18 contracts** to a grand total of **BGN 49 million** for reconstruction and renovation of cultural sites of national significance as the National Museum Complex, "Sveta Sofia" Basilica, "Aleko Konstantinov" Satirical Theatre-Sofia, etc. 14 projects are completed, in result of which the buildings of 3 theaters have been renovated and modernized: "Adriana Budevskia" – Bourgas "Stefan. Buchvarov" – Varna, Satirical Theatre "Aleko Konstantinov" – Sofia; 3 operas: Rouse Opera, Opera and Philharmonic Society – Rouse, Opera and Philharmonic Society – Bourgas; 4 Museum: National Museum of Bulgarian Fine Arts, the National Polytechnical Museum – Sofia, Architectural Museum "St. Sofia", Reconstruction and socialization of architectural museum "St. Sofia", 3 schools – National school for musical and dancing art "Dobrin Petkov" – Plovdiv, National High School of polygraphy and photography – Sofia, National School of Music and Stage Arts "Prof. Pancho Vladigerov" – Bourgas and 1 concert Hall – concert complex "Bulgaria".

**BGN 32 million** are provided under **10 contracts** supporting the development of immovable cultural valuables of national and world significance such as Ancient Cultural Communication Complex "Serdika" (so-called Largo), the National Historical and Archaeological Reserve (NHAR) "Pliska", the Historical Reserve (HR) "Trapezitsa" in Veliko Tarnovo, the Red Church near the town of Perushtitsa. 4 projects are completed and the following tourist attractions have been improved – real cultural values and related infrastructure – Eski Mosque and establishment of Museum of Religions, Stara Zagora, "Sv. Georgi" (St. George) Church in Arbanassi village, Roman fortress "Sexaginta Prista" – Ruse and Cruciform barracks (ethnographic exhibition) in Vidin.







## ***9. Support for development of tourist attractions in municipalities***

Within the framework of 2 OPRD schemes are supported **60 projects** aiming for improvement of the condition of cultural valuables and natural landmarks on the territory of municipalities through a complex of measures for development of an integrated tourist product – a combination of infrastructure, marketing and conservation activities. The approved projects are to a total grant amount of **BGN 193 million**. Support is provided to some of the key landmarks of the country, and OPRD funding will contribute for improving their attractiveness:

- the Ancient City of Nessebar – Nessebar Municipality;
- the Madara Rider and Shumen Fortress – Shumen Municipality;
- the Archaeological Complex Perperikon – Kardjali Municipality;
- the Ancient Bulgarian capital Veliki Preslav – Veliki Preslav Municipality;
- the Belogradchik Fortress – Belogradchik Municipality;
- the “Assenovata krepost” Fortress – Assenovgrad Municipality;
- the “Sveta Anastasia” Island – Bourgas Municipality;
- the Architectural and Ethnographic Complex “Etara” and Architectural and Historical Reserve in Bojentsi village – Gabrovo Municipality;
- the Sofia Museum with active presence of mineral water – Sofia Municipality;
- the “Ledenika” Cave – Vratsa Municipality;
- the Archaeological Reserve of Hissar City – Hissar Municipality.

## ***10. Support for development of the regional tourist product and marketing of destinations***

The Operational Programme “Regional Development” supports development of the regional tourist product and marketing of destinations under 2 schemes within Operation 3.2 “Development of the regional tourist product and marketing of destinations”. Beneficiaries are municipalities on the territory of the country. The activities to be supported are focused on destinations with significant tourist potential, promoting natural, cultural and historical heritage. Under implementation are **39 contracts** to a total amount of **BGN 17,7 million**.

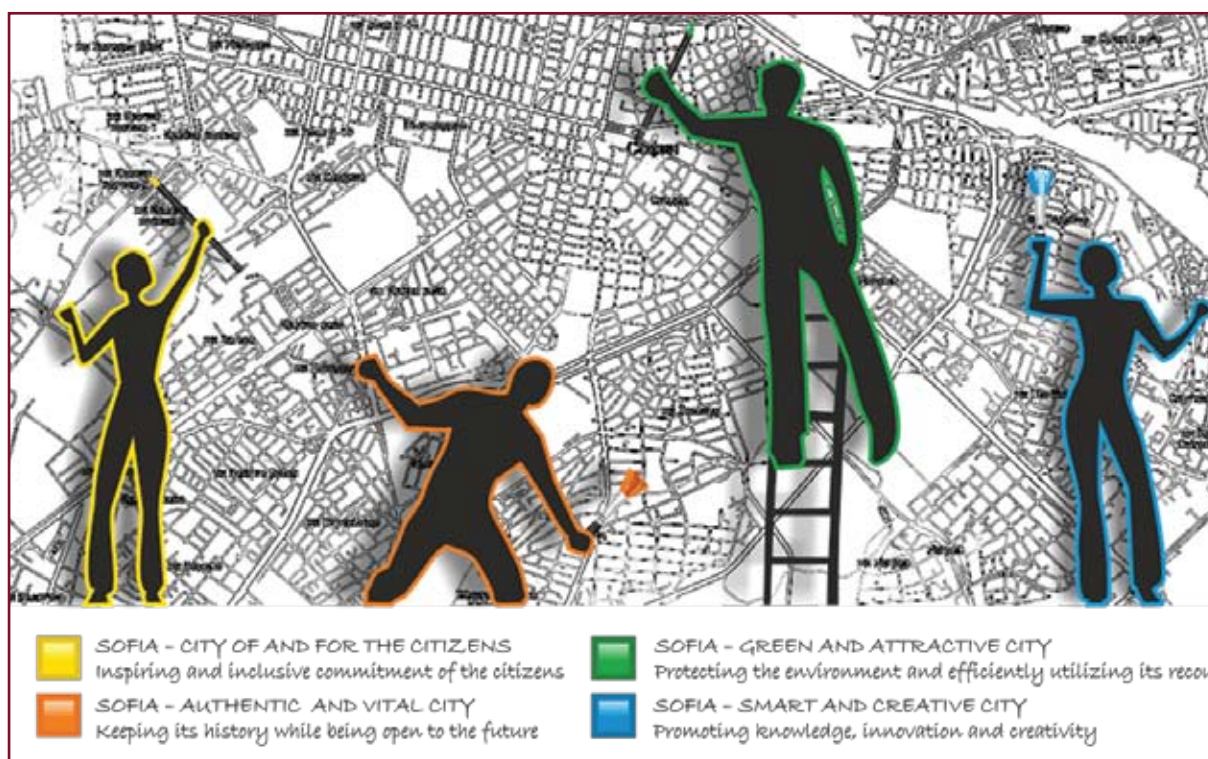


## 11. In support of the next programming period

In March 2012 was launched a scheme "In support of the next programming period". It is implemented within Operation 5.3 "Capacity building of OPRD beneficiaries" under Priority axis 5 "Technical assistance". The application of the scheme was carried out fully electronically through the electronic module of MIS. The scheme is aimed at preparing working investment project so the beneficiaries will be able to apply for funding in the next programming period 2014-2020. The scheme's budget is **BGN 27,5 million** and eligible beneficiaries are 36 municipalities – centers of urban agglomerations. In implementation are 35 contracts with total grant amount of **BGN 26.3 million**.



Presently under evaluation by the inter institutional working group are 36 integrated urban development and regeneration plans of the 36 cities – centres of urban agglomeration areas.





## PROGRAMMING PERIOD 2014-2020

The Operational Programme "Regions in growth" 2014-2020 was the first operational programme in the European Union which passed the informal coordination procedure within the European Commission. This fact has significantly supported the process of elaboration and improving the quality of the programming document. In this regard the ninth session of the thematic working group for the elaboration of OPRG held on 16.09.2013 was of crucial importance for achieving progress in the preparation of the operational programme and reflecting changes connected to the draft of the Partnership Agreement as well as to address the recommendation and the comments of the European Commission services. At this session some decisions of strategic significance were taken which will support the successful negotiations and the implementation of the programme at a later stage. In order to ensure demarcation and better coordination with the Rural Development Programme a decision was taken to allow financing up to 20% of the allocated budgets for each of the cities of 1-st to 3-rd level for realization of projects for municipal educational and social infrastructure and areas with potential for economic development outside the intervention zones of the integrated plans for urban regeneration and development, but within the municipal territory. The scope and content of the third draft of the OPRG was also approved and the programme will be submitted for second round of informal coordination with the European Commission.

The draft of Operational programme "Regions in growth" for the next programming period 2014-2020 provides support for the following priority areas:

Priority axis 1: Sustainable and integrated urban development

Priority axis 2: State educational infrastructure

Priority axis 3: Regional health infrastructure

Priority axis 4: Regional social infrastructure

Priority axis 5: Regional tourism

Priority axis 6: Regional road infrastructure

Priority axis 7: Risk prevention

Priority axis 8: Technical assistance

The operational programme is elaborated in compliance with and in support of the two national documents on Bulgaria's development until 2020 –National Development Programme "Bulgaria 2020" and National Reform Programme. The programme corresponds to the National regional development strategy and the National spatial development concept.

Further developing and upgrading the achievements of the present programming period and in relation to the reinforced role of urban development for achievement of the Cohesion Policy objectives, main priority in the 2014-2020 period will be the sustainable and integrated urban development. The priority will be implemented within the framework of the integrated urban regeneration and development plans of 67 cities, beneficiaries under Priority Axis 1, in order to implement a purposeful state policy for urban development. Given the strategic focus of OPRG 2014-2020 aimed at urban development, about 62 percent of the financial resources of the programme is focused in this priority axis where the implementation of five investment priorities including indicative list of activities for realisation will be supported. The indicative activities are related to interventions in educational infrastructure, cultural, sports and social infrastructure, improving the

urban environment, energy efficiency in administrative and residential buildings, integrated public transport, areas with potential for economic development.

The second, third and fourth priorities of the future operational programme will be aimed correspondingly at the effective implementation of investments in state educational, regional healthcare and social infrastructure, where investments outside the scope of interventions under the urban regeneration and development plans will be funded. Sectoral policies will be supported with distinct regional impact that goes beyond urban dimension. The potential support will ensure complementarity of the municipal measures implemented, integrated development and added value for the territory of intervention. The concept of OPRG is aimed at the implementation of measures for upgrade, modernization and reconstruction of pre-defined projects of the corresponding infrastructure, based on a methodology for prioritization and availability of a strategic framework for the development of the sector.

A particular priority axis will support regional tourism, where the preservation, promotion and development of the cultural and natural heritage will be stimulated and supported as priority investments. The main activities to be implemented are related to the development of natural, cultural and historical attractions and religious sites of national and global significance and the development of regional marketing. The development of regional tourism and the use of local economic potential is an essential tool for the creation of new forms of employment in the regions and achieving sustainable economic growth.

The regional road infrastructure is considered as a priority of national and regional significance. Investments will be directed to first class, second class (non-TEN-T) and tertiary roads. Road sections of national and regional importance will be funded, based on the Road Strategy until 2020 and the methodology for prioritization developed by the Road Infrastructure Agency.

OPRG will support also a sectoral priority axis focused on risk prevention of landslides. Under the priority axis "Technical Assistance" the financial resource is aimed at strengthening and improving the administrative and institutional capacity of the Managing Authority and the beneficiaries for the successful management and implementation of the operational program "Regions in Growth".

During the next programming period the use of financial instruments will be further developed and upgraded. JESSICA type projects will be applied with regard to urban development and tourism, where it is planned to enlarge the territorial scope up to 67 cities in the country and to increase significantly the funds allocated for repayable investments under OPRG. This will expand greatly the potential opportunities for establishing public-private partnerships and for financing business initiatives with a social and economic impact and contribution to OPRG 2014-2020 objectives.

The results of the OPRG implementation are expected to have a positive impact on the processes of regional development in the country. They represent support for counteraction to the effects of the global financial and economic crisis. In this regard the programme is intended to overcome the lagging behind in the development of the Bulgarian regions, through investments, stimulating the generation of growth and jobs.



**Ministry of Regional Development  
DG Programming of Regional Development**

1303 Sofia,  
109 Todor Aleksandrov Blvd.  
tel: + 359 2 9405 439  
fax: +359 2 9405 383  
e-mail: oprd@mrrb.government.bg  
www.bgregio.eu  
www.mrrb.government.bg

**South Central Region Department, MRD**

4000 Plovdiv  
31 Bogomil Str., 4<sup>th</sup> floor  
tel.+ 359 32 / 630 238  
e-mail: jmollov@mrrb.government.bg

**North West Region Department, MRD**

3700 Vidin  
69A Tsar Simeon Veliki Str., 4<sup>th</sup> floor  
tel. +359 94 / 601 145  
e-mail: bvoycheva@mrrb.government.bg

**North East Region Department, MRD**

9000 Varna  
51 Preslav Str., 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
tel.+359 52 / 625 721  
e-mail: adoncheva@mrrb.government.bg

**North Central Region Department, MRD**

7000 Russe  
6 Svoboda Sq., 6<sup>th</sup> floor  
tel.+359 82 / 830 768  
e-mail: tkuleva@mrrb.government.bg

**South West Region Department, MRD**

1303 Sofia,  
109 Todor Aleksandrov Blvd.  
tel. +359 2 / 9405 539  
e-mail: igeorgieva@mrrb.government.bg

**South East Region Department, MRD**

8000 Burgas  
120 Stefan Stambolov Blvd., 5<sup>th</sup> floor  
tel. +359 56 / 810 427  
e-mail: n.nikolov@mrrb.government.bg



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