

**ANNEX**

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

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) No .../..**

**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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CCI	
Title	Operational Programme “Regions in Growth”2014-2020
Version	4
First year	2014
Last year	2020
Eligible from	2014
Eligible until	2023
EC decision number	
EC decision date	
MS amending decision number	
MS amending decision date	
MS amending decision entry into force date	
NUTS regions covered by the operational programme	North-West, North-East, North-central, South-East, South-Central, South-West

**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)<sup>1</sup>

**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**

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<sup>1</sup> 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).

- 1.1.1. 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.

*<1.1.1 type="S" maxlength="70 000" input="M">*

Operational Programme “Regions in growth” 2014-2020 is an integrated operational programme targeted at achieving the objectives of the urban policy of Bulgaria and contributing to the regional dimension of the sectoral policies of regional importance included in the Partnership agreement. The basic principle of the programme is the application of integrated territorial approach. The need of this approach results from the regional disparities between the Bulgarian and the average EU regions and from the advanced process of mono-centrism in the case of Sofia and the 6 big cities which in the long term leads to serious imbalances between different parts of the country, unused potential of the territory and increased migration towards the biggest centers and to other EU countries. The current territorial model is one of the main preconditions for the demographic crisis and the process of depopulation of the peripheral parts of the country. Therefore the model of moderate polycentrism, defined in the National Spatial Development Concept 2012-2025 (NSDC) and the Regional Development Plans (RDP) will be supported. The model defines a spatial policy which stimulates the main centers of growth at regional level – one city from 1<sup>st</sup> hierarchical level and 9 cities from 2 hierarchical level, support for 31 medium sized cities which act as balancers at NUTS 2 level, and 28 small and medium sized cities, which act as supporting centers at NUTS 3 level.

The programme contains one integrated priority axis dedicated to sustainable and integrated urban development and several sectoral priority axes, following the thematic concentration established in the Partnership Agreement. The investments under the integrated priority axis will be implemented on the basis of 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 support for the sectoral policies of regional importance will be implemented through the sectoral priority axis on the whole territory of the country and will be based on predefined projects – a limited number of preliminary defined projects prioritized in compliance with the national strategic documents.

An integrated approach is also applied between the integrated and the sectoral priority axes. In most cases the territorial focus of the sectoral policies is concentrated in the network of cities for support under OPRG. This is due to the concentration of population and public services exactly in those cities. This is well evidenced in the socio-economic analyses for the needs of the OPRG as well

as in the NSDC.

Therefore the investments under the sectoral priority axes are seen as complementary with regard to the sustainable urban development. On the other hand the sectoral policies (healthcare, social services, education etc.) are from national and regional importance and the investments will be done in compliance with corresponding national strategies and methodologies for prioritization, while the objects for support under the urban development priority axis are mainly of local importance and their prioritization is in compliances with the vision for development of the cities in the IPURD and with the opinion of the local communities.

The synergy between the two approaches is achieved in the framework of the IPURD where the municipalities have the opportunity to include different projects with corresponding source of financing including from the sectoral policies axes of OPRG. The projects included in IPURD are evaluated by an interministerial evaluation committee comprising members from the Ministry of Regional Development, Ministry of Environment and Waters, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of Economy and Energy, Ministry of Education, which assessed whether applicable sectoral policies have been taken into account.

In relation to the above the IPURD includes also projects of regional and local importance with an identified source of funding which could be a sectoral priority of OP “Regions in Growth”, other operational program, and other national, municipal or private sources.

Based upon the experience of the current programming period, financial instruments will be used, to fund investments in sports infrastructure, energy efficiency in residential buildings, cultural infrastructure, as well as in areas with potential for economic development, urban environment and integrated urban public transport.

**Achieving growth and ensuring employment** – the approach of OPRG 2014–2020, is based on the best practices of the current programming period and builds upon while trying to avoid the mistakes of the past. The measures for support envisaged in the respective sectors at regional level will directly or indirectly support, on the one hand, the reduction of unemployment and the increase in employment and, on the other, the achievement of economic growth in accordance with the goals of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

OPRG 2014-2020 follows the main findings of the mid-term evaluation of Operational programme “Regional Development 2007–2013, according to which the results of the implementation of the programme have a positive impact on the processes of regional development in Bulgaria, supporting the efforts to mitigate the impact of the global financial crisis primarily in 3 aspects: first of all, on the quality of life and on reducing internal migration; second, as a source of investment funds for the municipalities, and third, by creating a market for the local construction industry, which is among the worst hit by the crisis. Although indirectly, it also had a positive impact on the tourism and energy sectors.

The key financial resource under OPRG (around 60%) is focused on supporting the development of the 67 cities selected as specific beneficiaries under Priority Axis 1 “Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development” of the Programme. The

analyses of the Ministry of Regional Development, as the competent authority with respect to regional policy, show that this policy should be directed to support the development of urban centres as the engines of growth, with the purpose of improving the quality of life, increasing competitiveness and, as the ultimate result, achieving the average levels of development at European level. Cities can contribute to inclusive growth and, more specifically, to the fight against social polarisation and poverty, to addressing the problems arising from the ageing of the population; they can become attractive places to live in, providing alternative employment and new jobs; they can help minimise or eliminate negative demographic trends by reducing migration to the big cities, creating evenly distributed support centres throughout the territory of the country.

Analyses show that the economic crisis is placing enormous pressure on public budgets, whereas declining levels of lending limit 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 tangible fixed assets is among the main factors for the decline in private investment and, hence, growth and employment. JESSICA-type investments 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.

In this context, 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 current programming period, for the purpose of attaining additional growth and ensuring employment. About 16,5% of the budget of OPRG is earmarked for implementation of projects through financial instruments.

The OPRG is designed to address the most pressing infrastructural needs identified in the most important national strategic documents and to contribute to the achievement of their objectives and priorities as follows:

**Compliance with Europe 2020: National Reform Programme:**

The National Reform Programme of the Republic of Bulgaria was prepared in accordance with the Europe 2020 Strategy and in compliance with the new tool for better coordination of the economic policies within the European Union, the so called “European semester”. The programme is closely related to the Convergence Programme of the Republic of Bulgaria (2012–2015) and addresses directly the recommendations in the conclusions of the Annual Growth Survey Report of the European Commission (EC). Bulgaria defines the following priority areas to be targeted by the economic policy: better infrastructure with accessible services and connectivity, competitive youth including incentives for young people to find realisation in Bulgaria, better business environment and greater trust in government institutions. These priority areas are grouped together in accordance with the priorities of the Europe 2020 Strategy, namely: smart, inclusive and sustainable growth.

OPRG 2014–2020 was drafted in accordance with the National Reform

Programme and is targeted at the factors for sustainable economic growth identified in its 2012 update and namely **Growth Factor (GF) 3: “Business Environment and Enhancing the Administrative Efficiency”** and **GF 5: “Infrastructure for improving access to the Single European Market”**. They are addressed by the measures in support of strengthening and increasing the administrative capacity of the Programme beneficiaries, the measures implemented through financial engineering and the “Regional Tourism” priority, the measures to improve the basic infrastructure, including road, healthcare, social, cultural, and support for sustainable and integrated urban development. In this regard the main focus of OPRG is the sustainable and integrated urban development supported under the integrated Priority Axis combining several investment priorities and aiming at overall improvement of the urban infrastructure and environment to promote growth and employment.

OPRG 2014-2020 is designed to answer to the most pressing needs of the country and to contribute to the fulfilment of the country-specific recommendations of the Council and of the national targets under Europe 2020 Strategy.

As one of the main problems of Bulgaria is the energy efficiency it stays also in the focus of OPRG through the devoted investment priority for energy efficiency and renewable energy use in public buildings and in the housing sector under Priority Axis 1 which is directed to the Country-specific Recommendation (CSR) **7 “Step up efforts to improve energy efficiency”** as well as to National Target (NT) **3 Climate-Energy: “Achieving a 16% share of renewable energy sources in the gross final consumption of energy and increasing the energy efficiency by 25% by 2020”**. Direct contribution to Climate-Energy targets in regard to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the improvement of energy efficiency will have the investments in sustainable urban mobility through measures to improve integrated urban transport and promoting alternative forms of transportation. In addition Priority Axis 6 “Regional Road Infrastructure” contributes to achieving the goals for environmental protection and efficient resource management policies by improving the fuel efficiency of road vehicles and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Bulgaria is one of the countries with the highest poverty rates, which leads also to high levels of social exclusion. Therefore OPRG addresses the **CRS 3 “Ensure concrete delivery of the National Strategies on Poverty and Roma integration. Improve the accessibility and effectiveness of social transfers and services, in particular for children and older people.”** and **NT 5 “Reduce the number of people in poverty”** by providing social housing for vulnerable groups and improving access and quality of social services. The measures for social, cultural and sport infrastructure within Priority axis 1 “Sustainable and integrated urban development” are designed to underpin the deliveries of the National Strategies on Poverty and Roma integration and to promote social inclusion. The devoted priority axis for regional social infrastructure is intended to support the process of deinstitutionalisation and improve effectiveness of social services for children and older people.

On its turn the priority axis for regional health infrastructure also directly contributes to the attainment of the **national target on poverty** by ensuring that healthcare services are accessible and of a high standard, thus counteracting the effects of poverty and social exclusion. The interventions in health infrastructure

are also in correspondence **with CRS 4 “Ensure effective access to healthcare”**.

OPRG aims at the fulfilment of the same CRS 4 in its part **“Improve access to inclusive education for disadvantaged children, in particular Roma”** with the measures for education infrastructure under the integrated priority axis 1: concentrating the support within the intervention zones of Integrated Plans for Urban Regeneration and Development of the beneficiary cities contributes directly towards the implementation of the recommendation, since the social intervention zones often contain concentrations of disadvantaged groups – people living in poverty, Roma or other minorities. The interventions in educational infrastructure in cities and those in regional educational infrastructure are intended to contribute to the national target on education (NT 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”** by improving the quality of educational institutions and hence of the training process, enabling full-time education and extracurricular activities and an all-round increase of the motivation of pupils and students by means of an improved learning environment.

The strategy of OPRG is aiming at promotion of growth and jobs by improving business environment and connectivity and enhancing local potential. In this regard the measures for development of regional tourism, improving the road infrastructure and urban environment, including zones with potential for economic development are contributing to the Priority **“Promoting growth and competitiveness for today and tomorrow”** of the Annual Growth Survey. These investments are aimed also at NT 1 **“Employment”** as the promotion of regional tourism results in increased number of tourists in the relevant regions which creates opportunities for improving the well-being of these regions by stimulating the economic activity of local businesses in the services sphere and encouraging the development of creative industries. This provides opportunities both for more jobs and for new forms of employment. Better road infrastructure ensures better connectivity and access to the Single Market and improves the mobility at local and regional level. The quality of urban environment and the availability of appropriate business infrastructure supported under OPRG is an essential factor counteracting the negative demographic trends, keeping the young and educated people in the regions and attracting investments.

In addition, by the use of financial instruments under priority axes “Sustainable and Integrated Urban development” and “Regional Tourism” a substantial contribution to the fulfilment of AGS Priority 2 “Restoring normal lending to the economy” is expected.

**Compliance with the National Development Programme Bulgaria 2020 (NDP Bulgaria 2020):**

The National Development Programme Bulgaria 2020 is a framework document which defines the vision and the general long-term objectives of all national policies for a period of 10 years for all sectors of the state governance, including their territorial dimensions. NDP Bulgaria 2020 provides the foundation for drafting all strategic documents and/or programmes pertinent to the implementation of community policies during the next programming period.

The activities identified for support under OP “Regions in Growth” are directly aimed at achieving the goals of Priority 3 of NRP Bulgaria 2020: “Achieving

sustainable integrated regional development and use of local potential” and, specifically, the following sub-priorities:

- Sub-priority 3.2: “Stimulating the development of cities and improving the integration of the Bulgarian regions at national level”. The objectives of this sub-priority will be achieved through integrated investment under OPRG within the framework of Priority Axis 1 “Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development” through the implementation of IPURDs and with respect to improving connectivity and accessibility of the network of cities and cultural and natural heritage sites with the TEN-T Network by funding 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> class roads outside the TEN-T under Priority Axis 6 “Regional Road Infrastructure”.
- 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”. OPRG will contribute to the achievement of the objectives of this sub-priority through support within the framework of Priority Axis 5 “Regional Tourism” for the performance of activities in the field of conservation, promotion and development of cultural and natural heritage of national and global significance.
- Sub-priority 3.5 “Creating conditions for the conservation and improvement of the environment in the regions, adapting to the advancing climate change and achieving sustainable and efficient use of natural resources”. The achievement of the objectives of this sub-priority will be supported under investment priority 1 of Priority Axis 7: “Promoting investments to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management system”.

In addition, the Operational Programme will also support the regional dimension of some sectoral policies included in the sectoral priorities of the National Development Programme Bulgaria 2020, namely:

- Priority No. 1: “Improving access to and enhancing the quality of education and training and the qualitative characteristics of workforce” – with respect to the healthcare and educational infrastructure of regional significance, through Priority Axes “Regional Education Infrastructure” and “Regional Health Infrastructure”.
- Priority No. 2: “Reducing poverty and promoting social inclusion” – with respect to the social infrastructure of regional significance, through measures under Priority Axis 4 “Regional social infrastructure”.
- Priority No. 7: “Building an adequate energy infrastructure, support for increased energy efficiency and reducing energy dependency” – with respect to energy efficiency in residential and student dormitory buildings as well as public administrative buildings, through activities under Investment Priority 1 of Priority Axis 1 “Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructures, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector”.

**Compliance with the National Regional Development Strategy 2012–2022:**

The National Regional Development Strategy (NRDS) for the period 2012–2022



is the fundamental document defining the strategic framework of the government policy for attaining balanced and sustainable development of the country's regions and for overcoming the intra and interregional disparities in the context of the common European policy of cohesion and achieving smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. NRDS sets the long-term goals and priorities of the regional development policy, which is integral in nature, enables coordination of the sectoral policies in the relevant territory and supports their synchronising.

NRDS plays an important role for achieving compliance and synergy between the goals and priorities of the regional development policy and the sectoral policies and strategies, which contribute to the balanced development of the regions.

The key strategic goal of NRDS is to achieve sustainable integrated regional development based on the utilization of local potential and cohesion between the regions in an economic, social and territorial aspect.

OPRG will contribute mostly to the following strategic objectives:

**Strategic Objective No. 1:** “Economic cohesion at European, national and intra-regional level by developing the own potential of the regions and environmental protection”;

Investment Priority 2 of Priority Axis 1 “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” of OPRG directly addresses Specific objective No. 1: “Stimulating the economic development of the NUTS 2 regions by improving the access to the industrial zones and their infrastructure” under NRDS Priority 1.1: “Activation of the specific potential of the regional and local economies by supporting and enhancing the competitiveness of the small and medium business”. This will be achieved by supporting the intervention zones with potential for economic development within the framework of IPURDs.

Investment Priority 4 of Priority Axis 1 in its part for promotion of social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and Priority axis 5 “Regional tourism” of OPRG 2014–2020 directly address sub-priority 1.2 of NRDS “Development of sustainable forms of tourism and cultural and creative industries in the regions”. The need to utilise the significant local potential is taken into account: immovable cultural assets, natural resources and landmarks, suitable climate conditions, landscapes, which remain underutilised, especially in areas remote from the Black Sea coast and the major winter mountain resorts of Bulgaria. OPRG will support the development of cultural infrastructure through construction, reconstruction, renovation, refurbishment and equipment of, for example, cultural centres, theatres, community centres, libraries, museums, exhibition halls and other cultural sites, as well as conservation, promotion and development of the cultural heritage of national and world significance.

**Strategic Objective No. 2:** “Social cohesion and reduction of the regional disparities in the social sphere by creating conditions for development of the human capital”;

Priorities 2, 3 and 4 of OPRG 2014–2020 directly address the fulfilment of the objectives of Priority 2.1. Improvement of the access to education, health, social

and cultural services and development of sports infrastructure in the regions covered by the NRDS. OPRG activities targeted at achieving the objectives and attaining the strategic goal and priority involve interventions in the regional health, education and social infrastructure, including deinstitutionalisation and support for colleges and universities.

**Strategic Objective No. 4:** “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”.

OPRG 2014–2020 Priority Axis 1 will have a direct positive impact on the fulfilment of Priority 4.1. Integrated sustainable urban development and strengthening the polycentric network of cities covered by the NRDS. OPRG 2014–2020 contributes to the model of moderate polycentrism developed by NRDS.

In addition the OPRG Priority “Regional Road Infrastructure” will contribute to the fulfilment of Priority 4.2. “Improving the connectivity of the regions, nationally and internationally, including the major urban centres in the neighbouring countries”, while special attention is paid to Specific Objective 2: “Improving the transport connectivity at national level by the development of the road infrastructure with regional importance”, and Specific Objective 3: “Developing the relations “city-region” and improving the access to cultural and historical values, the logistics centres, the places of recreation and tourism, the industrial and business zones in the regions”.

#### **Compliance with the EU Territorial Agenda 2020:**

The Territorial Agenda of the European Union 2020 emphasises the following priorities with relevance to urban development:

- Promoting the polycentric and balanced territorial development by placing an emphasis on polycentric development at national and regional level. A significant role is assigned to small and medium-sized cities at regional level; at the same time, any polarization between them and the larger cities must be avoided;
- Promoting integrated development in urban, rural and specific areas – by applying an integrated approach at many levels in the regeneration and development of urban areas.
- Ensuring regional competitiveness in the global market by means of strong local economies, including the utilisation of characteristic local assets, human capital, strategies, and other activities;
- Strengthening the relations between urban and rural areas at all levels, through improved accessibility and job opportunities;
- Improving the territorial connectivity between individuals, municipalities and businesses – this takes into consideration the importance of connectivity with respect to secondary networks, particularly at regional and municipal level; the accessibility of urban centres, especially those located in peripheral areas, is encouraged.
- Management and interlinking of the environmental, landscape and cultural

assets of the regions – the conservation and valorisation of the cultural and natural heritage are regarded as important prerequisites for sustainable development. In this sense, OPRG supports the conservation, rehabilitation and utilisation of Bulgaria’s cultural heritage.

The logic of interventions under OPRG 2014–2020 is in compliance with the EU Territorial Agenda 2020 respecting the key concept and guidelines of this document. OPRG aims at encouraging the polycentric development of the network of cities in Bulgaria by focusing on the so-called growth engines: cities of level 1, 2 and 3, while at the same time taking into account the importance of part of the 4<sup>th</sup> level cities, namely the ones which are important support centres at NUTS 3 level due to the public services they provide for the surrounding municipalities and their strategic geographical position.

The cultural and natural heritage is recognized as an important territorial feature and a factor for encouraging the specific local economic potential and protection of the environment.

Special attention is given to regional accessibility and secondary road network providing access to the cities and promoting urban-rural cooperation, as well as providing access of the regions to the Single European Market.

**Compliance with the National Spatial Development Concept for the period 2013–2025 (NSDC):**

The National Spatial Development Concept is a document 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 the Republic of Bulgaria for the period 2014–2020.

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 will provide the basis for outlining the territorial dimension of the investments planned under OPRG during the 2014–2020 period.

NSDC identifies a range of cities eligible for support under OPRG, to become the target of a consistent government urban development policy, as well as the model and vision for spatial development over a time horizon till 2025-2030.

In this context, OPRG directly addresses the goals of the defined functional and hierarchical structure of the network of urban centres, growth poles and development axes in Bulgaria, as proposed by the NSDC, while differentiating the interventions for urban development depending on the significance and role of each city.

In addition, OPRG investments, including in urban development, regional tourism, sectoral policies of regional importance, and road infrastructure, will contribute to the model of moderate polycentrism, identified in the Concept, as

most appropriate for Bulgaria. The general trend is to enable a shift from monocentrism to moderate polycentrism.

OPRG interventions will contribute to the development of key elements of the national territory and the infrastructure network. The Concept identifies and visualises on the map of Bulgaria and at NUTS 2 level the needs in the road and transportation sector, the water sector, social infrastructure (health, cultural, educational and social), as well as cultural and historical heritage.

#### **Compliance with the EU Strategy for the Danube Region:**

Bulgaria is a coordinator of priority area 3 “To promote culture and tourism, people to people contacts”. In this sense under Priority Axis 5 “Regional Tourism” of OPRG 2014–2020 support is envisaged for conservation and promotion of cultural heritage of national and world significance.

OPRG will contribute to the targets of the priority area coordinated by Bulgaria and to the Danube Strategy as a whole, through creation of complete tourist products based on the most popular cultural sites in the Danube regions.

By supporting the development of Level 2 cities in the North-Western and North Central Region in the implementation of integrated projects of urban development and through the other priority axes, OPRG will indirectly contribute to the achievement of the other targets and priorities of the Danube Strategy, as follows:

- Under Priority Axis 1: “Improving mobility and multimodality”, with investments under OPRG Priority Axis 6 “Regional Road Infrastructure”.
- Under Priority Axis 6: “Conservation of biological diversity, landscapes and the air and soil quality”, through interventions under OPRG Priority Axis 1 “Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development”.
- Under Priority Axis 7: “Promoting a knowledge-based society (scientific research, education and ICT)”, through support under OPRG Priority Axis 1 “Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development” and Priority Axis 2 “Regional Education Infrastructure”.

#### **Compliance with the Regional Development Plans at NUTS 2 level:**

Taking into account the territorial dimension, the strategic framework of the Regional development plans sets a special priority for urban development through the implementation of a model for moderate polycentric development of the network of cities, based on the National Spatial Development Concept 2013-2025 and taking into account the expectations of the Integrated Plans for Urban Regeneration and Development (IPURD) in the region. The Regional plans give a significant contribution to the cities for the achievement of employment and growth through increase of the competitiveness and balanced development of the network of urban centers, implementation of long-term plans for urban regeneration and development, social cohesion and development of the knowledge society.

All 6 plans focus on the 4th level cities as support centers at district level and highly estimate their impact for the stabilizing of the demographic and migration processes. The regions envisage cities from that level to provide to the neighbouring smaller municipalities and rural territories services in the sphere of

healthcare, education, culture and also commercial and public services.

The Regional plans take into account the common key necessities, the potential for development on the basis of the IPURDs and are consistent with the specificities of the regions - for example, specific measures for industrial areas (North-Central), specific measures for urban environment, supporting maritime tourism (North-Eats), social inclusion measures, supporting specialization in certain sectors etc.

Based on the regional specifics RPD put different focus on energy efficiency, educational infrastructure, health, cultural and social infrastructure.

The support for the provision of modern social housing for marginalized groups, including Roma, is with a strong focus in regions with significant number of disadvantaged population such as North-western, North Central, South-eastern and South Central regions mainly in the medium sized cities. About the sport infrastructure there are specific measures identified for the modernization of sport facilities for professional and amateur sport in the cities with traditions and well-developed sport potential such as the Palace of Culture and Sports in Varna (North-eastern region).

The general needs for the improvement of the urban environment are outlined. This is highlighted as a main factor for the creation of favourable conditions for the preservation and development of the demographic and economic potential of the cities. Specific measures are formulated for the support of urban environment related to the development of the tourism in North-eastern and South-eastern regions. Specific measures for the development of economic zones are identified in all plans in compliance with the production and territorial potential.

Thus the urban priority of OP “Regions in Growth”2014-2020 will directly target the identified needs within the urban dimension and the development of polycentric territorial structure in the Regional Development Plans

In order to assess objectives’ and priorities’ implementation, RDPs system of indicators for monitoring and evaluation has been defined, including general and specific quantitative indicators:

Selected specific quantitative indicators for observation track and monitor the progress achieved in meeting the specific objectives and priorities for the development of the different regions.

Based on the information and the data related to the application of the indicators’ system, an annual report on monitoring the implementation of the Regional Development Plan is prepared, which covers one calendar year of operation of the Regional Development Plan.

RDPs’ implementation is observed at the regional level within the Regional Development Councils, including governors, mayors and socio-economic partners and representatives of the central administration.

Within the Regional Development Plans’ monitoring system the impact of the moderate polycentric model and the cities as supporting centers will be monitored and reported.

#### **Compliance with the local planning documents**

The municipal development plan determines the objectives and priorities of the development of the municipality for the period 2014-2020, as well as the financial resources for its realisation. The municipal development plan is developed in compliance with the prognoses of the district development strategy. It is developed for a seven years period. As a plan covering the whole municipal territory, it defines the functional links of the municipal centre and the surrounding territory.

The spatial development plans are of two types: general spatial development plans (master plans) and detailed spatial development plans.

The general spatial development plans (master plans) determine the prevailing designation and way of spatial structure of the separate structural parts of the territories covered by the plan, while the detailed spatial development plans determine the concrete designation and development of the separate landed properties covered by the plan.

The general spatial development plans (Master Plans) constitute a basis of the general spatial planning of the territories of the municipalities and parts of them or separate territories belonging to settlements. The provisions of the general spatial development plans, which determine the general structure and the prevailing designation of the territories, the kind and the designation of the technical infrastructure and the protection of environment and the sites of cultural heritage, are obligatory at preparing the detailed spatial plans. The general spatial development plan does not have direct application for permitting a construction.

The Urban Master Plan defines:

- main structure of the territory – housing, industrial, green areas, public service areas, areas of cultural heritage, derelict sites, etc.
- main regulations for spatial development;
- territories with public property;
- aesthetic requirements for the construction of the territory;
- requirements for the accessibility for people with disabilities;
- territories threatened by natural risks;

The detailed spatial development plans specify the development and the building in the settlements and on their territories as well as in the settlement formations. The detailed spatial development plan is to determine the structure of the territory, the development zones and territories with development regime and the concrete designation of each landed property. The provisions of the detailed plans are compulsory for the investment designs. The detailed spatial development plan is to be accompanied by plans for vertical planning, plans - schemes of the communication - transport network, water supply, sewerage, electricity supply and if necessary - green systems, geologic investigations, heat supply, gas supply, telecommunications etc., which are integral part of it.

Taking into account the fact that Bulgarian municipalities are among the largest by territory in the EU, that the municipal development plan is a broader planning document, which include all the identified needs in the municipality, which could not ensure enough focus and concentration of the envisaged investment on the

one hand, and that the Urban Master Plans are static documents, which define the types of territories, but do not include an investment programme on the other hand, the Regional Development Act provides for the development of Integrated plans for sustainable urban development and regeneration in accordance with methodological guidelines issued by the Minister of regional development.

An IPURD is an aggregation of spatially and timely interrelated projects, actions and investment intentions implemented in certain urban intervention zones in cities. It integrates policies and pools together diverse stakeholders for the joint implementation of these, while at the same time contributing to the realization of the vision and strategy for the development of the relevant urban area, resp. the concrete priorities of such development as determined in the currently valid strategic documents.

### **Compliance with the Partnership Agreement (PA):**

As OPRG 2014–2020 is a regionally and territorially oriented programme, it has contribution to all sectoral priorities of the Partnership agreement with regards to their territorial and regional dimension.

as follows:

- Priority 1 of the Partnership Agreement, “Education, employment, social inclusion and healthcare for inclusive growth” regarding there of its sub-priorities: “Social inclusion”, “Healthcare” and “Education, training and lifelong learning”.

OPRG targets the social inclusion and healthcare by the means of the investments in the framework of IPURD focused on social, cultural and sport infrastructure, as well as by the sectoral priority axes for regional health and social infrastructure. Serious challenge is the health reform which defines the strategic objectives and priorities, including the objects to be financed under OPRG. The process of deinstitutionalisation which started under the 2007-2013 period will also remain in focus.

As regards the “Education, training and lifelong learning” sub-priority, it is addressed by OPRG on the one hand through the investments under the sectoral priority axis “Regional education infrastructure” and, on the other hand, with a focus on the local needs, identified in the frameworks of IPURD.

- Priority 3: “Connectivity and green economy for sustainable growth” – the investments under OPRG contribute to each of the sub-priorities

Subpriority “Connectivity (internal and external) is addressed mainly by the means of priority axis for development of regional road infrastructure. Sub-priority “Transition to low-carbon economy, energy and resource efficiency” is in the focus of the measures for energy efficiency in public buildings and in the housing sector as well as of the investments in integrated urban transport. In the frameworks of sub-priority “Climate and climate changes, risk prevention and risk management” OPRG will support the prevention of the risk of landslides. The contribution to sub-priority “Environment and protection of natural richness and cultural and historical heritage” is realised mainly by the interventions under Priority Axis “Regional tourism”.

OPRG will address the key challenges and the needs and necessities identified in

the PA analysis and thus will contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy, as follows:

- Deepening disparities between the level of development of the regions of Bulgaria and the remaining regions in the EU;
- Depopulation of vast parts of the territory.

OPRG 2014–2020 directly addresses that challenge by ensuring sustainable and balanced growth of the Bulgarian regions by means of providing strong support for integrated urban development. The model of moderate polycentric development of the network of Bulgarian cities enables the use of the potential of the cities as engines of growth at both regional and district level. A polycentric network of cities, unlike the emerging monocentric pattern toward Sofia and the major cities will enable a balanced distribution of growth factors across the national territory. “Moderate polycentric” urban development model will be a key tool for reducing the negative demographic processes in smaller settlements and in terms of external migration. In the context of the national policy to tackle demographic crisis and negative demographic trends, along with the process of depopulation of middle-sized and smaller-sized settlements and increased migration to urban centers and abroad, the proposed within OPRG polycentric urban development model is expected to overcome the observed negative trends.

- Insufficient share of employed persons (aged 20–64);
- Insufficient economic activity of population groups (young people, the elderly, women);
- The poorest country in Europe;

OPRG 2014–2020 will address the challenges referred to above through the measures for support of areas with potential for economic development under Investment Priority 2 of Priority Axis 1, as well as through Priority Axis 5 “Regional Tourism”, which have the biggest potential to enable job creation and encourage economic activity in the regions.

A significant role for achieving a balanced economic growth and tackling poverty will play the Investment Priority 4 of Priority Axis 1, which provides social housing for vulnerable groups of the population, as well as Priority Axis 4 “Regional Social Infrastructure”.

- Substandard education system, increased illiteracy and a growing truancy and drop-out rates;
- Low share of higher education graduates;

This challenge will be addressed through support for the educational infrastructure under Investment Priority 3 of Priority Axis 1, and Priority Axis 2 of OPRG 2014–2020.

- Poor health and demographic characteristics, health inequalities and inefficient health sector;
- One of the highest standardised mortality rates from all causes;

With respect to the last two challenges referred to above, as identified in the PA, support under OPRG will be focused on investments under Priority Axis 3



“Regional Health Infrastructure”.

- Inefficient use of resources and energy;

To address the issue of inefficient use of energy and resources, OPRG will provide support for the implementation of energy efficiency measures in multifamily residential buildings, student dormitories and administrative buildings of the government and municipal administrations under Priority Axis 1 “Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development”, as well as for conservation, promotion and development of the cultural heritage of national and global significance within the framework of Priority Axis 5 “Regional Tourism”.

- Limited internal and external connectivity – support for improving transport connectivity and access to markets by funding 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> class roads outside TEN-T that provide connections within the network of cities and the cultural and natural heritage sites.

Inefficient systems of risk prevention and management and of addressing the consequences of the risk impact – this challenge will be addressed through Priority Axis 7 “Risk Prevention”, with respect to the risk of landslides.

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
<p><b>Thematic objective 4:</b> Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors</p>	<p>c) Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector</p> <p>e) Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieving the objectives of Strategic Priority “Connectivity and green economy for sustainable growth”, sub-priority Urban development of the Partnership Agreement.</li> <li>• 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”;</li> <li>• Implementing Country-specific Recommendation 7 of the Council with respect to increasing energy efficiency;</li> </ul>

	territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multi-modal urban mobility and mitigation relevant adaptation measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct contribution to the fulfilment of Sub-priority 7.2 “Increasing energy efficiency”, and Sub-priority 3.2 “Stimulating the development of cities and improving the integration of the Bulgarian regions nationwide”, in terms of development of integrated urban transport and introducing modern forms of its management, of NDP Bulgaria 2020.</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Needs identified in NDP Bulgaria 2020: The ongoing process of urbanisation is likely to bring 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.</li> </ul>
<b>Thematic objective 5:</b> Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management	Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributing to sub-priority “Climate and climate change, risk prevention and management” of the Partnership Agreement.</li> <li>• Direct contribution to the fulfilment of Sub-priority 3.5. “Creating conditions for the conservation and improvement of the environment in the regions, adapting to the advancing climate change and achieving sustainable and efficient use of natural resources” of NDP Bulgaria 2020.</li> </ul>
<b>Thematic objective 6:</b> Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	<p>c) Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage.</p> <p>f) Taking action to improve the urban environment, to revitalise cities, regenerate and decontaminate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributing to the objectives of sub-priority “Environment and protection of natural richness and cultural and historic heritage” OF THE Partnership Agreement and its approach towards sustainable urban development and for coping with the demographic challenges of the regions.</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>

	<p>brownfield sites (including conversion areas), reduce air pollution and promote noise-reduction measures.</p>	<p>implemented under OPRD 2007–2013.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In accordance with Priority “Promoting growth and competitiveness for today and tomorrow” of the Annual Growth Survey and the measures aiming at increasing the competitiveness under the National reform programme: the development of tourism contributes for increasing the economic activity, development of cultural industries and revitalizing the local communities. Increased attractiveness and better business conditions are ensured by the investment in urban environment.</li> <li>• Aimed at the achievement of NT 1 of NRP 2020: “Reaching 76% employment of the population aged 20–64 by 2020”, through development of cultural tourism.</li> <li>• In accordance with Priority 3: “Achieving sustainable integrated regional development and utilising the local potential” of NDP Bulgaria 2020, specifically Sub-priority 3.2: “Stimulating the development of cities and improving the integration of the Bulgarian regions nationwide” and 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”;</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p>Needs identified in NDP Bulgaria 2020: At present the Bulgarian tourist product is dominated by seaside recreational and ski tourism, which develop as forms of mass tourism with all the negative consequences it brings. At the same time, due to the natural and historical diversity of its territory, Bulgaria has a significant potential to develop both mass tourism and alternative forms of tourism. The development of a sustainable tourist industry contributes to the development of other sectors of the national economy (more specifically, of trade, transport, communications, agriculture, the manufacturing of consumer goods, etc.), to the diversification of economic activities in less developed regions, and to raising the social and economic well-being of the population and the living standards.</p>
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<p><b>Thematic objective 7:</b> “Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures”</p>	<p>Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieving the objectives of sub-priority “Internal and external connectivity” of the Partnership Agreement.</li> <li>• In accordance with the growth factor “Infrastructure for improving access to the Single European Market” and measures for increasing competitiveness of NRP as well as Priority “Promoting growth and competitiveness for today and tomorrow” of the Annual Growth Survey.</li> <li>• In accordance with Sub-priority 8.6 “Improving the connectivity of the regions, nationally and internationally, including the major urban centres in the neighbouring countries” of NDP Bulgaria 2020.</li> <li>• 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 2012–2020.</li> <li>• 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Thematic objective 9:</b> “Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty any discrimination”</p>	<p>“Investment 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 transition from institutional to community-based</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieving the objectives of subpriorities “Social inclusion” and “Healthcare of the Partnership Agreement.</li> <li>• In accordance with CSR 3: “Ensure concrete delivery of the National Strategies on Poverty and Roma integration. Improve the accessibility and effectiveness of social transfers and services, in particular for children and elderly people” and CSR 4 “Ensure effective access to healthcare”.</li> <li>• In accordance with Strategic Objective 2: “Social cohesion and reducing intra-regional disparities in the social area and developing the human capital” of the National Regional Development Strategy 2012–2020.</li> <li>• Lack of adequate living conditions for marginalised groups, including Roma.</li> <li>• The need to continue the process of deinstitutionalisation of social services for</li> </ul>

	services”	children and elderly people.
<b>Thematic objective 10:</b> “Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning by developing education and training infrastructure”	“Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning by developing education and training infrastructure”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieving the objectives of PA Sub-priority “Education, training and life-long learning”.</li> <li>• 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”, and the growth factor: “Infrastructure to improve the access to the single market” of the National Reform Programme.</li> <li>• In accordance with CSR 4: “Improve access to inclusive education for disadvantaged children, in particular Roma”</li> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• 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 2012–2020.</li> <li>• Necessity to decrease the number of school drop-outs through infrastructural measures providing conditions for proper educational process, including for full-time schooling.</li> <li>• Raising the quality and competitiveness of higher education.</li> </ul>

## 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 (25,5 %) under the Operational Programme are focused on Thematic Objective 4, with 16,5% of the funds being earmarked for implementing energy efficiency measures in administrative and residential buildings, whereas 9% 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 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 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. It does not only seriously increase energy consumption but also widely uses coal and firewood, thus having a negative impact on the environment while raising carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere. The energy efficiency measure also addresses the implementation of Country-specific Recommendation 7 of the Council on increasing energy efficiency.

A substantial share of the resources (25%), 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 (Priority Axis 1) and developing the tourist potential of the regions (Priority Axis 5). Thus channelled, such assistance will not only make a substantial contribution to protecting the environment and encouraging the efficient use of resources (in this case, the natural and cultural heritage); 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. Improving the urban environment is a growth factor, a factor for demographic development, investments and, respectively, job creation. 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 using financial engineering instruments and it is expected that this will raise a substantial amount of private capital. The same applies also to investments in protection of cultural heritage sites, 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 18,74% 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 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. Support for the development of social and healthcare infrastructure also addresses the country-specific recommendations of the Council: "Strengthen efforts to enhance the quality of public spending, particularly in the health sector" and "To alleviate poverty, improve the effectiveness of social transfers and the access to quality social services for children and the elderly and implement the National Roma Integration Strategy". Social inclusion will also be supported through investments in cultural and sports infrastructure.

Investments in educational infrastructure (Thematic Objective 10), represent 13,98% of the

resources under OPRG 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. 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 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. Motivating pupils and creating a positive attitude to the educational system will, in the long run, contribute to increasing the share of university graduates among the population. Investments in schools of higher learning will likewise contribute to the attainment of this target.

Thematic Objective 7 amounts at 12.24% of the resources provided under OPRG, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 will focus the support on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> class roads providing access to areas with potential for tourism development or serving as intra-regional connections between cities, thus enabling the development of their 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 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.

The least resources are allocated to Thematic Objective 5, in view of the low potential for ensuring growth and employment.

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 <sup>2</sup> , Cohesion Fund, ESF <sup>3</sup> or, YEI) <sup>4</sup>	Union support <sup>5</sup> (EUR)	Proportion of total Union support for the operational programme <sup>6</sup>	Thematic objective <sup>7</sup>	Investment priorities <sup>8</sup>	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	788 914 739,90	58,40%	TO 4: Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	Investment Priority 1 of Priority Axis 1: 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	Reduction of final energy consumption from households
						Specific Objective 2: Raising energy efficiency in public buildings	Reduction of final energy consumption from public administration,

<sup>2</sup> European Regional Development Fund.

<sup>3</sup> European Social Fund.

<sup>4</sup> Youth Employment Initiative.

<sup>5</sup> Total Union support (including the main allocation and the performance reserve).

<sup>6</sup> Information by Fund and by priority axis.

<sup>7</sup> Title of thematic objective (not applicable to technical assistance).

<sup>8</sup> Title of investment priority (not applicable to technical assistance).



						commerce and services	
				TO 6: Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	Investment Priority 2 of Priority Axis 1: 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	Increased share of population benefitting from an improved urban environment
						Specific Objective 2: Improving investment activity in the cities through regeneration of zones with potential for economic development	Increased expenditures on acquisition of tangible fixed assets
				TO 10: Investing in education, skills and lifelong learning	Investment Priority 3 of Priority Axis 1: Investing in education, training, including vocational training for skills and lifelong learning by developing education and training infrastructure	Specific Objective 1: Improving conditions for modern educational services.	Increase of the share of modernized educational institutions
				TO 9: Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty	Investment priority 4 of priority axis 1: Investing in health and social infrastructure which contribute to national, regional and local development, reducing	Specific Objective 1: Improving the housing conditions for marginalised groups of the population including the roma	Increase of the representatives from marginalised groups, including roma, with improved housing conditions

					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 2: Improving conditions for modern social services	Increase of the share of modernized facilities for social services
						Specific Objective 3: Improving the conditions for sports for all and cultural life in cities	Increase of the share of modernized cultural/ sport objects
				TO 4: Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	Investment Priority 5 of Priority Axis 1: 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	Specific Objective 1: Improving the urban mobility	Increase of the travels (trips) with public urban transport
Priority axis 2.Regional educational infrastructure	ERDF	112 933 685,23	8,36%	TO 10: Investing in education, skills and lifelong learning	Investment Priority 1 of Priority Axis 2: Investing in education, skills and life-long learning by developing educational and training infrastructure	Specific Objective 1: Creating conditions for modern education services	Increase of the share of modernized regional educational institutions

Priority axis 3. Regional health infrastructure	ERDF	71 056 362,76	5,26%	TO 9: Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty	Investment Priority 1 of Priority Axis 3: 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 conditions for modern healthcare services	Increased share of modernized healthcare establishments
Priority axis 4. Regional social infrastructure	ERDF	43 228 204,87	3,20%	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	Specific Objective 2: Deinstitutionalization of social services	Decrease of the people in institutional social care

					community-based services.		
Priority axis 5. Regional tourism	ERDF	108 070 512,18	8,00%	TO 6: Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	Investment Priority 1 of Priority Axis 5: Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage;	Specific Objective 1: Increasing the tourist offer of cultural monuments of national and global significance	Increase of the net annual revenues from international tourism
						Specific Objective 2: Promoting the local economic potential and new forms of employment in the regions	Increase of the net annual revenues from international tourism
Priority axis 6. Regional road infrastructure	ERDF	165 347 884,63	12,24%	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 of the network of cities and sites of cultural and natural heritage with the TEN-T network	Value for time savings stemming from reconstructed roads for passengers and freight
Priority axis 7. Risk prevention	ERDF	16 750 929,39	1,24%	TO 5: Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention	Investment Priority 1 of Priority Axis 7: Promoting investments to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems	Specific Objective 1: Preventing the risk of landslides	Increased share of the population not at risk of landslides

				and management			
Priority axis 8. Technical assistance	ERDF	44 579 086,27	3,30%	n/a	n/a	Specific Objective: Strengthening and enhancing the administrative capacity of the Managing Authority and the beneficiaries of the Programme	

## 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" > <b>Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development</b>

<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">

The key theoretical approach perceived by the priority is as follows: If until recently states planned their development based on the assumption that strategic investments create jobs which attract people and thus generate development, now the logic is turning around: the

creation of an urban environment of a high quality, providing diverse opportunities for education, entertainment, sports, work and recreation keeps in place and attracts highly educated and properly qualified young people, which in turn attracts strategic investors.

The significance of cities and the need for targeted measures for sustainable and integrated urban development are recognised by the National Reform Programme 2012–2020, the National Development Programme Bulgaria 2020 and in the National Regional Development Strategy 2012–2022.

This is why the Operational Programme Regions in Growth 2014–2020 puts the highest priority on sustainable and integrated urban development. The priority covers a range of eligible investments, but the main purpose of this priority is to support integrated investments within the framework of Integrated Plans for Sustainable Urban Development, following the principles of thematic concentration, while also ensuring territorial concentration in the cities and even within the intervention zones of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> level cities.

The need to have an integrated priority axis derives from the fact that the IPURD is an aggregation of spatially and timely interrelated projects, actions and investment intentions implemented in certain urban intervention zones in the cities. It integrates policies and pools together diverse stakeholders for their joint implementation, while at the same time contributes to the realization of the vision and strategy for the development of the relevant urban area. IPURDs are intended to attain a lasting improvement of the economic, social and environmental condition of a given urban area, by way of integration of all activities in such a way as to ensure the interrelation between individual elements the kind of synergy where the plan would exceed the sum of the impacts of its constituent parts, if applied separately.

In practice IPURDs are the missing link between the Municipal Development Plans and the Urban Master Plans as they concentrate on a city and even part of a city and in the same time include clear investment planning with a time schedule and source of funding, thus ensuring prioritisation of needs. In addition IPURDs are largely discussed with the society. In this respect the IPURD is one of the instruments through which the Municipal Development Plan will be implemented.

IPURD includes targeted and problem analysis of the city, vision for development, and selection of intervention zones, time schedule and programme for realization, budget and indicators. For the zones which do not have up to date detailed spatial development plans it could include the development of such. Two of the main criteria for approval of IPURD include the following:

- IPURD must ensure compliance with actual strategic and planning documents and with those which are in a process of development. In that respect IPURD were the basis for development of the new municipal development plans for the period 2014-2020. The interministerial evaluation committee which evaluated the IPURDS, assessed their compliance with other relevant national strategies.
- An IPURD must ensure interconnectivity and where possible, contribute to the development of the regional links of the city within the territorial scope of its agglomeration area and in a wider territorial scope.

Therefore the Priority Axis addresses several thematic objectives and corresponding investment priorities at the same time, so as to enable the implementation of the IPURDs while achieving maximum integration of interventions in the territories of the relevant 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>	<b>Less Developed Regions</b>
<i>Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)</i>	<2A.9 type="S" input="S" "SME" > 928 134 986,94
<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" > <b>Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructures, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector.</b>
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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" > <b>Raising energy efficiency in the housing sector</b>
<i>The results that the Member State seeks to achieve with Union support</i>	<2A.1.3 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M" "SME" > Bulgaria has set an ambitious national target with respect to the parameters of energy efficiency it seeks to achieve, namely 25% higher energy efficiency by 2020. This is due to the extremely low current level of energy efficiency, especially in households and administrative buildings, and the big social and economic potential of investments in energy efficiency. The social and economic analysis performed in the preparation of OPRG 2014–2020 shows that the key problem in public infrastructure is related



to energy efficiency. This is also a problem for a great portion of the residential buildings falling within the scope of the intervention zones, as well as for student dormitory buildings.

The National Housing Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria considers the needs of the housing sector in the country. Among the most pressing needs appears to be its low energy efficiency. According to data presented in the Strategy, the external enclosing elements of buildings have actual coefficients of thermal conductivity that are 3–5 times higher than the current norms for new construction, introduced in 1999. In 80 percent of the existing buildings the basements and roof slabs have no thermal insulation whatsoever. The poor thermal insulation of external enclosures is the cause for increased heat losses. Heat losses from glazed surfaces (windows, all-glass balcony doors) sometimes account for 50% of the total heat loss.

The biggest problems have been identified in apartment buildings constructed from large pre-fabricated slabs; there are 18 900 such buildings in Bulgaria. These buildings comprise a total of 707,441 housing units, occupied by over 1,77 million people. Eighty-three percent of pre-fabricated apartment blocks are located in the district centres; in some larger cities they constitute about 50% of all housing; in other words, almost 100% of all problem buildings are located in the 67 cities selected for support under Priority Axis 1 of OPRG 2014–2020. A number of expert evaluations and analyses show that about 10% of all pre-fabricated apartment blocks are in urgent need of repair of the internal installations and the hydro insulation on their roofs. Many of those buildings are also in need of structural reinforcement, which is a sine qua non of the measures applied to achieve sustainable energy efficiency. As a result of all of the above, the housing sector is the chief culprit for the high energy consumption in Bulgaria. The Action Plan for improving energy efficiency in Bulgaria concluded that the housing sector accounts for 23% of the total energy consumption in the country. The need for energy-efficient renovation of buildings is part of the larger and urgent necessity to revitalise the urban areas with a view to halting the process of urban decline and decay, emigration and ghettoization of large areas, even entire housing quarters.

The bulk of housing units – 96.5% – are owned by private individuals. Three percent are state or municipal property, and the remaining 0.5% are owned by businesses, public or cooperative organisations, or were vacant at the time of the survey. This makes it necessary to use a combination of grants and financial instruments to provide the appropriate financial products for addressing the needs in the housing sector as well as of the student dormitory buildings.

**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 value<sup>9</sup> (2023)</i>	<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
1	Reduction of final energy consumption from households	tonne of oil equivalent (toe)	Less developed regions	2 391 000	2011	Decrease with 0,38%	NSI, section "Sustainable Development", indicator № 2.5 "Final energy consumption by sectors": <a href="http://www.nsi.bg/en/content/7265/sustainable-development">http://www.nsi.bg/en/content/7265/sustainable-development</a>	Twice during the period: 2018 and 2023

<i>ID</i>	2
<i>Specific objective</i>	Raising energy efficiency in public administrative buildings
<i>The results that the Member State seeks to achieve with Union</i>	<p>The energy performance of administrative buildings used by the government and local administrations are extremely poor; this, among other things, has as a consequence the inefficient spending of public resources.</p> <p>Bulgaria has set itself an ambitious national target with respect to the parameters of energy efficiency it seeks to achieve, namely 25% higher energy efficiency by 2020. This is due to the extremely low current level of energy efficiency in public buildings.</p>

<sup>9</sup> For ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, the target values may be qualitative or quantitative.

support	
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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 value<sup>10</sup> (2023)</i>	<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
2	Reduction of final energy consumption from public administration, commerce and services	tonne of oil equivalent	Less developed regions	1 039 000	2011	Decrease with 1,45%	NSI, section "Sustainable Development", indicator № 2.5 "Final energy consumption by sectors": <a href="http://www.nsi.bg/en/content/7265/sustainable-development">http://www.nsi.bg/en/content/7265/sustainable-development</a>	Twice during the period: 2018 and 2023

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

**Table 4: Common result indicators for which a target value has been set and programme specific result indicators corresponding to the specific objective (by investment priority and category of region) (for the ESF)**

(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>Category of region</i>	<i>Measurement unit for indicator</i>	<i>Common output indicator used as basis for target setting</i>	<i>Baseline value</i>			<i>Measurement unit for baseline and target</i>	<i>Baseline year</i>	<i>Target value<sup>11</sup> (2023)</i>			<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
					<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>T</i>			<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>T</i>		

<sup>11</sup> This list includes common result indicators for which a target value has been set and all programme-specific result indicators. Target values for common result indicators must be quantified; for programme-specific result indicators, they may be qualitative or quantitative. Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender, the baseline values can be adjusted accordingly. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

**Table 4a: YEI result indicators and programme-specific result indicators corresponding to the specific objective**

(by priority axis or by part of a priority axis)

(Reference: Article 19(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>12</sup>)

<i>ID</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Measurement unit for indicator</i>	<i>Common output indicator used as basis for target setting</i>	<i>Baseline value</i>			<i>Measurement unit for baseline and target</i>	<i>Baseline year</i>	<i>Target value<sup>13</sup> (2023)</i>			<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
				<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>T</i>			<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>T</i>		

<sup>12</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Social Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 470).

<sup>13</sup> This list includes common result indicators for which a target value has been set and all programme-specific result indicators. Target values for common result indicators must be quantified; for programme-specific result indicators they may be qualitative or quantitative. All result indicators in Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 used to monitor YEI implementation must be linked to a quantified target value. 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.

## 2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority 1.1

(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>&lt;2A.2.1.1 type="S" input="S"&gt;</i> <b>Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructures, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector.</b>
	<i>&lt;2A.2.1.2 type="S" maxlength="17500" input="M"&gt;</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Renovation of the common parts of multifamily residential buildings and student dormitory buildings, <b>such as:</b> repairs of the following key structural elements of the building: roof, façade, external joinery, stairwells, external and internal hallways, entrance doors and landings, lifts); and vertical technical installations (water supply and sewage, electrical, heating, telecommunications, fire hydrants) of the building;</li><li>• Renovation of administrative buildings of the governmental and municipal administration, <b>such as:</b> repairs of the following key structural elements of the building: roof, façade, external joinery, stairwells, external and internal hallways, entrance doors and landings, lifts); and vertical technical installations (water supply and sewage, electrical, heating, telecommunications, fire hydrants) of the buildings; repair and reconstruction of the interior of the buildings, including restrooms;</li><li>• Constructional reinforcement of multifamily residential buildings, student dormitory buildings and administrative buildings of the government and municipal administration;</li><li>• Measures for improving the energy efficiency of housing buildings, student dormitory buildings and administrative buildings of the government and municipal administration, <b>including, e.g.,</b> thermal insulation, replacement of external joinery, local installations and/or connections to the district heating, gas supply, etc. systems;</li><li>• 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;</li><li>• Provision of loans and/or repayable investment guarantees for energy efficiency and renewable-source energy usage in multifamily residential buildings and student dormitory buildings;</li><li>• Energy efficiency audit and constructional inspections of the existing buildings;</li></ul>

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

**Direct beneficiaries:**

- Directorate “Renovation of multifamily buildings”, MRD / Housing Renovation Fund;
- 67 municipalities, as per Appendix 2;
- Colleges, universities and legal entities managing student dormitories;
- Financial instruments;

**Main target groups:**

- Households in the multifamily residential buildings concerned;
- Students living in the dormitory buildings concerned;
- Government institutions. The Programme envisages that the governmental institutions whose property the administrative buildings concerned will participate in partnership with the municipalities designated as direct beneficiaries.
- 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:**

Energy efficiency in housing buildings, student dormitory buildings and administrative buildings of the government and municipal administration will be funded in the entire territory of the 67 cities, without any territorial restrictions within the intervention zones for Level 1, 2 and 3 cities.

**Justification**

The activities envisioned hereinabove will have as their direct result the improvement of energy efficiency of administrative and residential buildings as well as of student dormitory buildings in the target territories, which will contribute directly to lowering the end energy consumption, and indirectly, to reducing greenhouse emissions. The performance of those activities will increase the energy efficiency of public and residential buildings.

To ensure sustainability of investments, the Programme envisages measures for complete renovation of those buildings, which will substantially improve the urban environment. Such activities will help ensure adequate living conditions while improving living standards as a whole, in line with present-day standards.

The Programme also envisages improving the accessibility of the urban environment for people with disabilities, which will contribute towards improving mobility as a way of providing a more humane environment while increasing the opportunities for social inclusion of people in a disadvantaged position.

**Growth and employment** – significant beneficial side effects are expected for all sectors of the economy and mostly in support of small and medium-sized businesses engaged in the implementation of energy efficiency measures, increasing economic competitiveness and achieving a sustainable and balanced economic growth.

Measures related to energy efficiency occupy a prominent place in the fight to curb

climate change. They have a positive impact on the environment by contributing to its protection and conservation. Their practical implementation will involve the application of environmentally sound solutions for addressing the effects of urbanisation, aimed towards greater competitiveness and better quality of life. The broader use of financial instruments will stimulate the creating of new banking products and increased lending to energy efficiency measures, which in turn will have a positive impact on economic 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>	<p>&lt;2A.2.2.1 type="S" input="S"&gt;</p> <p><b>Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructures, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector.</b></p>
<p>&lt;2A.2.2.2 type="S" maxlength="5000" input="M"&gt;</p> <p>The following guiding principles will be observed in the selection of operations under this investment priority:</p> <p><b>Thematic concentration:</b></p> <p>The biggest financial resource is planned for this particular investment priority compared with all other investment priorities.</p> <p><b>Territorial concentration:</b></p> <p>Sites and faculties falling under IPURDs as well as residential buildings and student dormitory buildings in the entire territory in the 67 cities will be financed.</p> <p><b>Multi-level governance:</b></p> <p>Administrative buildings of the government and municipal administration will be funded on the basis of pre-defined lists of projects in the intervention zones of the cities of level 1 to 3 and on the whole territory of the cities of level 4.</p> <p><b>Needs-based financing</b></p> <p>In keeping with the criteria for selection of operations, buildings most in need of energy efficiency measures will be funded.</p> <p><b>Sustainable development.</b></p> <p>Projects will be funded that contribute to raising energy efficiency while improving the environment.</p> <p><b>Integrated investments</b></p> <p>With respect to energy efficiency in administrative buildings of the government and municipal administration, projects integrated within the framework of IPURDs will be funded, with a view to achieving a comprehensive synergetic effect on the intervention zones in Level 1, 2 and 3 cities and, respectively, IPURDs in Level 4 cities. No</p>	



funding of isolated projects will be allowed.

### 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>&lt;2A.2.3.1 type="S" input="S"&gt;</p> <p><b>Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructures, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector.</b></p>
<i>Planned use of financial instruments</i>	<p>&lt;2A.2.3.2 type="C" input="M"&gt;</p> <p>37 149 238,56</p>
<p>&lt;2A.2.3.3 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M"&gt;</p> <p>With respect to the buildings of the governmental and municipal administration within the framework of IPURDs, no financial instruments are envisaged to be used.</p> <p>The financial instruments to be used for energy efficiency measures in residential buildings and student dormitory buildings will be selected taking into account the potential for return on investments and market failures identified in the respective area.</p> <p>The specific mechanism and structure of financial instruments, the types of financial products and the envisaged combination with grant support will be specified based on an ex-ante assessment for financial instruments in accordance with Article 37 (2) of Regulation 1303/2013.</p> <p>Bulgaria has already taken steps aimed at preparation of ex-ante assessment for financial instruments. Public procurement procedure was launched to procure consultancy for elaboration of ex-ante assessments for financial instruments to be supported by OPRG 2014-2020.</p> <p>The findings and recommendations of ex-ante assessment for financial instruments will be among the key factors considered while designing energy efficiency schemes in housing and student dormitories. The parameters of financial products for repayable support for energy efficiency will be identified in order investments to be incentivised and optimally leveraged with the right level of support, thus triggering a maximum of investment with a minimum of public support.</p> <p>It is envisaged financial instruments to be used in housing and student dormitory buildings but not in administrative buildings as the application of financial instruments for energy efficiency measures in public buildings would create additional bureaucracy and reduce the effectiveness of support provided under OPRG. There are some legal restrictions applicable to loan borrowing by state and municipal institutions that hinder</p>	

potential use of financial instruments for energy efficiency in public administrative buildings. On the other hand the public authorities do not have potential to generate incomes necessary to repay the amounts provided via financial instruments and the respective interest. Indeed energy efficiency measures implemented in a public building will reduce the energy costs in future years. However the savings cannot be accumulated in separate account for years and used exceptionally for repayments of instalments for loan borrowed by financial instrument supported by OPRG.

The effect from implementation of energy efficiency measures in public buildings will have a positive impact for benefit of all the habitants and/or entrepreneurs who receive services from the public authorities concerned in the 67 cities eligible for support under Priority axis 1. Except the improved conditions in the energy renovated public buildings the energy efficiency measures supported by OPRG will allow the public authorities to optimize the distribution of public amounts in the annual budgets after energy renovation thus improving the overall functioning of the public authorities concerned.

Final decision about the scope and types of financial instruments for energy efficiency to be supported will be taken once the an ex ante assessment has established evidence of suboptimal investment situations and the estimated level and scope of public investment needs in the area of energy efficiency of buildings

#### 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)

Investment Priority	<p>&lt;2A.2.4.1 type="S" input="S"&gt;</p> <p><b>Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructures, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector.</b></p>
<p>&lt;2A.2.4.2 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"&gt;</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) <sup>14</sup>		Source data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W		
3	Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	households	ERDF	Less developed regions		12 392	Public UMIS, MRD, Municipal administration	Annually (1/year)
4	Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	kWh/year	ERDF	Less developed regions		175 368 169	Public UMIS, MRD, Municipal administration	Annually (1/year)

<sup>14</sup> 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>&lt;2A.10 type="S" input="S" "SME" &gt;</p> <p><b>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.</b></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>&lt;2A.1.1 type="N" input="G" "SME" &gt;</p> <p>1</p>
<i>Specific objective</i>	<p>&lt;2A.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M" "SME" &gt;</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>&lt;2A.1.3 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M" "SME" &gt;</p> <p>The EU Territorial Agenda 2020 sets out the priority of polycentric and balanced territorial development and promotion of the integrated development of cities.</p> <p>According to the Thematic strategy on urban environment of the Commission, the environment in cities encounters problems in terms of high levels of traffic congestion, noise pollution, and poor quality of the built-up areas, abandoned land plots, and generation of solid waste and waste waters.</p> <p>Mindful of the enormous significance of investments in urban environment for revitalising the cities, stimulating economic activity and creating growth opportunities, and proceeding from the abundant positive experience in that respect of OPRD 2007–2013, the Operational Programme identifies the activities suitable for funding under this investment priority.</p> <p>The urban environment is the key integrating factor for urban development projects. The development and regeneration of the urban environment is of crucial importance for the quality of life and the attractiveness of the urban areas. The key conclusion of the Social and Economic Analysis of the needs of OPRG 2014–2020 concerns the low</p>

	<p>quality of the urban environment, public works and public infrastructure of a large portion of Bulgarian cities. It identifies an overall need for upgrading and gentrification of the physical infrastructure of cities, building upon and taking a step further to the measures implemented under OPRD 2007–2013.</p> <p>As of 31 December 2012, OPRD 2007–2013 reported the following results with respect to the development and upgrading of the urban environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ameliorated public parks, green areas and children’s playgrounds cover a total area of 2,089,437 sq. m., benefiting a population of 2,073,355 people.</li> <li>- Pedestrian zones, bicycle lanes and sidewalks, whether newly-built or rehabilitated, cover a total area of 465,635 sq. m..</li> </ul> <p>The above notwithstanding, large portions of the cities are still characterised by outdated or missing basic infrastructure; parks, gardens, children’s playgrounds and sports grounds are in a woeful condition; parking spaces, bicycle lanes and public footpaths are insufficient, of poor quality or plain missing.</p> <p>Urban areas exist with degraded environmental characteristics, as well as zones with high concentration of vulnerable groups, including minorities, where the quality of the urban environment is way below the established standards.</p> <p>One of the principal flaws of the urban environment is the impossibility for people with disabilities to move freely in the streets or have normal access to administrative buildings, parks, entertainment and sports complexes, which additionally exacerbates the problem of the social isolation of that population group.</p> <p>Addressing the issues of urban infrastructure will contribute towards the social inclusion of vulnerable groups and will improve the overall quality of urban life. This will help keep in the cities people of productive age, will stimulate the birth rate and will largely curb the negative demographic trends, since the attractiveness and European image of the urban environment is an important factor for people choosing to live, work and invest in such cities.</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 value<sup>15</sup> (2023)</i>	<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
1	Increased share of population benefitting from an improved urban environment	Number of persons	Less developed regions	3 179 322	2013	Increase with 37,2%	NSI, Public UMIS, Municipal administration	Twice during the period: 2018 and 2023

### 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>Specific objective</i>	<2A.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M" "SME" > Improving investment activity in the cities through regeneration of zones with potential for economic development
<i>The results that the Member State seeks to achieve with Union support</i>	<2A.1.3 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M" "SME" > Economic development is the growth engine of cities. In a large part of the urban centres in Bulgaria the infrastructure in the business areas is in poor condition. In this context, an intervention zones, designated as “zones with potential for economic development” are defined within the IPURDs These are zones predominantly designated for manufacturing and other business operations with functional and environmental characteristics and state of the infrastructure that do not satisfy investor demand for operation of existing business activities or development of new ones.  The principal requirements to be satisfied by the areas of economic activity in the cities to become eligible for regeneration are as follows: concentration of business activities; existence of technical infrastructure

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

	<p>in need of renovation, rehabilitation or reconstruction; need for connecting infrastructure; disrupted environmental parameters of the territory. One of the key characteristics of the major cities derived from the social and economic analysis is the existence of industrial areas in decline.</p> <p>Through suitable interventions such areas can become attractive places for doing business, for private entrepreneurship or the creative industries, thus contributing to the creation of new jobs.</p> <p>At the same time, the improved quality of the urban environment in the entire territory of the city is a factor that influences the perception of a better living standard. This will contribute to retaining and attracting young people and a highly-qualified workforce, who will meet the expectations of entrepreneurs and potential investors.</p> <p>The overall regeneration of urban territories will increase economic activity and will attract investments and private capital for the development of the urban economy and, respectively, of the economy of the district and the region where the relevant cities are located.</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>Meas urement unit</i>	<i>Categ ory of regio n (wher e relev ant)</i>	<i>Baseline value</i>	<i>Baseli ne year</i>	<i>Target value<sup>16</sup> (2023)</i>	<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Freq uenc y of repor ting</i>
1	Increased expenditures on acquisition of tangible fixed assets	euro	Less developed regions	9 761 324 860	2012	Increase with 2,2%	NSI, section "Business statistics", indicator "Expenditure on acquisition of tangible	Twice during the period: 2018 and

<sup>16</sup> For ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, the target values may be qualitative or quantitative.

							fixed assets": http://www.nsi.bg/en/content/6198/expenditure-acquisition-tangible-fixed-assets	2023
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## 2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority 1.2

(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>&lt;2A.2.1.1 type="S" input="S"&gt;</p> <p><b>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.</b></p>
	<p>&lt;2A.2.1.2 type="S" maxlength="17500" input="M"&gt;</p> <p><b><u>Urban environment</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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, restoration of drinking fountains, decorative fountains, ponds, statues, monuments and other elements of the urban environment; construction and renovation of public restrooms.</li> <li>• 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..</li> <li>• Construction, rehabilitation and reconstruction of streets and public parking garages.</li> <li>• Installation of energy saving street lighting; security and crime prevention</li> </ul>



measures, e.g. installing lighting in parks, security surveillance systems in public places, etc.

- 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 municipal administration.

#### **Areas with potential for economic development**

- Improvement / upgrading and reconstruction of existing, or construction / development of new technical infrastructure pertinent for promoting business and entrepreneurship, e.g. communication connectivity; construction / reconstruction / rehabilitation of streets providing access to and within industrial zones and business parks; water supply, public lighting; connectors to the gas, water and sewage networks; signposting and placement of information boards; security surveillance systems around or within the business zones and lots, etc., within areas with potential for economic development under IPURDs.
- Construction, renovation, rehabilitation, reconstruction and repair of business and industrial zones within areas with potential for economic development under IPURDs, including buildings;
- Introducing energy efficiency measures in the buildings / premises mentioned above, including thermal insulation, replacement of frames, local installations and/or connections to the heating, gas, etc. systems;
- Commissioning of installations for production of energy from renewable sources for the buildings listed above for meeting their own energy use, where this is technically possible and economically feasible;
- Landscaping, places for recreation, bicycle lanes, bicycle and motor vehicle parking spaces for workers in the areas with potential for economic development;
- Energy efficiency surveys and structural surveys of the buildings listed above;
- Improving the access for people with disabilities to the buildings mentioned above;

**The energy efficiency measures and the measures for commissioning of installations for production of energy from renewable sources may not be implemented separately but only as part of the remaining construction and installation works related to the corresponding objects.**

#### **Direct beneficiaries:**

- 67 municipalities, as per Appendix 2;

- Financial instruments;

**Target groups:**

- The population of 67 cities earmarked for support under OPRG, which will benefit from an improved urban environment and a general increase in living standards.
- Investors incentivised under the Investments Promotion Act.
- 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:**

The group of activities “Urban environment” envisages interventions in all intervention zones included in the IPURDs of Level 1, 2 and 3 cities and the entire territory of Level 4 cities designated for support under OPRG.

The group of activities “Zones with potential for economic development” are to be implemented in the zones with potential for economic development included in the IPURDs of Level 1, 2 and 3 cities and the entire territory of Level 4 cities designated for support under OPRG.

Cities of Level 1 to 3 are eligible for funding for projects under the group of activities “Zones with potential for economic development” outside the IPURD intervention zones, within the framework of the municipal territory and within the 20% threshold of the pre-set limit for the relevant city under Priority Axis 1 as defined under said Priority Axis. Those projects shall be part of the IPURD, compliant with the Municipal Development Plan and shall include rational for their contribution to improve the functional links between the city and its periphery.

**Justification**

Activities for improving the urban environment directly address the achievement of Specific Objective 1 “Raising the quality of life, social inclusion and amelioration of the natural environment through rehabilitation of the physical environment in the cities”.

Cities and urban areas can be successful and sustainable only if their citizens wish to live and work in them and have the opportunity to communicate, travel and set up homes. They can be attractive to foreign business, investors and tourists if the urban environment as a whole is safe, sustainable and of a high environmental and aesthetic standard.

This is why the Programme will fund concrete investments targeting clearly defined urban areas, aimed at their physical regeneration and gentrification, with a view to creating an attractive urban environment.

Green areas in the cities have a strong impact on the quality of life of urban residents. They provide opportunities for rest and recreation, social contacts, peace and quiet. Green areas are also important for urban biodiversity, contacts with which are a means to drawing public attention to the more global issues of environmental protection.

The activities in support of areas with potential for economic development directly

address the achievement of Specific Objective 2 “Improving economic activity in the cities by regenerating areas with potential for economic development” and are aimed directly at **achieving growth and job creation**.

Pursuant to the latest amendments to the Investments Promotion Act (IP Act), promulgated in State Gazette No. 16 of 19/02/2013, Bulgaria pursues a policy of increasing investments for the promotion of economic activities and projects of high added value and the creation of new jobs. The main goal is to reduce the regional disparities in Bulgaria’s social and economic development. The Implementing Regulations of the IP Act set out the minimum criteria, including job creation, for investment projects to be eligible for such measures of support. Such projects are issued a certificate of an investment class, whether Priority, A or B. Municipalities have been given powers to incentivise and encourage investment. One of the measures for promoting investments is to support the construction of elements of the technical infrastructure of municipalities.

The measures and activities in support of “Zones with potential for economic development” under Priority 1 “Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development” of OPRG 2014–2020 provide opportunities for financial support and implementation of infrastructural measures for promoting investments pursuant to IP Act. The complementarity of the OPRG 2014–2020 measures and the measures under the IP Act enables an integrated territorial approach to the development of economically relevant areas in the cities.

The activities envisaged will provide an impetus for revitalising the local economies, for retention of the existing and creation of new jobs.

### 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>&lt;2A.2.2.1 type="S" input="S"&gt;</p> <p><b>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.</b></p>
<p>&lt;2A.2.2.2 type="S" maxlength="5000" input="M"&gt;</p> <p>The following guiding principles will be observed in the selection of operations under this investment priority:</p> <p><b>Territorial concentration:</b></p> <p>Sites and facilities falling within the scope of IPURDs will be financed.</p> <p><b>Multi-level governance:</b></p> <p>Projects will be funded on the basis of pre-defined site lists within the scope of IPURDs with a leading role in the municipalities.</p> <p><b>Needs-based financing</b></p>	

In accordance with the criteria for selection of operations, the Programme will fund projects with the greatest needs or the highest potential for attracting investments, for ensuring return on investment and achieving economic growth in the regions.

**Sustainable development.**

Projects that contribute to the improvement of the natural urban environment will be financed.

**Integrated investments**

**Projects integrated within the framework of IPURDs will be financed, with a view to achieving a comprehensive synergetic effect on the intervention zones in Level 1, 2 and 3 cities and, respectively, IPURDs in Level 4 cities, as well as for strengthening the functional links with the surrounding territories for level 1 to 3 cities.**

**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>&lt;2A.2.3.1 type="S" input="S"&gt;  <b>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.</b></p>
<i>Planned use of financial instruments</i>	<p>&lt;2A.2.3.2 type="C" input="M"&gt;            38 725 266,86</p>
<p>&lt;2A.2.3.3 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M"&gt;            The use of financial instruments is envisaged for all groups of activities.            Up to 2/3 of the funds for the group of activities in support of zones with potential for economic development are envisaged for disbursement through grant assistance to 67 municipalities – direct beneficiaries, which would take advantage of the opportunities, provided under the Investment Promotion Act, for promotion of certified development projects.            Up to 1/3 of the resource of Investment Priority 2 under Priority Axis 1 “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” for the group of activities in support of zones with potential for economic development will be disbursed through financial instruments that could benefit municipalities, private investors and public-private partnerships, which would then invest in zones of economic development, including investors with certified development projects in the meaning of the IP Act.</p>	

The specific mechanism and structure of financial instruments, the types of financial products and the envisaged grant assistance will be specified based on an ex-ante assessment of financial instruments in accordance with Article 37 (2) of Regulation 1303/2013.

#### 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)

Investment Priority	<p>&lt;2A.2.4.1 type="S" input="S"&gt;</p> <p><b>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.</b></p>
<p>&lt;2A.2.4.2 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"&gt;</p> <p>N/A</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	Measure unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023) <sup>17</sup>			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
3	Open space created or rehabilitated in urban areas	square metres	ERDF	Less developed regions			5 869 492	Public UMIS, MRD, Municipal	Annually

<sup>17</sup> 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.

								administrati on	
4	Total surface area of rehabilitated land	hectares	ERDF	Less develop ed regions			163,0	Public UMIS, MRD, Municipal administrati on	Annually
5	Public commercial buildings built or renovated in urban areas	square metres	ERDF	Less develop ed regions			25 107,5	Public UMIS, MRD, Municipal administrati on	Annually

## 2.A.4 Investment priority 1.3

(Repeated for each investment priority under the priority axis)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<p>&lt;2A.10 type="S" input="S" "SME" &gt;</p> <p><b>Investing in education, training, including vocational training for skills and lifelong learning by developing education and training infrastructure</b></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>&lt;2A.1.1 type="N" input="G" "SME" &gt;</p> <p>1</p>
<i>Specific objective</i>	<p>&lt;2A.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M" "SME" &gt;</p> <p>Improving conditions for modern educational services</p>
<i>The results that the Member State seeks to achieve with Union support</i>	<p>&lt;2A.1.3 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M" "SME" &gt;</p> <p>An analysis of the strategic documents in the field of education shows that the goals and priorities of the education sector that could be supported under OPRG 2014–2020 concern the improvement of the physical conditions and technical equipment of kindergartens, schools and universities.</p> <p>Of crucial importance for Bulgaria is to invest in the quality, competitiveness and efficiency of its education system, which depends to a large extent on the conditions in which the educational process takes place, i.e., the relevant infrastructure. Infrastructural development must be carried out on a regional basis, in order to increase access to education. The educational infrastructure (schools and kindergartens) needs to be developed because of its direct link to economic development. This infrastructure is essential for better combining the free choice of education with the needs of the labour market, and for the smoother integration of young people in that market; for addressing social problems that exist at a heavy cost for our society, and to reduce the share of general school drop-outs while teaching young people basic work habits. As a whole, the activities envisaged heretofore, pertinent to the improvement of the educational infrastructure, the creation of a better learning environment and making life-long learning popular among young people, are not performed in a way that satisfies demand, mostly due to financial constraints.</p>

Analyses prepared by the Ministry of Education and Science show that in the field of pre-school and school education the needs are as follows:

***In pre-school education:***

- To address, above all, the issue of the shortage of vacancies in kindergartens in some of the major cities, by building new ones. In smaller settlements, wherever there are available buildings, efforts should be focused on the renovation and modernisation of these buildings.
- In some municipalities, the management of kindergarten buildings is not efficient enough. On occasion, they are used in ways other than their intended purpose; this should be put to an end.
- The efforts of local authorities should be directed towards developing longer-term policies for development of the educational infrastructure, its proper maintenance and upgrading.
- The introduction of mandatory pre-school training from age 4 as from 2016 must also be attuned to the demographic processes in the relevant region or district, flexible planning must be applied in building the educational infrastructure.

***In school education:***

- Efforts should be aimed at raising efficiency through the implementation of energy efficiency projects, upgrading the physical environment in schools, providing modern equipment and furnishings, all intended to create an attractive learning environment.
- Enabling full-time schooling through improving the infrastructure, sports and recreational facilities, as well as providing rooms for extracurricular activities.

The provision of modern conditions in the educational infrastructure will improve the quality of education while reducing the school drop-out rate. On the other hand, creating an attractive school environment and providing opportunities for extracurricular activities will increase the motivation of young people to continue their education after secondary school and will thus contribute to increasing the share of college and university graduates.

In view of the significance of municipal educational infrastructure for the urban development policy, facilities owned by municipalities will be funded on the basis of their priority rating under IPURDs and if being part of the list of priority schools/kindergartens according to the Methodology for prioritisation of educational infrastructure, approved by the Ministry of Education and Science. This is also supported by statistical data reviewed in the social and economic analysis of OPRG: 83.3% of the municipal special schools, 42.9% of the municipal vocational schools and 38.5% of all general education schools (72% of the schools in cities and cities), as well as 38.6% of all kindergartens (72.2% of the kindergartens



	<p>in cities) are located in the 67 cities targeted for support.</p> <p>While the great majority of schools funded during the period 2007–2013 are municipal, they account for a mere 20% of all municipal general education schools (2,089 in number). In cities, a total of 282 schools have been supported, which is 25.2% of urban educational establishments; and in villages funding has been granted to 139 schools, or 14.3% of the rural schools. No municipal special or vocational schools (54 facilities in all) have been funded.</p> <p>The situation is similar with municipal kindergartens that have received funding. Of all 2,072 kindergartens, 15.8% (327) have received support. In cities, 22% of such facilities have been funded, as compared to just 9% in villages.</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 value<sup>18</sup> (2023)</i>	<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
1	Increase of the share of modernized educational institutions	%	Less developed regions	9,2%	2013	Increase with 49%	NSI, section "Education and Lifelong Learning", indicator "Kindergartens, children, teaching staff, places and groups in the kindergartens by statistical zones, statistical regions, districts and municipalities": <a href="http://www.nsi.bg/en/content/4808/kindergartens-children-teaching-staff-places-and-groups-kindergartens-statistical-zones-and-indicator-General-schools-by-type">http://www.nsi.bg/en/content/4808/kindergartens-children-teaching-staff-places-and-groups-kindergartens-statistical-zones-and-indicator-General-schools-by-type</a> : <a href="http://www.nsi.bg/en/content/4855/general-schools-type">http://www.nsi.bg/en/content/4855/general-schools-type</a> ,	Twice during the period: 2018 and 2023

<sup>18</sup> For ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, the target values may be qualitative or quantitative.

							MES, Municipalities Public UMIS	
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## 2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority 1.3

(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>&lt;2A.2.1.1 type="S" input="S"&gt;</p> <p><b>Investing in education, training, including vocational training for skills and lifelong learning by developing education and training infrastructure</b></p>
	<p>&lt;2A.2.1.2 type="S" maxlength="17500" input="M"&gt;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction, reconstruction and renovation of municipal educational institutions, <b>such as</b> crèches and kindergartens, middle and secondary schools (classrooms, libraries, school labs, sports facilities, school wings, dorms, internet connectivity), including the adjacent school yards;</li> <li>• Delivery and assembly of equipment and furnishings for the buildings and facilities listed above, as part of their general overhaul;</li> <li>• Introducing energy efficiency measures in the buildings / premises mentioned above, including thermal insulation, replacement of frames, local installations and/or connections to the heating, gas, etc. systems;</li> <li>• Commissioning of installations for production of energy from renewable sources for the buildings listed above for meeting their own energy use, where this is technically possible and economically feasible;</li> <li>• Energy efficiency audits and construction inspections of the existing buildings;</li> <li>• Improving access for people with disabilities to the buildings mentioned above.</li> </ul> <p><b>The energy efficiency measures and the measures for commissioning of installations for production of energy from renewable sources may not be implemented separately but only as part of the remaining construction and installation works related to the corresponding objects.</b></p> <p><b>Direct beneficiaries:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 67 municipalities, as per Appendix 2, for facilities within the intervention zones in</li> </ul>

39 cities of Level 1, 2 and 3, and within the entire urban territory of Level 4 cities.

**Target groups:**

- Children, adolescents and young people who have not completed secondary education, in the territories of 67 cities designated for support under OPRG, who will be the direct users of the infrastructure in question. Special focus will be placed on members of those age groups of the Roma population that have the lowest educational status and limited access to educational services.
- Families with children in the territories of 67 cities designated for support under OPRG – improved access to quality education for their children is an incentive for retaining the population of active age in the regions, thus addressing the negative demographic trends.
- Members of vulnerable social groups – the improved architectural environment will contribute to the social inclusion of people in a disadvantaged position.

**Specific target territories:**

The interventions will be carried out within the framework of IPURDs, respectively of the intervention zones for Level 1, 2 and 3 cities and the entire urban area of Level 4 cities.

Cities of Level 1 to 3 are eligible for funding under this investment priority outside the IPURD intervention zones, within the framework of the municipal territory and within a 20% limit for all activities outside the intervention zones from the indicative reference budget for the relevant city. Those projects shall be part of the IPURD, compliant with the Municipal Development Plan and shall include rational for their contribution to improve the functional links between the city and its periphery.

**Justification:**

These activities are directly aimed at achieving the specific objective of the investment priority, namely: “Reducing the number of school drop-outs through investments in educational infrastructure in urban areas”. One of the causes of early school drop-out is exactly the poor educational infrastructure, the limited opportunities for receiving vocational training and the lack of capacity for full-time schooling and other activities in the schools.

Investments in educational infrastructure will have as their immediate result the improved quality of the educational environment and, therefore, its increased attractiveness. The renovation of the physical environment will enable an overall improvement of the educational process and will facilitate the introduction of new methods of teaching that would increase and hold the interest of young people. Improved conditions in the educational establishments, modern classrooms and school labs will have a beneficial impact on pupils’ motivation for better, more proactive learning and for their realisation in the labour market.

Enabling a full day-time educational process through the construction and renovation of self-study rooms, sports and recreational facilities, as well as rooms for extracurricular activities etc., 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 school drop-out rate and will create prerequisites for increasing the share of school graduates in Bulgaria.

The measures related to construction of new facilities will meet in a proper way the needs for more capacity in kindergartens, and later at the schools, thus providing equal access to education for the younger generation. Measures to improve access for people with disabilities to the buildings subject to interventions are a prerequisite for their social inclusion and for overcoming their isolation as a social group.

The implementation of energy efficiency measures and the use of energy from renewable sources will contribute to improving the quality of the environment.

The activities supported will help keep children and young people at school and will bring better educational results to the pupils; this will, in the long run, trigger an increase in employment, especially youth employment while reducing unemployment and the general and juvenile crime associated with it.

### 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>&lt;2A.2.2.1 type="S" input="S"&gt;</p> <p><b>Investing in education, training, including vocational training for skills and lifelong learning by developing education and training infrastructure</b></p>
<p>&lt;2A.2.2.2 type="S" maxlength="5000" input="M"&gt;</p> <p>The following guiding principles will be observed in the selection of operations under this investment priority:</p> <p><b>Territorial concentration:</b></p> <p>Sites and facilities falling within the scope of IPURDs will be financed.</p> <p><b>Multi-sectoral management:</b></p> <p>Projects are to be funded on the basis of pre-defined lists of sites and facilities within the framework of IPURDs.</p> <p><b>Needs-based financing</b></p> <p>In accordance with the criteria for selection of operations, the programme will fund sites and facilities with the highest potential to achieve social inclusion and fulfil the objective of least school drop-out rate. The objects for intervention shall be part of the list of priority schools/kindergartens according to the Methodology for prioritisation of educational infrastructure, approved by the Ministry of Education and Science.</p> <p>The equipment and furnishings delivered shall help improve the tuition process.</p> <p><b>Sustainable development.</b></p> <p>Projects that contribute to raising energy efficiency while improving the environment</p>	

and promoting social inclusion will be funded.

### **Integrated investments**

Projects integrated within the framework of IPURDs will be financed, with a view to achieving a comprehensive synergetic effect on the intervention zones in Level 1, 2 and 3 cities and, respectively, IPURDs in Level 4 cities, as well as for strengthening the functional links with the surrounding territories for level 1 to 3 cities.

#### **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"> <b>Investing in education, training, including vocational training for skills and lifelong learning by developing education and training infrastructure</b>
<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"> N/A	

#### **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"> <b>Investing in education, training, including vocational training for skills and lifelong learning by developing education and training infrastructure</b>
<2A.2.4.2 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"> N/A	

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)<sup>19</sup></i>			<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
					<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>T</i>		
2	Capacity of supported childcare or educational infrastructure	Number of persons	ERDF	Less developed regions			151 045	Public UMIS, MRD, Municipal administration	Annually

<sup>19</sup> 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>&lt;2A.10 type="S" input="S" "SME" &gt;</p> <p><b>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</b></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>&lt;2A.1.1 type="N" input="G" "SME" &gt;</p> <p>1</p>
<i>Specific objective</i>	<p>&lt;2A.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M" "SME" &gt;</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>&lt;2A.1.3 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M" "SME" &gt;</p> <p>Regarding the support for marginalised groups of the population, including Roma, OPRG plays a direct role in the implementation of Priority 3 “Housing conditions” of the National Strategy for Roma Integration of the Republic of Bulgaria 2012–2020 adopted at 13.03.2012. According to National Statistical Institute and the data presented in the Roma Strategy (Census of Population and Housing, 2011), Roma population remain the third largest ethnic group in Bulgaria. In cities live about 55.4% of those, who identify themselves as Roma. A major problem faced by Roma people is their concentration in separate quarters that leads to social exclusion, deterioration of living conditions, problems with the construction and maintenance of infrastructure and hygiene, to transport problems and difficulties in providing services. According to NSI data (Census of Population and Housing, 2011) the ethnic Bulgarians occupy an average of 23.2 square meters of living space per person, comparing the Roma who occupy only 10.6 square meters per person.</p> <p>The analysis of the strategic documents in the field of social policy shows</p>



	that the objectives and priorities of the sector that can be supported under OPRG 2014–2020 are related to providing an accessible physical environment for people with disabilities and social housing for vulnerable groups, including the Roma population. The measures and actions in the social field in the cities are targeted exactly at social groups at risk of social exclusion (including Roma). The key measures deriving from major strategic documents on social policy are: providing alternative housing for families belonging to marginalised population groups. Within the framework of the IPURDs definition, municipalities designate such social intervention zones which contain compact marginalised groups, including Roma
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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 value<sup>20</sup> (2023)</i>	<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
1	Increase of the representatives from marginalised groups, including roma, with improved housing conditions	persons	Less developed regions	740	2013	Increase with 415,6%	MLSP	Twice during the period: 2018 and 2023

<i>ID</i>	<2A.1.1 type="N" input="G" "SME" > 2
<i>Specific objective</i>	<2A.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M" "SME" > Improving conditions for modern social services
<i>The results</i>	<2A.1.3 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M" "SME" >

<sup>20</sup> For ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, the target values may be qualitative or quantitative.

<i>that the Member State seeks to achieve with Union support</i>	<p>With regard to the regional social infrastructure, OPRG will contribute to the achieving of the objectives set in the sectoral documents regarding social policy, such as the National Concept Paper for Active Live of Elderly People in Bulgaria (2012–2030), 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.</p> <p>The funds allocated for social services from the national budget are insufficient. These are budgetary allocations for maintaining a set of services, not for developing and defining new ones. In the conditions of a financial and economic crisis, municipalities allocate limited resources for designing innovative services: investments in civil engineering and in the launch of new services.</p> <p>The sites and facilities constituting Bulgaria’s social infrastructure are 991 in number. During the relevant programming period, OPRD 2007–2013 has funded 105 of those (11%), of which 89 (12%) are in urban, and 16 (6.4%) are in rural areas.</p> <p>An adequate social infrastructure is a crucial factor for the effective social inclusion and participation of vulnerable groups in the life of the Bulgarian 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.</p> <p>The development of the social infrastructure will increase the quality of the social services provided</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

<b>ID</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Measurement unit</b>	<b>Category of region (where relevant)</b>	<b>Baseline value</b>	<b>Baseline year</b>	<b>Target value<sup>21</sup> (2023)</b>	<b>Source of data</b>	<b>Frequency of reporting</b>
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<sup>21</sup> For ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, the target values may be qualitative or quantitative.

2	Increase of the share of modernized facilities for social services	%	Less developed regions	7,0%	2008	Increase with 154,0%	NSI, section "Social services": <a href="http://www.nsi.bg/en/content/5594/social-services">http://www.nsi.bg/en/content/5594/social-services</a> , Municipalities	Twice during the period: 2018 and 2023
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<i>ID</i>	<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 conditions for sports for all and cultural life 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" > <p>The sports infrastructure in Bulgaria is characterised by obsolete and outdated facilities, poor maintenance and sporadic attempts to build new play fields and sports halls. Specialised sports playgrounds, bicycle lanes and other sports facilities in residential areas enabling people to practice sports individually or in groups, are few and far between.</p> <p>The total number of sports sites and social tourism facilities in the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria entered in the public register as of 2010 was 2,012; about 90% of those are under the management of municipalities, 7% are state-owned and a mere 3% are private.</p> <p>Pursuant to the National Strategy for the Development of Physical Training and Sports in the Republic of Bulgaria (2012–2022), most of the physical and technical facilities are obsolete, worn out and fail to meet international standards for the organisation of sports, cultural, health or any other activities, as well as basic safety requirements. There is no accessible environment for people with disabilities.</p> <p>Providing proper conditions for sports and recreation will contribute to the fight against the demographic decline of Bulgarian cities, while helping attract private investments and, respectively, creating new job opportunities.</p> <p>Interventions in sports infrastructure will enable the organisation of mass sports and other public events in the cities, which will boost economic activity, thus contributing to sustainable and inclusive growth.</p> <p>Bulgaria occupies one of the last places in Europe in terms of the health status and participation of its population in sports activities. The absence of adequate and accessible sports facilities has a demotivating effect on</p>

people in practising and developing mass sports.

According to Eurobarometer data, Bulgaria ranks last in the EU in terms of the share of people regularly practising sports: a mere 3%, against 58% who have never engaged in any form of sports activity. Forty-six percent of respondents claim that they do not have many opportunities to practice sports or engage in any physical activity at their place of residence. This is yet another indicator according to which Bulgaria ranks last among the EU Member States.

In this context, it is of crucial significance to ensure opportunities and adequate conditions for practising sports, i.e. infrastructure and facilities that would attract and encourage the population, especially young people, to engage in sports activities. This will contribute significantly towards improving the health status of the nation and the quality of the workforce.

Sports provide an impetus for social cohesion and integration. Providing opportunities for sports, especially to children, adolescents and young people, including Roma, will contribute towards their proper participation in the life of society while reducing anti-social activities and juvenile crime.

Conveniences allowing access to the sports facilities for people with disabilities are quite limited or plain missing. In this context, ensuring an accessible architectural environment for that group of the population will contribute towards addressing the issue of social isolation and will enable the more active including of people with disabilities in the life of society.

In this context, the quality, accessibility and attractiveness of the sports facilities and the mass sports infrastructure are a significant factor for promoting sports activity and the social integration of people in a disadvantaged position.

Cities are centres of social and economic life in Bulgaria, including culture. The cultural and spiritual life of the population is of great significance for urban development. The cultural and historical development of Bulgaria has produced its rich cultural heritage and the cultural diversity of its urban areas. The promotion of cultural life and the development of cultural infrastructure in the cities also raises the quality of life of their residents.

According to data from the Ministry of Culture, Bulgaria has: 168 museums, 45 art galleries, 17 music and dance training institutions, 44 regional and municipal libraries and 3,521 community centres.

Diverse cultural sites and institutions have received funding during the programming period 2007–2013. The largest number of such facilities that received support under OPRD were community centres. A total of 42 community centres have received funding, which however accounts for only 1.2% of all. 5 facilities of those funded are located in cities, against 37 that are in villages. In addition, 14% of all community centres and 72% of those located in urban areas (494 in total) are within the 67 cities

designated for support under OPRG 2014–2020.

Funding has also been provided to 10 museums, which account for 6% of all cultural sites and facilities, 65.5% of which are in the 67 cities designated for support under OPRG 2014–2020. Between 2007 and 2013, 2 galleries have been funded. However 37 of a total of 45 galleries are in the 67 cities designated for support under OPRG 2014–2020. Two regional and municipal libraries have been funded. However 38 libraries, or 86.4%, are in the 67 cities designated for support under OPRG 2014–2020.

In addition, 100% of all theatres and music and dance training institutions are located within the 67 cities designated for support under OPRG 2014–2020. Between 2007 and 2013, 4 theatres and 4 music and dance training institutions have been funded.

For the purposes of illustrating the territorial distribution of the sites and facilities of the cultural infrastructure in Bulgaria, a detailed database has been developed, including by name the facilities in each group (theatres, art galleries, libraries, community centres, etc.) as well as their territorial location (settlement and municipality). The database specifies whether each of these facilities has received any funding during the current programming period 2007–2013.

The territorial distribution of Bulgaria’s cultural infrastructure sites was also considered in the social and economic analysis of OPRG in terms mainly of the urban municipalities proposed for support under OPRG 2014–2020.

The territorial distribution of the cultural infrastructure sites shows that the bulk of them are located in the target cities proposed for support under OPRG 2014–2020. In some groups, such as theatres and music and dance training institutions, practically 100% of all such facilities are located in the urban areas in question. The only exception are community centres: very few of those are located in the proposed target cities as, because of their specificities as cultural institutions, they are very numerous and situated even in the smallest settlements.

Cultural sites and facilities play a crucial role for urban life. Their poor physical condition inevitably causes an overall deterioration of the quality of cultural services. Few and far between are such cases where the authorities have considered improving access for people with disabilities – not just by means of an accessible architectural environment but also using modern audio-visual equipment designed for such groups of the population.

That is why investments in cultural infrastructure are aimed at making cultural sites and facilities more attractive, in order to encourage public participation in cultural life as a factor for social cohesion and the integration in society of people who, for one reason or another, are vulnerable or disadvantaged.

Also the potential of cultural institutions to generate revenue and the

	possibility for return on investment is taken into account. Interventions in cultural infrastructure will stimulate employment in the services sector and will encourage the emergence of new forms of employment in the field of arts and crafts and the creative industries. As a result sustainable urban development will be achieved and preconditions for smart and inclusive growth will be created
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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 value<sup>22</sup> (2023)</i>	<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
3	Increase of the share of modernized cultural/sport objects	%	Less developed regions	1,6%	2012	Increase with 560,8%	NSI, section "Culture": <a href="http://www.nsi.bg/en/content/4526/culture">http://www.nsi.bg/en/content/4526/culture</a> , Municipalities	Twice during the period: 2018 and 2023

#### **2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority 1.4**

(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)

<sup>22</sup> For ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, the target values may be qualitative or quantitative.

Investment priority	<p>&lt;2A.2.1.1 type="S" input="S"&gt;</p> <p><b>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</b></p>
<p>&lt;2A.2.1.2 type="S" maxlength="17500" input="M"&gt;</p> <p><b><u>Social Infrastructure</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 for the target group.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Delivery and assembly of equipment and furnishings for the buildings and facilities listed above, as part of their general overhaul;</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Sports infrastructure</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction, reconstruction, renovation, equipment and furnishing of sports infrastructure, such as sports halls, swimming pools, football fields, stadiums, combined volleyball / basketball playgrounds, tennis courts, etc.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Cultural infrastructure</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of infrastructure in the cultural field through construction, reconstruction, renovation, equipment and furnishing of cultural centres, theatres, community centres, libraries, opera houses, galleries, exhibition halls and other cultural institutions including the adjacent yard.</li> </ul> <p><b>For all groups of activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introducing energy efficiency measures in the buildings / premises mentioned above, including thermal insulation, replacement of frames, local installations and/or connections to the heating, gas, etc. systems;</li> <li>• Commissioning of installations for production of energy from renewable sources for the buildings listed above for meeting their own energy use, where this is</li> </ul>	

technically possible and economically feasible;

- Energy efficiency surveys and structural surveys of buildings mentioned above.
- Improving access for people with disabilities to the buildings subject to intervention.

**The energy efficiency measures and the measures for commissioning of installations for production of energy from renewable sources may not be implemented separately but only as part of the remaining construction and installation works related to the corresponding objects.**

**Direct beneficiaries of the ‘Social infrastructure’ group of activities:**

- 67 municipalities, as per Appendix 2, for facilities within the intervention zones in 39 cities of Level 1, 2 and 3, and within the entire urban territory of Level 4 cities according to IPURDs.

**Direct beneficiaries of the ‘Sports infrastructure’ group of activities:**

- 39 municipalities, as per Appendix 2, for facilities within the intervention zones in cities of Level 1, 2 and 3;
- Financial instruments for facilities within the intervention zones in cities of Level 1, 2 and 3;

**Direct beneficiaries of the ‘Cultural infrastructure’ group of activities:**

- 67 municipalities, as per Appendix 2, for facilities within the intervention zones in 39 cities of Level 1, 2 and 3, and within the entire urban territory of Level 4 cities according to IPURDs.
- Financial institutions, for facilities within the intervention zones in 39 cities of Level 1, 2 and 3, and within the entire urban territory of Level 4 cities according to IPURDs.

**Target groups:**

- Vulnerable groups of the population in the 67 cities: children, unemployed, working poor, illiterate, people of low qualifications and low educational status in employable age, homeless, persons living on their own without family and relatives, large families, single parents, pensioners, marginalised groups, including Roma, people with disabilities;
- The population of 67 cities earmarked for support under OPRG, which will benefit from an improved social infrastructure and a general increase in living standards.
- Visitors and guests to the cities who will benefit from improved opportunities to attend cultural events, social environment, contacts and inclusion.

**Specific target territories:**

Interventions in the ‘Social infrastructure’ and ‘Cultural infrastructure’ groups of activities will be implemented within the framework of IPURDs, respectively within



the intervention zones in cities of Level 1, 2 and 3, and within the entire urban territory of Level 4 cities. Special focus will be placed on social intervention zones with a view to addressing to the fullest extent possible the needs of marginalised groups of society, especially the Roma, who in their great majority are concentrated in such zones.

Interventions in the ‘Sports infrastructure’ group of activities will be implemented solely within the framework of IPURDs of Level 1 to 3 cities.

Cities of Level 1 to 3 are eligible for funding of projects under the investment priority (all groups of activities), outside the intervention zones of IPURD, within the framework of the municipal territory and within the 20% limit for all activities outside the intervention zones from the indicative reference budget for the relevant city. Those projects shall be part of the IPURD, compliant with the Municipal Development Plan and shall include rationale for their contribution to improve the functional links between the city and its periphery.

**Justification:**

These activities directly address the implementation of the specific objective “Social inclusion through investments in social infrastructure in urban areas”.

Poverty is one of the main causes of social isolation in the cities. One dimension of poverty is the lack of shelter and adequate living conditions conforming to present-day living standards.

Many members of the target groups live in woeful conditions, without access to any public utilities, without water or electricity. This is why the activities envisaged within the framework of this priority seek to address that very problem, namely: provision of adequate living conditions for vulnerable groups of the population. The construction of new, as well as the renovation or expansion of existing social housing will meet the growing need to provide affordable housing to the poorest members of society. The right to a home is a basic human right and the activities envisaged aim to ensure equal access to that right for all members of society. The provision of adequate living conditions and care for the vulnerable groups of society will help raise their motivation to emerge from their isolation and make efforts for socialising, for living a full life and integrating in the labour market.

In many cities there are areas with compact Roma population living in the worst possible conditions. The planned interventions will contribute towards providing adequate living conditions for that population, as well as to the social integration of Roma within the broader social zone of IPURDs.

The renewal of the cultural infrastructure in cities, as part of the integrated measures for urban development, will contribute to social inclusion by stimulating cultural life in cities.

The activities for improving the cultural and sports infrastructure cannot be separated from the measures for urban development. Support for cultural life and sports activities in the cities of Bulgaria is an impetus for social cohesion and integration of vulnerable groups of society. Of special value in this context will be measures to improve physical access to the sites and facilities targeted for intervention.

Funding will be provided for the purposes of ensuring an accessible environment for people with disabilities, both in the housing sector by the provision of homes adapted to the special needs of that target group, and in public buildings where social services are provided. Thus the measures will contribute to promoting the social inclusion of people with disabilities.

The energy efficiency measures envisaged and the installations for utilisation of energy from renewable sources will contribute to the conservation of the environment and improvement of the air quality in urban areas by reducing energy consumption and, hence, the greenhouse gas emissions.

Activities within the framework of this priority enable to the fullest extent possible sustainable urban development as they contribute to the provision of equal opportunities for all members of society by promoting social inclusion of vulnerable groups, as well as to environmental protection and conservation by means of the energy efficiency measures.

Such interventions will also contribute to the overall improvement of the quality of the urban environment and atmosphere and the living standards of the urban population.

#### 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>&lt;2A.2.2.1 type="S" input="S"&gt;</p> <p><b>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</b></p>
<p>&lt;2A.2.2.2 type="S" maxlength="5000" input="M"&gt;</p> <p>The following guiding principles will be observed in the selection of operations under this investment priority:</p> <p><b>Territorial concentration:</b></p> <p>Sites and facilities falling within the scope of IPURDs will be financed.</p> <p><b>Multi-level governance:</b></p> <p>Projects will be funded on the basis of pre-defined lists of sites within the municipal IPURDs.</p> <p><b>Needs-based financing</b></p> <p>At least 5% of the aggregate budget under Priority Axis 1 will be focused on the implementation of the social infrastructure group of activities. Projects with the highest potential for social inclusion will be funded in compliance with the criteria for selection of operations. The project proposals for provision of council social housing for vulnerable, minority and indigent groups of the population, as well as other groups in a</p>	

disadvantaged position, shall conform to the National Strategy for Roma Integration of the Republic of Bulgaria 2012-2020.

In accordance with the criteria for selection of operations, the Programme will fund projects with the greatest needs or the highest potential for attracting investments, for ensuring return on investment and achieving economic growth in the regions.

**Sustainable development.**

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

**Integrated investments**

Projects integrated within the framework of IPURDs will be funded, with a view to achieving a comprehensive synergic effect on the intervention zones in Level 1, 2 and 3 cities and, respectively, IPURDs in Level 4 cities and improvement of the functional connections with neighbouring territories for the cities of Level 1 to 3.

**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>&lt;2A.2.3.1 type="S" input="S"&gt;</p> <p><b>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</b></p>
<i>Planned use of financial instruments</i>	<p>&lt;2A.2.3.2 type="C" input="M"&gt;</p> <p>67 544 070,11</p>
<p>&lt;2A.2.3.3 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M"&gt;</p> <p>Investments in sports infrastructure under OPRG 2014–2020 are to be effected solely through financial instruments in view of their potential return on investment.</p> <p>Because of the existing potential for generation of income and for return on investment, a group of activities targeting the cultural infrastructure will be supported by a combination of financial instruments and grants.</p> <p>Measures for support of community centres and libraries will be excluded from the planned use of financial instruments and will be funded entirely through grants.</p> <p>The specific mechanism and structure of financial instruments, the types of financial products and the envisaged grant assistance will be specified based on an ex-ante assessment of financial instruments in accordance with Article 37 (2) of Regulation 1303/2013.</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>&lt;2A.2.4.1 type="S" input="S"&gt;</p> <p><b>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</b></p>
	<p>&lt;2A.2.4.2 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"&gt;</p> <p>N/A</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)

I	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023) <sup>23</sup>			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
4	Rehabilitated housing in urban areas	housing units	ERDF	Less developed regions			1186	Public UMIS	Annually
5	Population covered by improved social services	persons	ERDF	Less developed regions			330 420	Public UMIS	Annually

<sup>23</sup>

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.

6	Number of supported objects of sport and cultural infrastructure	objects	ERDF	Less developed regions			308	Public UMIS	Annually
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#### 2.A.4 Investment priority 1.5

(Repeated for each investment priority under the priority axis)

<i>Investment priority</i>	<p>&lt;2A.10 type="S" input="S" "SME" &gt;</p> <p><b>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</b></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>&lt;2A.1.1 type="N" input="G" "SME" &gt;</p> <p>1</p>
<i>Specific objective</i>	<p>&lt;2A.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M" "SME" &gt;</p> <p>Improving the urban mobility</p>
<i>The results that the Member State seeks to achieve with Union support</i>	<p>&lt;2A.1.3 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M" "SME" &gt;</p> <p>The poor quality of air is one of the most severe problems in cities and it is constantly aggravated due to the growth of manufacturing industries, heavier traffic and congestions and high energy consumption. Vehicle traffic is one of the major pollutants and it is therefore essential to promote sustainable mobility, including reduced usage of personal cars, encouraged use of public urban transport and alternative means of transportation (such as bicycles). For that reason, funding under this priority will be provided to activities that aim to permanently improve transportation in cities and create sustainable integrated transport systems.</p> <p>In this context, the main challenges for public transport that affect the environment directly and are identified in the integrated sustainable urban transport projects funded under OPRD 2007–2013 and the respective feasibility studies are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growing traffic and congestions – analyses show that the number of</li> </ul>

	<p>vehicles is growing incrementally and this trend is expected to persist until 2020. Therefore, measures need to be taken to reduce traffic congestion and promote the use of alternative types of transport, including public transport, which is considered more environmentally friendly than cars.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outdated vehicles and transport infrastructure, which limit the performance, speed and quality of transport services. The poor condition and the insufficient accessibility of public transport (especially for people with disabilities) are the main reasons why most people prefer to use their personal car as their choice of transport.</li> <li>• No available alternative environmentally friendly ways of transit and travel – alternatives to personal cars are rarely available, there are no convenient public transport links, and there is no network that may serve as an alternative of major city roads.</li> </ul> <p>Transport affects the health and lives of people not just because of its impact on the environment. There is a significant number of pedestrians who were injured while trying to reach or leave stations of the public transport. In this context, it is essential to improve the safety of the environment by ensuring safe pedestrian connections to bus stops and train stations.</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. Maintaining an urban transport system comprised of different types of vehicles will ensure a balanced distribution and will mitigate the negative impact on the environment.</p> <p>Investments in public urban transport will contribute to reducing the pollution of the environment to a level that is harmless for the human health and the nature.</p> <p>Since public transport is one of the major polluters of the environment, the regional development policy will use this priority to help implement integrated strategies for clean public transport as part of the integrated plans for urban reconstruction and development. The existing infrastructure will be used more effectively by strengthening environmentally-friendly public transport systems.</p> <p>Therefore, investments in the development of integrated public transport are important and necessary to reduce greenhouse emissions and protect the environment as a whole.</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 value<sup>24</sup> (2023)</i>	<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
1	Increase of the travels with public urban transport	%	Less developed regions		2011	3-5%	Municipalities	Twice during the period: 2018 and 2023

## **2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority 1.5**

(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>&lt;2A.2.1.1 type="S" input="S"&gt;</p> <p><b>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</b></p>
	<p>&lt;2A.2.1.2 type="S" maxlength="17500" input="M"&gt;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of traffic management plans and establishment of automated traffic management and control systems through implementation and improvement of traffic management and information systems, for example traffic operations centres, central computer system, vehicle detection stations, remote-controlled changeable message signs, ramp metering stations, communication sub-systems), including also video surveillance systems to be used by the urban mobility centres</li> </ul>

<sup>24</sup>

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

and competent units of the Ministry of the Interior;

- Improvement of the accessibility of city bus stations 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, readable timetables even for those with impaired vision, information for the blind, etc.;
- Renovation of the transport infrastructure, such as the socket and catenary cable network, improving stations and stops, 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 using buses, trams, trolleys that are compliant with the European legislation on harmful emissions from engines and measures to increase the use of renewable / alternative energy sources in urban transport;
- Renovation and reconstruction of street networks and transport infrastructure together with the adjoining structures (**bridges, tunnels, overpasses, underpasses etc.**) as an element of the technical infrastructure pursuant to **Article 64 (1) of the Spatial Development Act, as well as the socket and catenary cable network, stations and stops of the urban public transport, repair and maintenance facilities and equipment**, including video surveillance systems etc. in relation to the development of an integrated urban transport system;
- Construction / reconstruction / renovation of pedestrian streets and sidewalks, construction of cycling tracks and lanes, pedestrian areas, streets for pedestrians and cyclists, 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 city transport and intercity bus, rail and marine transport as part of realisation of intermodal transportations – renovation of municipal bus stations, areas owned by municipalities in front of train stations, bus stops for the public transport ensuring easy transfer to the subsequent type of transport and logical connections between the pieces of infrastructure etc.;
- Measures to establish parking arrangements in proximity to public urban transport nodes outside the **city centre**.

**Direct beneficiaries:**

- 39 municipalities for the cities of level 1 to 3 in accordance with Annex 2
- Financial instruments for the cities of level 1 to 3 in accordance with Annex 2



**Target groups:**

- The inhabitants of 39 cities identified for support under OPRG, who will benefit from the improved urban public transport and the reduced vehicle traffic and will also experience an improved quality of life in general;
- 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 bigger cities or use the administrative services or hospitals and clinics 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 cities of Level 1, 2 and 3, designated for support under OPRG, including functional connections with neighbouring settlements, which represent part of the public urban transport system and are included in the integrated sustainable urban transport project.

**Justification:**

In terms of final impact, the implementation of the activities will result in an improved quality of air in cities. Transport in cities is one of the main sources of pollution: both air and noise pollution. The contributing factors are the growing traffic and the use of personal vehicles on the one hand and the outdated transport infrastructure, including the fleet of transport companies providing public transport services, on the other.

The activities envisaged under this priority will have a direct effect on the protection of the environment by improving the performance of vehicles used for public transport – the replacement of outdated and depreciated vehicles with new vehicles that meet the statutory levels for harmful emissions will mitigate the negative impact on the air quality.

One of the major objectives of the intended interventions is to improve the speed and quality of service delivery in the public transport sector that will encourage more people to prefer public transport to travel by personal car. The aim is to promote sustainable urban mobility by creating possibilities for alternative types of transport, including public transport, cycling and walking. This can be achieved by the actions described above which are dedicated to improving transport infrastructure.

Investments in smart transport systems will improve the flow of traffic at street junctures and will give the right of way to public transport vehicles by means of automated smart control of traffic lights; they will also help distribute more efficiently public transport vehicles along the various routes by means of control centres and will ensure passengers' comfort and access by real time information systems.

Major focus will be placed on activities to improve accessibility – provision of low-floor vehicles, ramps and elevators for disabled people that will ensure easier access to urban transport stations, audio and visual designation of stations and vehicles. In this way the envisaged interventions will contribute to social inclusion of disadvantaged

people.

The actions will help increase the safety of the urban environment by means of providing safe access to public transport stations. The number of personal cars in city centres will decrease thanks to measures to set up parking spaces close to key public transport nodes. Residents of remote urban areas will enjoy improved mobility and social inclusion due to the development of an infrastructure network of new routes and destinations to peripheral residential areas.

The support will be provided for integrated projects for urban transport and sustainable mobility in order to ensure the coordinated implementation of the measures, their complementarity and synergic effect. They will aim at enabling the easy access to the urban areas and all neighbourhoods and in particular to the identified intervention zones within the IPURD. In this regard the support for urban transport projects within the Priority axis 1 will apply the integrated approach double-fold: on the one hand they will provide for integration of the implemented transport measures, and on the other hand they will ensure the integration of these measures within the overall urban development strategy of the respective beneficiary cities. The need for preparation of integrated projects for urban transport and sustainable mobility should be identified in the IPURD of the cities based on the analyses within the IPURD, exploring the role of the city in a wider territorial context.

The approach for projects implementation 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. The task of the beneficiary 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 that they contribute to the greatest extent to the realisation of the vision of IPURD and the achievement of the objectives of OPRG. This means that the feasibility studies should reflect the priorities of the IPURD and prove the contribution to the development of the identified in the plans intervention zones.

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>	<a href="#">&lt;2A.2.2.1 type="S" input="S"&gt;</a> <b>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</b>
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<2A.2.2.2 type="S" maxlength="5000" input="M">

**Territorial concentration:**

Funding will be provided to projects within the 39 cities of Levels 1, 2 and 3 earmarked for support, and in addition to the territory within the boundaries of the urban built-up area the actions will cover functional connections 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 within the IPURD intervention zones.

**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 only in case of dedicating separate lanes 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 as planned in their IPURD and to contribute to the development of the intervention zones 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.

**Multi-level governance:**

Integrated urban transport projects will be financed only if a feasibility study has been conducted as a key responsibility of municipalities for the measures that are included.

**Needs-based financing**

In compliance with the operation selection criteria, funding will be provided to projects with the highest potential to attract investments or ensure return on investment.

**Sustainable development.**

Projects that contribute to raising energy efficiency while 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)

*Investment Priority*

<2A.2.3.1 type="S" input="S">

**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**

	<b>relevant adaptation measures</b>
<i>Planned use of financial instruments</i>	<2A.2.3.2 type="C" input="M"> 18 236 898,93
<2A.2.3.3 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M"> In view of the potential of certain components of integrated urban transport projects to generate revenue and the possibilities for return on investment, those individual components or holistic solutions of integrated urban transport projects will be paid for using financial instruments.  The specific mechanism and structure of financial instruments, the types of financial products and the envisaged grant assistance will be specified based on an ex-ante assessment of financial instruments in accordance with Article 37 (2) of Regulation 1303/2013	

#### **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"> <b>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</b>
<2A.2.4.2 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"> N/A	

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) <sup>25</sup>			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
2	Total length of supported public transport lines	kilometres	ERDF	Less developed regions				Public UMIS	Annually

**2.A.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7<sup>26</sup>**

Specific provisions for ESF<sup>27</sup>, 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.

<sup>25</sup> 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.

<sup>26</sup> Only for programmes supported by the ESF.

<sup>27</sup> 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>	<code>&lt;2A.3.1 type="S" input="S"&gt;</code>
	<code>&lt;2A.3.2 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M"&gt;</code>

## 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)<sup>28</sup>

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 <sup>29</sup>			Final target (2023) <sup>30</sup>			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	315 434 410			788 914 739			Public UMIS	Public access
1	output	3	Decrease of annual primary energy	kWh/year	ERDF	Less developed regions	70 118 039			175 368 169			Public UMIS	Public access

<sup>28</sup> 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.

<sup>29</sup> Milestones may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

<sup>30</sup> Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

			consumption of public buildings									
1	output	4	Open space created or rehabilitated in urban areas	square metres	ERD F	Less developed regions	2 346 818			5 869 492	Public UMIS	Public access
1	output	5	Total surface area of rehabilitated land	hectares	ERD F	Less developed regions	65,2			163,0	Public UMIS	Public access
1	output	7	Capacity of supported childcare or education infrastructure	persons	ERD F	Less developed regions	60 393			151 045	Public UMIS	Public access
1	output	8	Rehabilitated housing in urban areas	housing units	ERD F	Less developed regions	474			1 186	Public UMIS	Public access
1	output	9	Population covered by improved social services	persons	ERD F	Less developed regions	132 113			330 420	Public UMIS	Public access



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

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

The target value for the financial indicator is calculated on the basis of prognosis for the contracted funds for the period 2014-2020 and taking into account the N+3 rule.

The target value for the output indicators are calculated by dividing the total amount of allocation (both EU and national contribution) for operations which will contribute to each indicator by the unit cost established on the basis of similar interventions in 2007-2013 period.

The share of the financial allocation represented by operations, to which the output indicators set out in the performance framework correspond is 50,9 % and has been calculated in the following way:

1. Investment priority 1.1, measures for energy efficiency of public buildings – 9,4%
2. Investment priority 1.2, measures for urban environment and rehabilitation of zones with potential for economic development– 26,2%
3. Investment priority 1.3 – 9,6%
4. Investment priority 1.4, measures for infrastructures for social services and housing conditions – 5,6%

## 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 intervention<sup>31</sup>

(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)
1	13	74 298 477,12
1	14	148 596 954,25
1	85	81 052 884,13
1	90	81 052 884,13

<sup>31</sup> Amounts include total Union support (the main allocation and the allocation from the performance reserve).

1	72	22 514 690,04
1	89	45 029 380,07
1	51	37 959 767,40
1	52	37 959 767,40
1	54	22 154 455,00
1	55	116 716 153,20
1	43	85 105 528,34
1	44	36 473 797,86

**Table 8: Dimension 2 – Form of finance**

Fund	ERDF	
Category of region	Less developed regions	
<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
1	01	619 829 416,72
1	03	3 872 526,69
1	04	165 212 795,49

**Table 9: Dimension 3 – Territory type**

Fund	ERDF	
Category of region	Less developed regions	
<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
1	01	483 972 444,86
1	02	304 942 294,04

**Table 10: Dimension 4 – Territorial delivery mechanisms**

Fund	ERDF	
Category of region	Less developed regions	
<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
1	02	788 914 739

## 2.A.1 Priority axis 2

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" > <b>Regional Educational Infrastructure</b>

<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>	132 863 159,09
<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" > <b>Investing in education, skills and life-long learning by developing educational and training infrastructure</b>
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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>Specific objective</i>	<2A.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M" "SME" > Creating 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" > This priority axis aims at improving the educational infrastructure of national and regional significance. It will support the regional dimensions of the education sector identified in the National Development Programme Bulgaria 2020, as well as the measures identified in the National Reform Programme. The prioritisation of the key sites of the state educational infrastructure and the municipal educational infrastructure of national and regional importance is performed in accordance with a Methodology for prioritisation of educational infrastructure in Bulgaria, approved by the Ministry of Education and Science. 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).

The analysis of strategic documents in the field of education demonstrates that the goals and priorities in this sector that could be supported under OPRG 2014–2020 are related to improving the facilities and equipment in the vocational, specialised and profiled high schools as well as the universities and colleges.

The analysis of the educational infrastructure for the 2006–2012 period shows that in general, activities related to improving the educational infrastructure, building a more comfortable environment and promoting life-long learning were implemented under the necessary minimum threshold and do not satisfy the needs.

Improved conditions in the educational facilities, modern classrooms and school labs will have a beneficial impact on pupils' and students' motivation for better, more proactive learning and for their realisation in the labour market.

Here is an overview of the conclusions and identified needs in the analysis:

**In the field of university education it is necessary:**

- To form clear research clusters that comply with the requirements of modern infrastructure.
- To develop modern library services and ensure quick access to various international databases.

In 2012, the Times magazine published its Top 400 universities in the world and none of the Bulgarian universities made it to this group. Other prestigious sources confirm this fact. This is caused by a multitude of reasons but the most significant ones are the outdated facilities and equipment in the Bulgarian universities which do not allow for proper research and academic activities.

**In the field of school education the efforts should focus on:**

- Raising efficiency through the implementation of energy efficiency projects, upgrading the physical environment in schools, providing modern equipment and furnishings, all intended to create an attractive learning environment.
- Enabling full day-time education process through improving the infrastructure, sports and recreational facilities, as well as providing rooms for extracurricular activities.
- The provision of modern conditions in the educational infrastructure will improve the quality of education while reducing the school drop-out rate.

The state educational infrastructure was not covered sufficiently by OPRD 2007–2013. Secondary state schools (9) and specialised schools (63) were not financed during that programming period. In addition, only 9 of 262 vocational schools were financed (accounting for 3.4%). Moreover, schools under the umbrella of the Ministry of Agriculture and

Food (95) and tourism vocational schools were not financed either and only 3 out of 21 schools under the umbrella of the Ministry of Culture were financed (accounting for 14%). During that programming period, 15 out of 51 colleges and universities were financed, 72.5% (37) of those are owned by the State and the rest are private.

The Operational Programme will focus its support on secondary, specialised and vocational schools owned by the state and having national or regional significance under the umbrella of the Ministry of Education and Science, tourism vocational schools under the umbrella of the Ministry of Education and Science, vocational schools under the umbrella of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, vocational schools under the umbrella of the Ministry of Culture and vocational schools under the umbrella of the Ministry of Physical Education and Sports, as well as colleges and universities.

The territorial distribution of specialised schools in Bulgaria shows that they tend to be located in the 67 cities for support: 59.4% of the state schools. This will mean complementing the activities which have already been implemented by municipalities within the intervention zones identified in the integrated plans for urban reconstruction and development.

Vocational schools under the umbrella of the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Culture are clustered mainly in the proposed target cities: 80.5% and 86.4% respectively. On the other hand, the majority of vocational schools under the umbrella of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the ones under the umbrella of municipalities are located in smaller cities: 54.7% and 64.3% respectively. Nearly half of the tourism vocational schools are located in the proposed target cities and the rest are in other cities.

All universities are located in the target cities proposed for support under Priority Axis 1 and that will ensure complementarity and added value to the territory covered by the intervention.

At the same time, the analysis of integrated plans for urban reconstruction and development clearly shows that a large group of state schools falls outside the intervention zones identified in these plans. The coverage does not extend to:

- 90% of the general state schools under the umbrella of the MES;
- 88% of the specialised state schools under the umbrella of the MES;
- 79% of the vocational state schools under the umbrella of the MES;
- 89% of the vocational state schools under the umbrella of the MAF;
- 86% of the vocational state schools under the umbrella of the MC;

The majority of colleges and universities also remain outside the scope of the intervention zones.

This demonstrates the clear differentiation between the urban

	development policy and the sectoral policies of regional importance. Lately a process has been observed of transferring the management of state professional schools to municipal authorities. Taking into account that the schools have national and regional significance going beyond the needs of the city and influencing the social and economic development of large part of the territory in compliance with the specific identified needs of the target area, it is reasonable to realize the support for these municipal sites within the framework of the sectoral priority.
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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 value<sup>32</sup> (2023)</i>	<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
1	Increase of the share of modernized educational institutions	%	Less developed regions	9,2%	2013	Increase with 723,9%	NSI, MES Municipalities Public UMI	Twice during the period: 2018 and 2023

<sup>32</sup> 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"> <b>Investing in education, skills and life-long learning by developing educational and training infrastructure</b>
<2A.2.1.2 type="S" maxlength="17500" input="M"> <b>Indicative eligible activities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Construction, reconstruction and repair of state schools and colleges and universities and municipal schools of national and regional importance, including the adjacent school yards and dormitories;</li><li>• Delivery and assembly of equipment and furnishings for the buildings and facilities listed above, as part of their general overhaul;</li><li>• Introducing energy efficiency measures in the buildings / premises mentioned above, including thermal insulation, replacement of frames, local installations and/or connections to the heating, gas, etc. systems;</li><li>• Commissioning of installations for production of energy from renewable sources for the buildings listed above for meeting their own energy use, where this is technically possible and economically feasible;</li><li>• Energy efficiency audits and constructional inspections of the buildings;</li><li>• Improving access for people with disabilities to the buildings mentioned above.</li></ul> <p><b>The energy efficiency measures and the measures for commissioning of installations for production of energy from renewable sources may not be implemented separately but only as part of the remaining construction and installation works related to the corresponding objects.</b></p> <b>Direct beneficiaries:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The MES for the state school under its umbrella.</li><li>• The MAF for the state school under its umbrella.</li><li>• The MC for the state school under its umbrella.</li></ul>	



- The MPES for the sports schools under its umbrella.
- Colleges and universities.
- Municipalities for municipal education infrastructure of national and regional importance.

**Target groups:**

- Children, adolescents and young people.
- Working age citizens who may benefit from the services of colleges, universities and vocational schools. In addition, the improved access to high quality education for children is an incentive for people of working age to remain in their regions and contributes to coping with the negative demographic trends.
- Members of vulnerable social groups – the improved architectural environment will contribute to the social inclusion of people in a disadvantaged position.

**Specific target territories:**

Investments in educational infrastructure will be supported by OPRG on the territory of the entire country in conformity with the Strategy for Development of Educational Infrastructure 2014–2020 and the National Strategy for Development of Tertiary Education.

**Justification:**

These activities are directly aimed at the achieving of the specific objective of the investment priority, namely: “Reducing the number of school drop-outs through investments in educational infrastructure in urban areas”. One of the causes of early school drop-out is exactly the poor educational infrastructure, the limited opportunities for receiving vocational training and the lack of capacity for full-time schooling and other activities in the schools.

Investments in educational infrastructure will have as their immediate result the improved quality of the educational environment and, therefore, its increased attractiveness. The renovation of the physical environment will enable an overall improvement of the tuition process and will facilitate the introduction of new methods of teaching that would increase and hold the interest of young people. Improved conditions in the educational establishments, modern classrooms and school labs will have a beneficial impact on pupils’ motivation for better, more proactive learning and for their realisation in the labour market.

Enabling a full-time tuition process through the construction and renovation of self-study rooms, sports and recreational facilities, as well rooms for extracurricular activities etc., 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 directly contribute to reducing school drop-out rate and will create prerequisites for increasing the share of school graduates in Bulgaria.

Measures to improve access for people with disabilities to the buildings subject to

interventions are a prerequisite for their social inclusion and for overcoming their isolation as a social group.

Renovation of facilities and equipment of colleges and universities will create new opportunities to bring tertiary education up to date, increase its quality and ultimately improve the rating of Bulgarian universities in lists of top universities in the world and result in a higher share of students who apply and enrol in Bulgarian universities.

The implementation of energy efficiency measures and the use of energy from renewable sources will contribute to improving the quality of the environment.

The supported activities will help keep children and young people at school and will bring better educational results to the pupils; this will, in the long run, trigger an increase in employment, especially youth employment while reducing unemployment and the general and juvenile crime associated with it.

### 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>&lt;2A.2.2.1 type="S" input="S"&gt;</p> <p><b>Investing in education, skills and life-long learning by developing educational and training infrastructure</b></p>
<p>&lt;2A.2.2.2 type="S" maxlength="5000" input="M"&gt;</p> <p>The following guiding principles will be observed in the selection of operations under this investment priority:</p> <p><b>Predefined projects:</b></p> <p>In order to prepare the Strategy for Development of Educational Infrastructure 2014–2020, the Ministry of Education and Science carried out an analysis of the educational infrastructure based on studies and indicators applied to over 2,900 educational institutions. The studies that were used to prepare the analysis were conducted by the regional education inspectorates and a list of schools was prepared which is supplemented with the institutions under the umbrella of other ministries MC, MAF and MYS. This list is used to select objects of state educational infrastructure.</p> <p>The main objectives of the Methodology are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Efficiency</b> – the educational infrastructure is not to be closed in long term period and is used by significant number of pupils; the educational infrastructure has to achieve high rate of social return;</li> <li>• <b>Equal access to quality education</b> – main objective of the education system is to provide equal access for the children and students to quality education;</li> <li>• <b>Balanced territorial and regional development</b> of the educational infrastructure – the prioritizing of educational infrastructure will be implemented at regional and district level in accordance with the distribution of children and students.</li> </ul> <p>Based on the methodology the Priority axis will focus on Profiled secondary schools,</p>	

Professional schools, Special schools, Sport schools, Schools of Art and Culture.

With regards the tertiary education universities will be supported in accordance with the Strategy for Development of Higher Education of Republic of Bulgaria. The Strategy envisages the optimization of the number of the universities by using different financial and tax mechanism, which can provide the potential universities for support. The OPRG 2014-2020 will support also university faculties, which participate in the centres of excellence and centres for competence, supported by OPSESG.

**Needs-based financing**

In accordance with criteria for selection of operations, projects combining the most pressing needs with the largest significance for the development of the regions will be funded.

**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"> <b>Investing in education, skills and life-long learning by developing educational and training infrastructure</b>
<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"> N/A

**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"> <b>Investing in education, skills and life-long learning by developing educational and training infrastructure</b>
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<2A.2.4.2 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M">

N/A

### 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) <sup>33</sup>			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
2	Capacity of supported childcare or education infrastructure	persons	ERDF	Less developed regions			235 603	Public UMIS	Annually

### 2.A.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7<sup>34</sup>

Specific provisions for ESF<sup>35</sup>, 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:

<sup>33</sup> 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.

<sup>34</sup> Only for programmes supported by the ESF.

<sup>35</sup> For the ESF, this list includes common output indicators for which a target value has been set and all programme-specific output indicators.

- 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">	

## 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)<sup>36</sup>

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 <sup>37</sup>			Final target (2023) <sup>38</sup>			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	45 229 941			112 933 685			Public UMIS	Public access
2	output	2	Capacity of supported childcare or education infrastructure	persons	ERDF	Less developed regions	94 359			235 603			Public UMIS	Public access

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

<sup>36</sup> 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.

<sup>37</sup> Milestones may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

<sup>38</sup> Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

(optional)

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

The target value for the financial indicator is calculated on the basis of prognosis for the contracted funds for the period 2014-2020 and taking into account the N+3 rule.

The target value for the output indicators are calculated by dividing the total amount of allocation (both EU and national contribution) for operations which will contribute to each indicator by the unit cost established on the basis of similar interventions in 2007-13 period.

## 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 intervention<sup>39</sup>

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

<b>Table 7: Dimension 1 – Intervention field</b>		
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	
<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
<2A.5.1.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.1.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.1.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >
2	49	37 644 561,74
2	51	75 289 123,48

<b>Table 8: Dimension 2 – Form of finance</b>		
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	
<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
<2A.5.2.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.2.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.2.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >
2	01	112 933 685,23

<b>Table 9: Dimension 3 – Territory type</b>		
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	
<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
<2A.5.3.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.3.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.3.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >

<sup>39</sup> Amounts include total Union support (the main allocation and the allocation from the performance reserve).



<i>input="S" Decision=N&gt;</i>	<i>input="S" Decision=N &gt;</i>	<i>input="M" Decision=N &gt;</i>
02	07	

**Table 10: Dimension 4 – Territorial delivery mechanisms**

Fund	<i>&lt;2A.5.4.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N &gt;</i> ERDF	
Category of region	<i>&lt;2A.5.4.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N &gt;</i> Less developed regions	
<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
<i>&lt;2A.5.4.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N&gt;</i>	<i>&lt;2A.5.4.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N &gt;</i>	<i>&lt;2A.5.4.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N &gt;</i>
02	07	

**Table 11: Dimension 6 – ESF secondary theme<sup>40</sup> (ESF only)**

Fund	<i>&lt;2A.5.5.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N &gt;</i>	
Category of region	<i>&lt;2A.5.5.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N &gt;</i>	
<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
<i>&lt;2A.5.5.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N&gt;</i>	<i>&lt;2A.5.5.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N &gt;</i>	<i>&lt;2A.5.5.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N &gt;</i>
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>	<i>&lt;3A.6.1 type="S" input="S"&gt;</i>
	<i>&lt;2A.6.2 type="S" maxlength="2000" input="M"&gt;</i>

<sup>40</sup> 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
Title of the priority axis	<2A.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M" "SME" > <b>Regional Health Infrastructure</b>

<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 expenditure or eligible public</i>	<2A.9 type="S" input="S" "SME" > 63 570 890

<i>expenditure)</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>	<p>&lt;2A.10 type="S" input="S" "SME" &gt;</p> <p><b>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.</b></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" >
<i>Specific objective</i>	<p>&lt;2A.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M" "SME" &gt;</p> <p><i>Improving the conditions for adequate emergency medical aid.</i></p>
<i>The results that the Member State seeks to achieve with Union support</i>	<p>&lt;2A.1.3 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M" "SME" &gt;</p> <p>Under this objective the regional dimensions of the healthcare sector, identified in the National Development Programme Bulgaria 2020, as well as the measures foreseen in the National Reform Programme will be supported.</p> <p>Bulgaria continues to be a country with one of the highest mortality rates in the EU and one of the lowest natural growth rates. Results from the analyses show deterioration of the health status of the population and an increased rate of cardiovascular conditions among the population. The annual number of hospitalised people demonstrates a constant growing trend especially in the last few years.</p> <p>Healthcare for children does not meet the EU average yet. Irrespective of the positive trend of reduced child mortality – 8.5% for 2011, this percentage remains higher compared to other European countries. One of the serious shortcomings of the Bulgarian healthcare system is the uneven</p>

distribution of healthcare facilities in the territory of Bulgaria expressed in terms of the remoteness of healthcare service delivery (primary care, specialised care, hospital and emergency care).

These problems determine the need of urgent reforms and restructuring of the health sector, which is targeted by the National health strategy 2014-2020 and the action plan for its implementation.

During the 2007–2013 programming period 5.7% (45 sites) of totally 785 accredited medical institutions in Bulgaria were financed under OPRD 2007–2013. The support was focused on both municipal and state-owned healthcare infrastructure – general hospitals, university hospitals for treatment and diagnostics of cancer, integrated oncology clinics, small hospitals for additional treatment and municipal clinics, restructuring of clinics and other facilities. Data shows that financing of healthcare infrastructure for that period was insufficient and for this reason a separate priority axis for healthcare infrastructure was formulated.

OPRG will support the reforms in the sector in compliance with the priorities of the National health strategy in order to answer the need to ensure equal access to healthcare services for people and to improve the quality of healthcare services by modernising the health infrastructure, providing hospitals and clinics with new and modern medical equipment.

In order to ensure concentration of the resources OPRG will focus its support on the medical establishments in correspondence with the Concept for development of the emergency medical care, drafted in implementation of the strategy.

The investments will be integrated with the remaining priorities in the healthcare sector in conformity with the needs of the

The provision of access to services and mostly access to basic healthcare, educational and social services is a key instrument for overcoming the consequences of poverty and social exclusion.

With a view to this the actions to be financed within this priority axis are orientated at provision of accessible and high-quality healthcare services through investment in the required infrastructure.

The National health strategy provides for optimization of the hospital care and for balance between the needs of hospitalization, the organization of the system and the quality and quantity of the resources to answer the needs. In this regard the Action plan to the Strategy includes measures for development and implementation of pilot projects for restructuring of hospital care at municipal level from active treatment to finishing and continuous treatment.

In this regard the OP Priority is expected to contribute significantly to the finalisation of the reform of the emergency medical care. This result will be one of the main prerequisites to perform one of the next main pillars of the health reform, namely to transform some of the inefficient hospitals for active treatment to facilities for finishing and continuing treatment.

**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 value<sup>41</sup> (2023)</i>	<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
1	Increased share of modernized healthcare establishments	%	Less developed regions	13,9%	2013	Increase with 51,8%	Public UMIS Ministry of Health	Twice during the period: 2018 and 2023

## **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>&lt;2A.2.1.1 type="S" input="S"&gt;</p> <p><b>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.</b></p>
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<sup>41</sup> For ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, the target values may be qualitative or quantitative.

<2A.2.1.2 type="S" maxlength="17500" input="M">

- Delivery of appropriate equipment, furniture and construction and repair works to establishments for emergency medical care (including ambulances) in conformity with the approved Concept for development of the emergency medical care.
- Introducing energy efficiency measures in the buildings / premises mentioned above, including thermal insulation, replacement of frames, local installations and/or connections to the heating, gas, etc. systems;
- Commissioning of installations for production of energy from renewable sources for the buildings listed above for meeting their own energy use, where this is technically possible and economically feasible;
- Energy efficiency audits and constructional inspections of the buildings listed above;
- Improving the access for people with disabilities to the buildings mentioned above;

**The energy efficiency measures and the measures for commissioning of installations for production of energy from renewable sources may not be implemented separately but only as part of the remaining construction and installation works related to the corresponding objects.**

**Direct beneficiaries:**

- Ministry of Health for the regional health infrastructure;
- Municipalities for municipal healthcare infrastructure;

**Target groups:**

- The entire population of the country who will benefit from the improved access to emergency medical care .

**Justification:**

The deteriorated health status of the Bulgarian population and the inefficient healthcare system create the need to put forth major efforts in supporting the reforms in this sector. For this reason, the core group of actions will aim at improving the healthcare infrastructure and procuring the appropriate equipment that will enable the functioning of medical institutions subject to interventions. The interventions will correspond to the objectives and priorities of the National health strategy 2014-2020 aiming at improving the health, safety and welfare of the population getting the average EU levels – increasing the life expectancy in good health with 2 years, decreasing the child mortality rate with 30% and inequalities with 30%.

According to the strategy 10 years after the start of the reforms in the health sector the experience shows that there is no essential change in the access of the people to medical services. Therefore main strategic priority of the new policy is to ensure equal access to timely, adequate and effective medical care. The emergency aid is of crucial importance for the achievement of this priority. In this regard the strategy formulates its Priority area 4 “Strengthening and modernisation of the emergency medical care system”. In compliance with this priority the Concept for development of the emergency medical care has been prepared outlining the necessary measures to improve

the functioning of the system and to guarantee its sustainability in terms of communications, financing and personnel.

The foreseen radical changes in the field of emergency aid will help to solve the problems with the increasing disproportions and inequalities of the population in terms of access to timely and quality medical care, with the lack of satisfaction and the insecurity of the society for the quality of the health services in the emergency medical care and with the broken integrity between the emergency care and the other parts of the health system (primary, specialized, hospital and outpatient care) leading to instability of the whole health sector.

The Concept for development of emergency medical care points out the need to ensure the continuity of the medical diagnostic process in the full time and way of the emergency patient – from the entrance in the system until the end of the process and exit of the system. This requires the treatment of the patient in a single functional sphere. There are two types of structures ensuring the way of the patients:

- pre-hospital emergency care comprising emergency medical care centers and their subsidiaries;
- hospital emergency care where the set-up, definition and institutionalization of Emergency hospital complex (EHC) is necessary;

The EHC includes all clinics and wards carrying out emergency medical activities according to their specialization. This will standardize the emergency treatment process and guarantee equal quality of the emergency medical service for each patient.

The institutionalization of the EHC creates opportunity for clear definition of:

- structure for diagnostic medical process in case of emergency patients;
- relative independence of the structure in terms of incomes and costs;
- level of competency of the EHC separate from the whole hospital;
- real division of the emergency from the other patients.

The hospital emergency care will be structured in 2 levels:

- EHCs of first level covering over 90% of emergency pathology with hospitals in the big cities (Montana, Pleven, Veliko Tarnovo, Shumen, Varna, Burgas, Stara Zagora, Haskovo, Blagoevgrad and Sofia);
- EHCs of second level covering at least 60% of emergency pathology on the whole territory of the country.

It is foreseen in front of each Emergency hospital complex to exist an open avant-garde of emergency medical care centers, emergency wards and a coordination office.

The EHCs of first level will be independent hospitals, while the EHCs of second level will be situated on the territory of another hospital.

In addition a National centre for emergency care will be developed with facilities for treatment and training complex. Its natural predecessor is the currently existing university hospital for active treatment and emergency medicine “Pirogov” in Sofia.

OPRG will support the development of the emergency medical care system through

investments in the necessary infrastructure and equipment in order to improve the conditions for modern healthcare thus ensuring equal access of the population to high quality medical services.

### 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>&lt;2A.2.2.1 type="S" input="S"&gt;</p> <p><b>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.</b></p>
<p>&lt;2A.2.2.2 type="S" maxlength="5000" input="M"&gt;</p> <p>The following guiding principles will be observed in the selection of operations under this investment priority:</p> <p><b>Predefined projects:</b></p> <p>On the basis of the Concept for development of emergency medical care and the National card for emergency medical care the Ministry of Health have prepared a list with the priority facilities to be financed under OPRG.</p> <p><b>Needs-based financing</b></p> <p>In accordance with the criteria for selection of operations, projects will be financed combining the most pressing needs with the largest significance for the development of the regions will be financed.</p> <p><b>Sustainable development.</b></p> <p>Funding will be provided to projects which contribute to the national health reform.</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>	<p>&lt;2A.2.3.1 type="S" input="S"&gt;</p> <p><b>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.</b></p>
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<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"> N/A

#### 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"> <b>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.</b>
	<2A.2.4.2 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"> N/A

#### 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)<sup>42</sup></i>			<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
					<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>T</i>		
2	Population covered by improve	persons	ERDF	Less developed regions			3 682 175	Public UMIS MH / Municipa	Annually

<sup>42</sup> 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.

	d health services							lities / medical institutions	

**2.A.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7<sup>43</sup>**

Specific provisions for ESF<sup>44</sup>, 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">

<sup>43</sup> Only for programmes supported by the ESF.

<sup>44</sup> 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)<sup>45</sup>

<i>Priority axis</i>	<i>Indicator type (Key implementation step, financial, output or, where appropriate, result indicator)</i>	<i>ID</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 2018<sup>46</sup></i>			<i>Final target (2023)<sup>47</sup></i>			<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Explanation 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>		
3	financial	1	Certified amount	euro	ERDF	Less developed regions	28 777 827			71 056 362			Public UMIS	Public access
3	output	2	Population covered by	persons	ERDF	Less developed							Public UMIS	Public access

<sup>45</sup> 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.

<sup>46</sup> Milestones may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

<sup>47</sup> Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

			improved health services			regions	1 491 281			3 682 175		
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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 target value for the financial indicator is calculated on the basis of prognosis for the contracted funds for the period 2014-2020 and taking into account the N+3 rule.

The target value for the output indicators are calculated by dividing the total amount of allocation (both EU and national contribution) for operations which will contribute to each indicator by the unit cost established on the basis of similar interventions in 2007-13 period.

## 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 intervention<sup>48</sup>

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

<b>Table 7: Dimension 1 – Intervention field</b>		
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	
<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
<2A.5.1.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N>	<2A.5.1.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.1.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >
3	53	71 056 361,76

<b>Table 8: Dimension 2 – Form of finance</b>		
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	
<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
<2A.5.2.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N>	<2A.5.2.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.2.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >
3	01	71 056 361,76

<b>Table 9: Dimension 3 – Territory type</b>		
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	
<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
<2A.5.3.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N>	<2A.5.3.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.3.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >

<sup>48</sup> Amounts include total Union support (the main allocation and the allocation from the performance reserve).

<i>input="S" Decision=N&gt;</i>	<i>input="S" Decision=N &gt;</i>	<i>input="M" Decision=N &gt;</i>
3	07	

**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	
<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
<i>&lt;2A.5.4.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N&gt;</i>	<i>&lt;2A.5.4.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N &gt;</i>	<i>&lt;2A.5.4.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N &gt;</i>
3	07	

**Table 11: Dimension 6 – ESF secondary theme<sup>49</sup> (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 >	
<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
<i>&lt;2A.5.5.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N&gt;</i>	<i>&lt;2A.5.5.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N &gt;</i>	<i>&lt;2A.5.5.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N &gt;</i>
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>	<i>&lt;3A.6.1 type="S" input="S"&gt;</i>
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<sup>49</sup> 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.

*<2A.6.2 type="S" maxlength="2000" input="M">*

### 2.A.1 Priority axis 4

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" > <b>Regional Social Infrastructure</b>

<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
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<i>Category of region</i>	<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" "> 50 856 712
<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" "> <b>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.</b>
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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>Specific objective</i>	<2A.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M" "SME" "> <i>Deinstitutionalization of social services</i>
<i>The results that the Member State seeks to achieve with Union</i>	<2A.1.3 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M" "SME" "> Under this objective the regional dimensions of the social policy sector, identified in the National Development Programme Bulgaria 2020, as well as the actions envisaged in the National Reform Programme will be supported. With regard to the regional social infrastructure, OPRG will contribute to the achieving of the objectives set in the sectoral documents regarding social policy, in particular the deinstitutionalisation of children with disabilities and elderly people, such as the National Concept Paper for

<p><i>support</i></p>	<p>Active Live 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.</p> <p>Social services are the main pillars of the policy – a key factor for effective social inclusion and participation of vulnerable groups in the social life. The streamlining and modernisation of the social infrastructure will result in increased quality of life and will contribute to the improving of the human capital and the labour market in the regions, thus also contributing to the implementation of the goals of Europe 2020 Strategy. In Bulgaria a network of institutional and community based services is developed for children and elderly people a total of 972 – 253 specialised institutions and 719 community-based services, which are financed from the state budget as of November 2012)<sup>50</sup>.</p> <p>NSPRPSI with a horizon 2020 states that the policy for regional planning of the services, the objective of which is to guarantee the provision of social services satisfying the specific needs of the people from the target groups, is still undergoing development. The institutional model of care prevails, especially for people with disabilities and elderly people. The developed community-based services are insufficient for the complete elimination of the institutional model of care in Bulgaria.</p> <p>National Strategy “Vision for Deinstitutionalisation of the Children in Bulgaria” with a horizon 2025<sup>51</sup> was adopted. The document is implemented by Action Plan and is a fundamental political document that outlines the political engagement and underpins the process of replacing the institutional childcare. This is a fundamental document in the process of replacing the institutional childcare with care in a family or close to a family environment within the community, without being limited only to taking the children out of the institutions. The objective of the reform is to guarantee the children their right to family environment and access to high-quality care and services based on their personal needs.</p> <p>Key challenge, that is identified in the last Monitoring Report (period July 2012-June 2013) for the implementation of the Action Plan is that the continuity of the deinstitutionalization process has to be ensured thus the new 2014-2020 programme builds upon the implemented actions in OP “Regional Development” 2007 – 2013.</p> <p>The system of long-term care and social services for elderly people in Bulgaria was expanded considerably over the past few years as a result of the recent reforms orientated at deinstitutionalisation and provision of</p>
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<sup>50</sup> The data is from the National Strategy for Poverty Reduction and Promotion of Social Inclusion 2020.

<sup>51</sup> Protocol No. 8 (meeting of the Council of Ministers, 24 February 2010)

	<p>more community-based services and in the family environment, such as day-care centres for elderly people with disabilities, centres for social rehabilitation and integration, protected homes and others. As of October 2013<sup>52</sup> the number of the community-based services for elderly people was 412 with a capacity of 8,450 people. The number of specialized institutions providing social services in the community was 160. Regardless of this, the institutional model of care still prevails.</p> <p>With a view to the challenges stemming from the ageing of the Bulgarian population, the system of long-term care (complex, integrated healthcare and social services for elderly people and people with disabilities) is in need of radical reform. The insufficiently developed network of services within the community and the insufficient number of suppliers impede the access of most of the Bulgarian citizens to high-quality services. The development of the social infrastructure will increase the quality of the social services provided. With a view to the implementation of the reform in the social field with regard to elderly people and people with disabilities, a National Strategy for Long-term Care has already been adopted<sup>53</sup>. The document set the direction of the deinstitutionalisation process.</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 value<sup>54</sup> (2023)</i>	<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
1	Decrease of the people in institutional social care	person	Less developed regions	13 184	2013	Decrease by 9,2%	Public UMIS Ministry of Labour and Social	Twice during the period: 2018 and

<sup>52</sup> National Strategy for Long-term care, adopted with CoM Decision № 2 7.1.2014, data Agency for Social Assistance

<sup>53</sup> Council of Ministers Decision № 2, dated 07.01.2014

<sup>54</sup> For ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, the target values may be qualitative or quantitative.

								Policy	2023
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**Table 4: Common result indicators for which a target value has been set and programme specific result indicators corresponding to the specific objective (by investment priority and category of region) (for the ESF)**

(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>Category of region</i>	<i>Measurement unit for indicator</i>	<i>Common output indicator used as basis for target setting</i>	<i>Baseline value</i>			<i>Measurement unit for baseline and target</i>	<i>Baseline year</i>	<i>Target value<sup>55</sup> (2023)</i>			<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
					<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>T</i>			<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>T</i>		

**Table 4a: YEI result indicators and programme-specific result indicators corresponding to the specific objective**

(by priority axis or by part of a priority axis)

(Reference: Article 19(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>56</sup>)

<i>ID</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Measurement</i>	<i>Common</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Measurement</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Frequency</i>
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<sup>55</sup> This list includes common result indicators for which a target value has been set and all programme-specific result indicators. Target values for common result indicators must be quantified; for programme-specific result indicators, they may be qualitative or quantitative. Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender, the baseline values can be adjusted accordingly. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

<sup>56</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Social Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 470).

		t unit for indica tor	output indicat or used as basis for target setting	valu e			ent unit for baseli ne and target	e yea r	value <sup>57</sup> (2023)			of dat a	y of repor ting
				M	W	T			M	W	T		

## 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>&lt;2A.2.1.1 type="S" input="S"&gt;</p> <p><b>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.</b></p>
	<p>&lt;2A.2.1.2 type="S" maxlength="17500" input="M"&gt;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 (provided the building has such yard);</li> <li>• Construction of family-type residential centres and the adjacent yards for children at risk. Construction, repair, reconstruction, renovation of buildings for protected homes (extension, reconstruction and restructuring of spaces), including the adjacent</li> </ul>

<sup>57</sup>

This list includes common result indicators for which a target value has been set and all programme-specific result indicators. Target values for common result indicators must be quantified; for programme-specific result indicators they may be qualitative or quantitative. All result indicators in Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 used to monitor YEI implementation must be linked to a quantified target value. 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.

yard (provided the building has such yard);

- Development of infrastructure for accompanying services for children and elderly people – day-care centre and centre for social rehabilitation and integration, including the adjacent yard (provided the building has such 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 (provided the building has such yard);
- Construction, reconstruction and repair of infrastructure for provision of services for early development of children for children and their families;
- Introducing energy efficiency measures in the buildings / premises mentioned above, including thermal insulation, replacement of frames, local installations and/or connections to the heating, gas, etc. systems;
- Commissioning of installations for production of energy from renewable sources for the buildings listed above for meeting their own energy use, where this is technically possible and economically feasible;
- Energy efficiency audits and constructional inspections of the buildings listed above;
- Improving the access for people with disabilities to the buildings mentioned above;

**The energy efficiency measures and the measures for commissioning of installations for production of energy from renewable sources may not be implemented separately but only as part of the remaining construction and installation works related to the corresponding objects.**

**Direct beneficiaries:**

- Municipalities;
- Ministry of health for the medico-social care homes.

**Target groups:**

- The population on the territory of the entire country, including children and elderly people, who will benefit from the deinstitutionalisation measures;

**Justification:**

The provision of access to services and in particular access to basic healthcare, educational and social services is a key instrument for overcoming the consequences of poverty and social exclusion.

With a view to this the actions to be financed within this priority axis are orientated at provision of accessible and high-quality social services through investment in the required infrastructure.

The analysis of the strategic documents in the field of social policy shows that the objectives and priorities of the sector, which could be supported under OPRG 2014–2020, are related to: the deinstitutionalisation of childcare, the development of the

network of services for early development of children and their families, the development of a network of services related to long-term care of elderly people and people with disabilities; the ensuring of accessible physical environment for people with disabilities and the development of the infrastructure for provision of services to people with disabilities.

OPRG will focus its support on the development of social infrastructure, serving the social services for elderly people, people with disabilities and children. The family-type residential centres have the largest share in the total number of social services – 13%. Due to their extremely variable features, social services are allocated relatively equally among the cities, proposed for support under OPRG 2014–2020, and the remaining settlements.

Intersectoral services which include health, education and social activities are poorly developed, and this makes it difficult the provision of comprehensive support to vulnerable groups.

Other sectors, such as equal access to culture and sport - are also extremely important factors in promoting social inclusion of people with disabilities, children and other vulnerable groups.

Over the past three years the policy for providing support to children and families was orientated towards the introducing of a radically new approach to childcare, aimed at prevention, early intervention, support for families and ensuring a family or close to the family environment for each Bulgarian child. The main tool for achieving these objectives is the deinstitutionalisation of childcare. In this context, actions will be supported related to the renovation and development of infrastructure for deinstitutionalisation, including family-type residential centres. With a view to achieving an integrated approach in childcare actions related to the improving of the infrastructure for provision of social services such as day-care centres, rehabilitation centres, etc. will be supported.

The same types of activities will also be supported in connection with the improvement of the infrastructure for provision of social services to elderly people and people with disabilities, including people with mental health problems.

### ***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><a href="#">&lt;2A.2.2.1 type="S" input="S"&gt;</a></p> <p><b>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.</b></p>
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<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:

**Predefined projects:**

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, respectively the National Strategy for Long-term Care and the Action Plan for its implementation – with regards to the actions for elderly people.

**Needs-based financing**

In accordance with the operation selection criteria, projects will be financed combining the most pressing needs and the largest significance for the development of the regions.

**Sustainable development**

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.

**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>&lt;2A.2.3.1 type="S" input="S"&gt;</p> <p><b>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.</b></p>
<i>Planned use of financial instruments</i>	<p>&lt;2A.2.3.2 type="C" input="M"&gt;</p>
<p>&lt;2A.2.3.3 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M"&gt;</p> <p>N/A</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>&lt;2A.2.4.1 type="S" input="S"&gt;</p> <p><b>Investing in health and social infrastructure which</b></p>
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	<b>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.</b>
<2A.2.4.2 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M">	
N/A	

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)<sup>58</sup></i>			<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
					<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>T</i>		
2	Number of supported facilities of social infrastructure in the process of deinstitutionalization	objects	ERDF	Less developed regions			95	Public UMIS MLSP / municipalities	Annually (1/year)

<sup>58</sup> 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 1-7<sup>59</sup>

Specific provisions for ESF<sup>60</sup>, 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">	

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<sup>59</sup> Only for programmes supported by the ESF.

<sup>60</sup> 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)<sup>61</sup>

<i>Priority axis</i>	<i>Indicator type (Key implementation step, financial, output or, where appropriate, result indicator)</i>	<i>ID</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 2018<sup>62</sup></i>			<i>Final target (2023)<sup>63</sup></i>			<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Explanation 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>		
4	financial	1	Certified	euro	ERD	Less develop			17 291 282			43 228 205	Public	Public

<sup>61</sup> 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.

<sup>62</sup> Milestones may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

<sup>63</sup> Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

			amount		F	ed regions							UMIS	access
4	output	2	Number of supported objects of social infrastructure in the process of deinstitutionalization	objects	ERD F	Less developed regions			38			95	Public UMIS	Public access

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

(optional)

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

The target value for the financial indicator is calculated on the basis of prognosis for the contracted funds for the period 2014-2020 and taking into account the N+3 rule.

The target value for the output indicators are calculated by dividing the total amount of allocation (both EU and national contribution) for operations which will contribute to each indicator by the unit cost established on the basis of similar interventions in 2007-13 period.

## 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 intervention<sup>64</sup>

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

<b>Table 7: Dimension 1 – Intervention field</b>		
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	
<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
<2A.5.1.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N>	<2A.5.1.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.1.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >
4	55	43 228 204.87

<b>Table 8: Dimension 2 – Form of finance</b>		
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	
<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
<2A.5.2.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N>	<2A.5.2.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.2.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >
4	01	43 228 204.87

<b>Table 9: Dimension 3 – Territory type</b>		
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	
<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
<2A.5.3.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.3.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.3.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >

<sup>64</sup> Amounts include total Union support (the main allocation and the allocation from the performance reserve).

<i>input="S" Decision=N&gt;</i>	<i>input="S" Decision=N &gt;</i>	<i>input="M" Decision=N &gt;</i>
4	07	

**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	
<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
<i>&lt;2A.5.4.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N&gt;</i>	<i>&lt;2A.5.4.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N &gt;</i>	<i>&lt;2A.5.4.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N &gt;</i>
4	07	

**Table 11: Dimension 6 – ESF secondary theme<sup>65</sup> (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 >	
<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
<i>&lt;2A.5.5.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N&gt;</i>	<i>&lt;2A.5.5.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N &gt;</i>	<i>&lt;2A.5.5.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N &gt;</i>
	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>	<i>&lt;3A.6.1 type="S" input="S"&gt;</i>
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<sup>65</sup> 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.

*<2A.6.2 type="S" maxlength="2000" input="M">*

## 2.A.1 Priority axis 5

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" > <b>Regional Tourism</b>

<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" > 127 141 779,03
<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" > <b>Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage</b>
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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>Specific objective</i>	<2A.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M" "SME" > Increasing the tourist offer of cultural monuments of national and world significance
<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 fifth priority axis is aimed at conservation, promotion and development of the cultural and natural heritage through development of regional tourism. There are almost 30 thousand cultural heritage sites of world, national, regional and local significance. The analyses show that, on the one hand, there are many sites which either do not exist or have lost their cultural or historical value, and, on the other hand, it is impossible to support all these cultural sites and natural landmarks. In addition to this, the experience from the implementation of OPRD 2007–2013 proved that it is more appropriate to finance a limited number of cultural and natural attractions of national and global significance and religious sites, determined in advance and situated on the entire territory of the country. This will contribute to a more targeted utilisation of the funds and developing a complete competitive tourist product based on specified

tourist attractions, which will have a positive impact on the integrated sustainable and balanced development of the regions, thus avoiding the partial financing of many sites and the competition among many sites of the same type.

In this context, the regional development policy will focus on priority sites defined among the 1,400 cultural sites of world and national significance, with potential to attract tourists..

The main conclusions from the analysis of the tourism development are that Bulgaria is characterised with developed seaside and winter mountain tourism and has a relatively large and good-quality occupancy capacity. Nevertheless, at regional level large discrepancies in the development of tourism exist. In the future more attention shall be paid to the development of cultural tourism, for which the country has a good potential.

The diversification of the tourist products and destinations will reduce the seasonal pressure on the Black Sea coast and the mountain resorts.

In the draft of the Strategy for Sustainable Tourism Development in Bulgaria with Horizon 2030 as strategic objectives are pinned the conservation and the efficient use of the tourist resources (incl. cultural); increase of the share of the specialized types of tourism, incl. cultural (in all its forms – historical, archaeological, ethnographic and pilgrimage) and the stimulation of the integrated regional development of the tourism.

There is a worldwide trend for growth of the cultural tourism. While in the middle of the 1st decade of the 21st century around 40 % of the tourists in the world practiced this type of tourism, now (according to a survey among 10 000 people from around the world conducted by visitbritain.com) 57 % of the tourist state that they choose the culture or the cultural heritage as a reason to travel. In view of this trend the supply of cultural-historical tourist products in Bulgaria is on a relatively low level, equivalent to 11.1 % share of all tourist products in the country.

The list of UNESCO for world heritage includes 11 Bulgarian sites. Thus Bulgaria is positioned at 21st place of competitiveness of its cultural assets. According to the statistical data, Bulgaria ranks 3rd place in Europe by number of valuable archaeological monuments after Italy and Greece.

The tourist zoning in accordance with the Tourism development act and which development is supported by the draft Strategy for Sustainable Tourism Development in Bulgaria with Horizon 2030 will lead to validation of certain types of tourism by targeting the markets at a specific area with similar characteristics of tourism products.

The activities under Priority axis 5 of Operational programme “Regions in Growth” 2014 - 2020 are oriented towards the realization of the main strategic objectives laid down in the draft of the Strategy for Sustainable Tourism Development in Bulgaria with Horizon 2030, which will result in adequate realization of the unused opportunities 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.
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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 value<sup>66</sup> (2023)</i>	<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
1	Increase of the net annual revenues from international tourism	mln. euro	Less developed regions	3 748 786 960	2011	Increase with 0,12%	NSI, section "Tourism", indicator "Internal tourism consumption": <a href="http://www.nsi.bg/en/content/7090/tourism-satellite-accounts">http://www.nsi.bg/en/content/7090/tourism-satellite-accounts</a> Public UMIS, MC, municipalities	Twice during the period: 2018 and 2023

<sup>66</sup> 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"> <b>Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage</b>
<2A.2.1.2 type="S" maxlength="17500" input="M"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Development of cultural and historical attractions of national and world significance, such as regeneration, protection, exhibiting, socialising, equipping, introducing techniques and programmes for interpretation and animation, etc.; including regeneration, protection, exhibiting, restoration and reconstruction of religious sites of national and world significance, including landscaping activities, improvement of the adjacent spaces;</li><li>• Development of tourist infrastructure needed for the attractions (tourist paths and health paths, climbing, horse riding and biking routes, picnic locations, signs, visitor information centres);</li><li>• 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, utilities, serving the tourist attractions and visitors and necessary for the development of an end-to-end tourist product);</li><li>• Additional small-scale non-infrastructure activities relevant to the supported attractions (organisation of events in the area of the attractions, marketing and advertising activities);</li><li>• Support for the development of regional products and market information, such as regional marketing and impact assessment, regional visitors surveys, development of inter-municipality marketing and promotional strategies and programmes related to the tourist product, development of tourist packages, promotional activities – preparing and dissemination of information and promotional materials about the tourist product, etc., including for the financed cultural heritage sites and their link to surrounding natural sites;</li><li>• Concomitant training for the staff working at the supported attractions.</li><li>• Participation in regional, national and international exchanges, exhibitions and fairs</li></ul>	

and organising of expedition trips, visits of travel agents, tour operators, writers of travel guides, journalists;

- Public awareness, including through campaigns for raising the awareness of the natural and cultural heritage and its protection and conservation;
- Introducing energy efficiency measures the buildings / premises mentioned above, including thermal insulation, replacement of frames, local installations and/or connections to the heating, gas systems;
- Commissioning of installations for production of energy from renewable sources for the buildings listed above for meeting their own energy use, where this is technically possible and economically feasible;
- Energy efficiency audits of the buildings listed above;
- Improving the access of people with disabilities to the cultural and natural heritage sites and the adjacent infrastructure.

**The energy efficiency measures and the measures for commissioning of installations for production of energy from renewable sources may not be implemented separately but only as part of the remaining construction and installation works related to the corresponding objects.**

**Direct beneficiaries:**

- Ministry of Culture for the sites – state property, managed by the MC;
- Regional religious denomination institutions and their local structures – legal entities for the sites owned by religious institutions and their local structures – legal entities;
- Municipalities for the sites – municipal property (or for the sites – state property with management right granted to municipalities), including in partnership with NGOs for actions for development of regional tourist products;
- Financial instruments;

**Target groups:**

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

**Specific territories:**

Investments will be made in the entire territory of Bulgaria. Nevertheless, it shall be noted that a criterion “Location of the site” is included in the criteria for evaluation and prioritising of the objects of intervention. In the social and economic analysis developed for the needs of OPRG, 20 tourist municipalities are identified in accordance with the threshold criteria of Brikenhauer (where the lower threshold value for the classification of a municipality as a tourist municipality is 100,000 overnight stays). It has been noted that these municipalities and the accommodation capacity they maintain can be used as starting points for the development of regional tourism. In addition to

the intervention measures, the creating of regional market product based on the corresponding tourist region will be supported, and for this purpose the opportunity is envisaged for municipalities to form groups led by one of the 20 tourist municipalities identified in the social and economic analysis.

**Justification: The implementation of activities under this priority axis will contribute mainly to the achievement of the goals of Europe 2020 Strategy related to the achievement of growth and provision of employment: Growth and Employment** – The actions supported within this priority axis will provide an opportunity for regeneration and conservation of cultural sites of national and world significance and increasing their attractiveness for visitors with a view to transforming them into generators of growth and new jobs. In this way the local economic potential of regions, where as a result of the absence of production activities or other stable sources of revenues and employment the rates of development are lower, will be realised to the utmost extent, and at the same time the protection of the cultural and natural heritage will have a favourable sustainable impact on environmental protection.

On the other hand, investment in regional tourism will facilitate the development of accompanying economic sectors, including light and food industries, and the transport services in the regions. Thus the promoting of tourism development in the regions will contribute to the fuller realisation of the local economic potential and will result in sustainable growth and creating employment. The analyses show that the indirect effects of the tourist industry are about three times larger than the direct ones.

Data demonstrate a concentration of tourist activities in about 5% of the territory of Bulgaria, and with a view to the unutilised potential for use of the rich cultural and natural heritage the data regarding the capability of this sector to generate growth and employment in Bulgaria are obvious – in 2011 tourism in Bulgaria has contributed directly to 3.6% of GDP and 3.3% of employment (101 thousand jobs), and the indirect effects thereof are assessed respectively as 12.9% of GDP and 11.8% of employment (364 thousand jobs).

The increased use of financial engineering will contribute to the development of public - private partnerships in the regions, the attracting of private capital and thus growth in local economies and employment. Actions related to introducing energy efficiency measures and using energy from renewable sources will improve the energy features of sites and will contribute to the environmental protection and enhancing the air quality.

The measures for improving the access for people with disabilities – not only in terms of architectural environment but also with regard to the visualisation of the sites – will contribute to the social inclusion of people in vulnerable position.

In this context, the promotion and development of tourism through the interventions planned within the priority axis will be an engine of intelligent, sustainable and inclusive growth of the Bulgarian regions.

#### **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>&lt;2A.2.2.1 type="S" input="S"&gt;</p> <p><b>Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage</b></p>
<p>&lt;2A.2.2.2 type="S" maxlength="5000" input="M"&gt;</p> <p>The following guiding principles will be observed in the selection of operations under this investment priority:</p> <p><b>Predefined projects:</b></p> <p>The concept of the operational programme is to finance a limited number of cultural and historical attractions of national and world significance and religious sites, determined in advance and having potential to be developed as complex tourist products and to attract tourist interest.</p> <p>To identify the cultural objects of intervention, an inter-institutional working group was established. The main task of the working group was to elaborate a methodology and prioritization of cultural heritage sites of national and world significance that are eligible for funding under the Operational Programme “Regions in Growth” 2014-2020.</p> <p>Under the elaborated Methodology around 165 sites out of 1400 sites of national and world significance are shortlisted, based on OPRG socio-economic analysis, the National Spatial Development Concept 2013-2025 and the representation of tourism sites on the official tourist site of Bulgaria, Developed by the Ministry of Economy and Energy – bulgariatravel.org.</p> <p>The methodology includes the following criteria for prioritisation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Visits of the site - assess the average annual number of visitors to the site;</li> <li>- Popularity of the site - takes into consideration the popularity in international and internal aspect;</li> <li>- Development potential of the site - assesses the potential for inclusion of the site in new bigger regional touristic product and in the same time reflected the possibility for upgrading of already created tourist products during the period 2007 – 2013;</li> <li>- Location of the site - takes into consideration the proximity to one of the tourist municipalities;</li> <li>- Concentration of sites - assesses the possibility for an integrate product, including various sites;</li> <li>- Transport accessibility of the site/ - measures the infrastructure provision with the alternative types of transportation;</li> <li>- Availability of information for the site;</li> <li>- Existence of specific and traditional thematic events/products that are in relation with the site;</li> <li>- Investment attractiveness and project readiness for sites.</li> </ul> <p>The sites to be financed under the priority axis have been ranked based on their priority in accordance with the Methodology for prioritisation of cultural heritage sites of national and global significance by using of a system of criteria and weights.</p>	



The adopted methodology takes into consideration the analyses carried out for the purposes of tourism development and the need for protecting, promoting and stimulating the development of cultural sites. It takes into consideration the extant documents affecting cultural and natural sites: Cultural Heritage Act, UNESCO World Heritage List, national register of cultural monuments, Protected Territories Act, National Strategy for Regional Development, guidance note of the EC regarding the ERDF support for investment in culture, tourism and sports and the draft Strategy for Sustainable Tourism Development in Bulgaria with horizon 2030.

The prioritising of the sites by NUTS 2 level regions will ensure proportional targeting of the financial resources and balanced spatial location of the cultural sites – objects of investment. This will contribute to the economic development of all regions, and will also foster sustainable and balanced regional development.

The list of the priority sites is approved by the Thematic working group developing OPRG 2014–2020 and is updated by the Programme Monitoring Committee.

#### **Needs-based financing**

In accordance with the operation selection criteria, projects will be financed combining the most pressing needs with the largest significance for the development of the regions.

The interventions for conservation, protection, promoting and development cultural heritage will build on the measures financed in the 2007-2013 period. In addition the tourist products implemented in the 2007-2013 programming will be linked with investment activities envisaged in 2014-2020 period and the created regional tourist products.

#### **Sustainable development.**

Projects contributing the enhancement of the environment, creating of employment and growth and having clear social, economic and environmental effect and impact will be financed. PA 5 “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 and natural heritage.

#### **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"> <b>Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage</b>
<i>Planned use of financial instruments</i>	<2A.2.3.2 type="C" input="M"> 54 035 256,09

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

With a view to the potential for revenue generation and the possibilities for repayable investments, it is planned that up to 50% of the priority will be financed through financial instruments.

The specific mechanism and structure of financial instruments, the types of financial products and the envisaged grant assistance will be specified based on an ex-ante assessment of financial instruments in accordance with Article 37 (2) of Regulation 1303/2013

#### **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"> <b>Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage</b>
<2A.2.4.2 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"> N/A	

### 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) <sup>67</sup>			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
2	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	visits/year	ERDF	Less developed regions			213 659	Public UMIS, MC, Municipalities	Annually

### 2.A.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7<sup>68</sup>

Specific provisions for ESF<sup>69</sup>, 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);

<sup>67</sup> 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.

<sup>68</sup> Only for programmes supported by the ESF.

<sup>69</sup> For the ESF, this list includes common output indicators for which a target value has been set and all programme-specific output indicators.

- 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">	

## **2.A.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7<sup>70</sup>**

Specific provisions for ESF<sup>71</sup>, 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">	

<sup>70</sup> Only for programmes supported by the ESF.

<sup>71</sup> 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)<sup>72</sup>

<i>Priority axis</i>	<i>Indicator type (Key implementation step, financial, output or, where appropriate, result indicator)</i>	<i>ID</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 2018<sup>73</sup></i>			<i>Final target (2023)<sup>74</sup></i>			<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Explanation 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	euro	ERD	Less developed	44	308	910			108 070	Public	Public

<sup>72</sup> 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.

<sup>73</sup> Milestones may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

<sup>74</sup> Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

			amount		F	regions				512	UMIS	access
5	output	2	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	visits/year	ERD F	Less developed regions	87 600			213 659	Public UMIS	Public access

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

(optional)

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

The target value for the financial indicator is calculated on the basis of prognosis for the contracted funds for the period 2014-2020 and taking into account the N+3 rule.

The target value for the output indicators are calculated by dividing the total amount of allocation (both EU and national contribution) for operations which will contribute to each indicator by the unit cost established on the basis of similar interventions in 2007-13 period.

## 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 intervention<sup>75</sup>**

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

<b>Table 7: Dimension 1 – Intervention field</b>		
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	
<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
<2A.5.1.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.1.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.1.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >
5	94	108 070512,18

<b>Table 8: Dimension 2 – Form of finance</b>		
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	
<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
<2A.5.2.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.2.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.2.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >
5	01	54 035 256.09
5	03	5 403 525.61
5	04	48 631 730.48

<b>Table 9: Dimension 3 – Territory type</b>		
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	
<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>

<sup>75</sup> Amounts include total Union support (the main allocation and the allocation from the performance reserve).

<i>&lt;2A.5.3.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N&gt;</i>	<i>&lt;2A.5.3.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N &gt;</i>	<i>&lt;2A.5.3.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N &gt;</i>
5	07	

<b>Table 10: Dimension 4 – Territorial delivery mechanisms</b>		
Fund	<i>&lt;2A.5.4.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N &gt;</i> ERDF	
Category of region	<i>&lt;2A.5.4.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N &gt;</i> Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
<i>&lt;2A.5.4.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N&gt;</i>	<i>&lt;2A.5.4.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N &gt;</i>	<i>&lt;2A.5.4.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N &gt;</i>
5	07	

<b>Table 11: Dimension 6 – ESF secondary theme<sup>76</sup> (ESF only)</b>		
Fund	<i>&lt;2A.5.5.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N &gt;</i>	
Category of region	<i>&lt;2A.5.5.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N &gt;</i>	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
<i>&lt;2A.5.5.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N&gt;</i>	<i>&lt;2A.5.5.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N &gt;</i>	<i>&lt;2A.5.5.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N &gt;</i>

**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>	<i>&lt;3A.6.1 type="S" input="S"&gt;</i>
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<sup>76</sup> 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.



<2A.6.2 type="S" maxlength="2000" input="M">

### 2.A.1 Priority axis 6

ID of the priority axis	<2A.1 type="N" input="G""SME» > 1 6
Title of the priority axis	<2A.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M""SME" > <b>Regional Road Infrastructure</b>

<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 expenditure or eligible public expenditure)</i>	<2A.9 type="S" input="S" "SME" > 194 526 922
<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" > <b>Enhancing regional mobility through connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes</b>
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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" > 6.1
<i>Specific objective</i>	<2A.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M" "SME" > <b>Improving connectivity and accessibility of the network of cities and sites of cultural and natural heritage with the TEN-T network</b>
<i>The results that the Member State seeks to achieve with</i>	<2A.1.3 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M" "SME" > The main tendency highlighted by the analyses is the poor quality of the road network and infrastructure. The transport connections between the urban centres are poor. According to the analyses, 62% of the national road network (NRN) consists of 3 <sup>rd</sup> class roads, the 2 <sup>nd</sup> class roads account for 20.7%, and the 1 <sup>st</sup> roads – to 15%. The relative share of motorways is the smallest – 2.3%. It should be noted that the municipal roads, which are not part of the NRN, are not included here. The main

<p><i>Union support</i></p>	<p>conclusion is that in Bulgaria lower class roads prevail and they are in poor condition.</p> <p>The condition of 3<sup>rd</sup> class roads, comprising 2/3 of the NRN and serving for distributing the traffic in the country by ensuring access to higher-class roads and the TEN-T network, is especially worrying. As a result, the smaller and more remote settlements will continue being isolated and this will lead to a serious delay in the utilisation of their potential for economic growth.</p> <p>In the less developed peripheral regions the difficult transport accessibility results in an absence of effective economic activity, high unemployment rates, process of depopulation of settlements and insufficient supply of public services.</p> <p>According to the National Spatial Development Concept (NSDC) 2013–2025, the correspondence between the level of urban centres and their function in the structure of the settlement network and the degree of the transport services for them is a prerequisite for the sustainable operation of the chosen model of moderate polycentrism. The road infrastructure of regional and local significance, supplementing the functions of the road network of national significance (the TEN-T network) is essential for the functioning of this model. The rehabilitation of the national road network of regional significance will improve the connectivity and accessibility of the urban network with the TEN-T network.</p> <p>The improved transport connections between cities and their adjacent territories through reconstruction and modernisation of the existing connections will allow significant reduction of travel time, which in turn will expand the scope of impact of the main regional centres and will allow them to offer higher-quality services. Furthermore, this will also improve the access of peripheral and economically less developed territories to the large industrial centres.</p> <p>The foreseen investments in road infrastructure will upgrade the projects implemented under OPRD 2007–2013: until September 2012 the total length of rehabilitated roads was 502 km of which 268 km municipal and 234 kilometres national roads.</p> <p>The planned measures will contribute to the achievement of the objectives set in the sectoral documents regarding transport infrastructure, such as the Strategy for the Development of the Transport System of the Republic of Bulgaria until 2020, by ensuring high-quality and easily accessible transport in all regions of the country.</p> <p>The integration of the territory of the country through better accessibility and mobility is a factor of crucial significance for increasing the regional competitiveness, development and growth and for jobs creation.</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 value<sup>77</sup> (2023)</i>	<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
1	Increased passenger and freight flow.	Thousands of tons	Less developed regions	160 267	2013	Increase with 1-2 %	Road Infrastructure Agency	Twice during the period: 2018 and 2023

<sup>77</sup> 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"> <b>Enhancing regional mobility through connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes</b>
	<2A.2.1.2 type="S" maxlength="17500" input="M"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Construction, reconstruction and rehabilitation of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class roads (outside the Trans-European Transport Network) and 3<sup>rd</sup> class roads, serving intraregional connections between cities and providing opportunities for the development of their specific economic potential, connectivity and accessibility with the TEN-T network</li><li>• Construction, reconstruction and rehabilitation of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class roads (outside the Trans-European Transport Network) and 3<sup>rd</sup> class roads, providing access to regions with potential for tourism development, connectivity and accessibility with the TEN-T network</li></ul> <p><b>Direct beneficiaries:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Road Infrastructure Agency</li></ul> <p><b>Main target groups:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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.</li><li>• The activities address directly the representatives of the local and regional business, which will be provided with better access to the single European market.</li></ul> <p><b>Justification:</b></p> <p>The concept is to finance a pre-defined number of road sections of national and regional significance, ensuring connectivity 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 selected criteria in the methodology aim at improving and equalizing the operational status of the roads by decreasing the sections with insufficient capacity in key network infrastructure and are based on the Strategy for development of the road</p>

infrastructure in the Republic of Bulgaria and the objectives of Europe 2020 Strategy.

Investments in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> class road network will help achieving some of the goals of Europe 2020 Strategy as follows:

**Growth and employment** – Increased mobility within the EU creates potential for economic growth in the regions. 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.

With a view to the investments already made and the forthcoming increase in the funds allocated under the Programmes for rural development, and bearing in mind that the largest portion of agricultural production is perishable, fast transportation of the ready production to the corresponding markets and processing factories needs to be ensured. This can be achieved by better 3<sup>rd</sup> class roads, which in turn would result in more jobs related to these industries.

**Climate and energy** – 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.

**Education, poverty and social exclusion** – Modernised 3<sup>rd</sup> class 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.

The development of road infrastructure in Bulgaria is a basic prerequisite for the integration in the pan-European transport network, for facilitating the regional cohesion, for sustainable economic development and for improvement of the environmental situation. The transport has a key role for the development of the modern society as a mean for economic development and a precondition for social and territorial cohesion. The transport sector in the country is from crucial importance for increasing the competitiveness of the economy and for providing services to the population. In this regard it is necessary to improve the investments under the priority axis are intended to improve the accessibility of the Bulgarian cities and their connectivity to the TEN-T network.

#### 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>	<2A.2.2.1 type="S" input="S"> <b>Enhancing regional mobility through connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including</b>
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	<b>multimodal nodes</b>
	<p>&lt;2A.2.2.2 type="S" maxlength="5000" input="M"&gt;</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 evaluation criteria comprised by the methodology are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assessment of the road sections based on their connection with the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) – higher scores for road sections ensuring direct connection between two TEN-T corridors or with at least one TEN-T corridor.</li> <li>2. Contribution to the development of regions – road sections connecting beneficiary city of OPRG with a district (NUTS 3) centre are given highest scores, followed by sections connecting two or more beneficiary cities. Lower scores are given to sections ensuring indirect relation to the beneficiary cities.</li> <li>3. Assessment of the road sections based on whether they provide connectivity of cultural and natural heritage sites with the Trans-European transport network.</li> <li>4. Assessment on whether the road sections provide connectivity of a border crossing point with the TEN-T network.</li> <li>5. Assessment of the road sections based on whether they provide access to another mode of transport (water, land or air) – priority for sections representing the only access for cars to an airport, harbour or train station.</li> <li>6. Transport loading – road sections with heaviest traffic are given priority.</li> <li>7. Length of road sections along a single direction. Priority will be given to sections with a length of over 25 kilometres.</li> <li>8. Technical and operational condition of the road surface. Priority will be given to roads in the poorest condition.</li> <li>9. Assessment based on the expected increase in the average traffic after the rehabilitation.</li> </ol> <p>Highest weights have the first 3 criteria, followed by the next three and the lowest weights are given to the criteria 7, 8 and 9.</p> <p>Priority will be given to higher class roads which is ensured by three of the criteria (1, 3 and 4), awarding higher scores to road sections providing direct access to TEN-T. This automatically puts much lower weight on 3<sup>rd</sup> class roads.</p> <p><b>Needs-based financing</b></p> <p>In accordance with the operation selection criteria, projects will be financed combining the most pressing needs and the largest significance for the development of the regions</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"> <b>Enhancing regional mobility through connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes</b>
<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"> <b>Enhancing regional mobility through connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes</b>
	<2A.2.4.2 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"> N/A

#### 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</i>	<i>Target value (2023)<sup>78</sup></i>	<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
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<sup>78</sup> 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.



				(where relevant)	M	W	T		
2	Total length of reconstructed or upgraded 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> class roads	kilometres	ERDF	Less developed regions			448,6	RIA Public UMIS	Annually
3	Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	kilometres	ERDF	Less developed regions			224,3	RIA Public UMIS	Annually

### 2.A.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7<sup>79</sup>

Specific provisions for ESF<sup>80</sup>, 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">

<sup>79</sup> Only for programmes supported by the ESF.

<sup>80</sup> 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)<sup>81</sup>

<i>Priority axis</i>	<i>Indicator type (Key implementation step, financial, output or, where appropriate, result indicator)</i>	<i>ID</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 2018<sup>82</sup></i>			<i>Final target (2023)<sup>83</sup></i>			<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Explanation 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>			
6	financial	1	Certified	euro	ERD	Less developed	65	725	784			165	347	Public	Public

<sup>81</sup> 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.

<sup>82</sup> Milestones may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

<sup>83</sup> Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

			amount		F	regions				884	UMIS	access
6	output	2	Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	kilometres	ERD F	Less developed regions	267			672,9	Public UMIS	Public access

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

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

The target value for the financial indicator is calculated on the basis of prognosis for the contracted funds for the period 2014-2020 and taking into account the N+3 rule.

The target value for the output indicators are calculated by dividing the total amount of allocation (both EU and national contribution) for operations which will contribute to each indicator by the unit cost established on the basis of similar interventions in 2007-13 period.

## 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 intervention<sup>84</sup>**

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

<b>Table 7: Dimension 1 – Intervention field</b>		
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	
<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
<2A.5.1.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.1.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.1.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >
6	34	165 347 883.63

<b>Table 8: Dimension 2 – Form of finance</b>		
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	
<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
<2A.5.2.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.2.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.2.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >
6	01	165 347 883.63

<b>Table 9: Dimension 3 – Territory type</b>		
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	
<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
<2A.5.3.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.3.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.3.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >

<sup>84</sup> Amounts include total Union support (the main allocation and the allocation from the performance reserve).

<i>input="S" Decision=N&gt;</i>	<i>input="S" Decision=N &gt;</i>	<i>input="M" Decision=N &gt;</i>
6	07	

**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	
<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
<i>&lt;2A.5.4.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N&gt;</i>	<i>&lt;2A.5.4.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N &gt;</i>	<i>&lt;2A.5.4.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N &gt;</i>
6	07	

**Table 11: Dimension 6 – ESF secondary theme<sup>85</sup> (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 >	
<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
<i>&lt;2A.5.5.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N&gt;</i>	<i>&lt;2A.5.5.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N &gt;</i>	<i>&lt;2A.5.5.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N &gt;</i>
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>	<i>&lt;3A.6.1 type="S" input="S"&gt;</i>
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<sup>85</sup> 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.

<2A.6.2 type="S" maxlength="2000" input="M">

### 2.A.1 Priority axis 7

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" > <b>Risk Prevention</b>

<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 expenditure or eligible public expenditure)</i>	<2A.9 type="S" input="S" "SME" > 19 706 976
<i>Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)</i>	<2A.9 type="S" input="S" >

### 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" > <b>Promoting investments to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems</b>
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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>Specific objective</i>	<2A.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M" "SME" > <b>Preventing the risk of landslides</b>
<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 territory of the Republic of Bulgaria is characterised by a high degree of landslide, abrasion and erosion hazards. Large-scale landslide, rock fall, abrasion, erosion and other adverse geodynamic processes occur, which act spontaneously and destructively, are difficult to predict and occur suddenly. The occurrence and activation of landslide, erosion and abrasion processes in the territory of the country is preconditioned by the complex geological structure, the intensive tectonics and the constantly active natural and anthropogenic factors. Landslides, as part of the general geodynamic processes, are natural phenomena with dangerous

	<p>consequences for society. They are a hazard to the safety of settlements, resort complexes, residential, business and industrial buildings, main elements of the technical infrastructure.</p> <p>Adverse geodynamic processes, random in nature and difficult to predict in terms of time, location and scope, every year claim urbanised territories and demolish facilities: buildings, technical infrastructure, cultural sites. People's health and lives are in danger. In 2011 and 2012, 110 new landslides were registered.</p> <p>The undertaking of actions for limiting landslides, erosion and abrasion processes are assigned by law to the Ministry of Regional Development. Pursuant to the provisions of the Spatial Development Act, the Ministry of Regional Development is responsible for implementation of the government policy in the field of geological protection.</p> <p>A working group for prioritising landslides on the territory of the entire country has been established by the Minister of Regional Development. A methodology for prioritising landslides on the territory of Bulgaria was elaborated for the purposes of concentrating resources in the most urgent projects. The methodology defines specific criteria according to which registered as of 31.03.2013 landslides on the territory of Bulgaria are to be assessed. Based on the assessment, a list of key sites will be secured in order to significantly reduce the population which is currently at risk of landslides.</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 value<sup>86</sup> (2023)</i>	<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Frequency of reporting</i>
1	Increased share of the population not at risk of landslides	persons	Less developed regions	4 660 461	2012	Increase with 16%	Public UMIS, Municipalities, Geo-protection societies	Twice during the period: 2018 and 2023

<sup>86</sup> 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)

Investment priority	<2A.2.1.1 type="S" input="S"> <b>Promoting investments to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems</b>
<2A.2.1.2 type="S" maxlength="17500" input="M"> <b>Indicative eligible activities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Infrastructural measures for strengthening, limiting and prevention of landslide, erosion, abrasion and other unfavourable geodynamic processes;</li><li>• Design and execution of geo-protection projects and facilities may include surface processing of landslides, planning, water protection, drainage, underpinning the slides, their reinforcement with supporting constructions and other activities pursuant to Ordinance No. 12 on the design of geo-protective structures, buildings and facilities in landslide areas.</li><li>• Infrastructural measures for consolidation and stabilization of landslides, including demolition of unlawful buildings and facilities triggering landslide growth; demolition of unusable buildings and facilities compromised by the release of the landslide;</li><li>• Construction of facilities to bring underground water below the level of the sliding surface (horizontal drilling, collectors, etc.) and discharge it outside the landslide area;</li><li>• Construction of facilities for surface drainage outside the landslide area (trenches, ditches, edge drains, etc.);</li><li>• Infrastructural measures and construction of new installations for reinforcing and structural supporting of the landslide, including re-battering, surface drainage and deep underground drainage, anchor, pile and pile-anchor structures, drainage systems, ditches and shafts, retaining walls, anchor walls, groove walls, etc.;</li><li>• Construction of facilities at landslips – reinforcing the active zone of the landslip, covering with wire nets, protection ditches, catchment nets, catchment walls, protection earth banks, protection canopies, etc.</li><li>• Vertical planning of the landslide area to ensure stability of the slope;</li></ul>	

- Building automated measurement and control systems (MCS) to monitor landslide behaviour after the infrastructural measures.

**Direct beneficiaries:**

- Municipalities in accordance with the methodology for prioritising of landslide objects;

**Main target groups:**

- Population, visitors and tourists in danger of landslide processes;
- Business in danger of landslide processes.

**Specific territories:**

Investments will be made in the entire territory of Bulgaria, in accordance with the methodology for prioritising landslide objects.

**Justification:**

Depending on their condition, landslides can be active (periodically active), potential (temporarily stabilised) and stabilised.

Data show that at national level the active (periodically active) and potential (temporarily stabilised) landslides have the largest shares – 40.3% and 38.2% respectively. The share of the stabilised slides is much lower – 20.7%.

Almost half (45%) of the active (periodically active) landslides are located in NWR, and 35% – in NCR. In the remaining regions a relatively lower share of the active (periodically active) slides is localised – 11.4% in NER, 5.8% in SWR, 2.8% in SCR, and 0.3% in WER. The potential (temporarily stabilised) landslides have a relatively balanced distribution by regions. About 1/3 of the stabilised landslides are situated in NCR, followed by SWR with 21% and NER with 20%.

Relatively “unfavourable” in terms of the types of landslides are NWR and NCR, where over half of the landslides are active. The situation in SER is more favourable. There the prevailing portion of the landslides are potential (temporarily stabilised) and stabilised.

Data show that over half (55.4%) of the active (periodically active) landslides in NCR are localised in Veliko Tarnovo District (in the territories of Zlataritsa, Veliko Tarnovo and Elena municipalities, respectively 30, 27 and 23 landslides), and 38% are localised in Gabrovo District (Sevlievo, Gabrovo and Tryavna municipalities, respectively 41, 36 and 13 landslides). 1/3 of the active (periodically active) landslides in NWR are localised in Pleven District (there are 39 and 18 landslides respectively in the territories of Goulyantsi and Dolna Mitropoliya municipalities). There is also high concentration of active landslides in NWR in the following Districts: Montana (Lom Municipality – 31, Valchedram Municipality – 12), Vidin (Vidin Municipality – 18, Novo selo Municipality – 8) and Vratsa (Oryahovo Municipality – 39). Potential (temporarily stabilised) landslides are mainly situated along the Black Sea coast – Varna District (Varna Municipality – 49), Bourgas District (Nesebar and Pomorie municipalities – 13 and 11 respectively), the riverbank of the Danube river – Pleven District (Goulyantsi Municipality – 14), the northern foothills of the Balkan Range – Veliko Tarnovo District (Veliko Tarnovo Municipality – 26) and others.

The largest number of the stabilised landslides is in the northern foothills of the Balkan Range – Veliko Tarnovo District (Veliko Tarnovo Municipality – 23), Gabrovo District (Gabrovo and Tryavna municipalities – 19 each); the Black Sea coast – Varna District (Varna Municipality – 30) and the Rodopi mountains – Smolyan District (Smolyan, Banite, Madan and Nedelino municipalities – respectively 12, 4, 4, and 4).

The analysis of the data shows that on very rare occasions the landslides affect only one type of infrastructure. In the majority of the cases one landslide affects several types of infrastructure, such as residential buildings, schools, water supply and sewage systems, power lines, etc. In this context, the provided information was analysed, and for each type of infrastructure the number of occasions in which it has been affected by a landslide was calculated cumulatively.

The most widely endangered groups of infrastructure are: residential buildings, streets, villas, water supply and sewage infrastructure, and roads. Agricultural lands, forest fund, agricultural and industrial buildings are less threatened.

Data show that the settlements with the largest number of active (periodically active) landslides are villages or small cities, which are outside the 67 cities to be supported under Priority Axis 1 “Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development” of OPRG 2014–2020.

#### 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>&lt;2A.2.2.1 type="S" input="S"&gt;</p> <p><b>Promoting investments to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems</b></p>
<p>&lt;2A.2.2.2 type="S" maxlength="5000" input="M"&gt;</p> <p>The following guiding principles will be observed in the selection of operations under this investment priority:</p> <p><b>Predefined projects:</b></p> <p>The target projects will be defined in advance based on a methodology for prioritising landslide sites, developed by the Ministry of Regional Development.</p> <p><b>Sustainable development</b></p> <p>The financed projects will be directly orientated at dealing with natural risks and protection of the environment from adverse geodynamic processes.</p> <p><b>Needs-based financing</b></p> <p>The prioritising of the objects will take into consideration the landslide class, activity, degree of adverse impact on the population, technical infrastructure, economy, affected and endangered objects of national, regional and local significance, and social infrastructure.</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"> <b>Promoting investments to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems</b>
<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"> N/A

### 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"> <b>Promoting investments to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems</b>
	<2A.2.4.2 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"> N/A

### 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) <sup>87</sup>			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
2	Reinforced landslide area	square meters	ERDF	Less developed regions			1 430 538	Public UMIS	Annually

### 2.A.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7<sup>88</sup>

Specific provisions for ESF<sup>89</sup>, 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">

<sup>87</sup> 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.

<sup>88</sup> Only for programmes supported by the ESF.

<sup>89</sup> 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)<sup>90</sup>

<i>Priority axis</i>	<i>Indicator type (Key implementation step, financial, output or, where appropriate, result indicator)</i>	<i>ID</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 2018<sup>91</sup></i>			<i>Final target (2023)<sup>92</sup></i>			<i>Source of data</i>	<i>Explanation 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>		
7	financial	1	Certified	euro	ERD	Less developed	8	727	234			16 750	Public	Public

<sup>90</sup> 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.

<sup>91</sup> Milestones may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

<sup>92</sup> Target values may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender. “M” = men, “W”=women, “T”= total.

			amount		F	regions				929	UMIS	access
7	output	2	Strengthened landslide area	square meters	ERD F	Less developed regions	745 310			1 430 538	Public UMIS	Public access

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

(optional)

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



## 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 intervention<sup>93</sup>

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

<b>Table 7: Dimension 1 – Intervention field</b>		
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	
<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
<2A.5.1.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N>	<2A.5.1.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.1.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >
7	87	16 750 929.39

<b>Table 8: Dimension 2 – Form of finance</b>		
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	
<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
<2A.5.2.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N>	<2A.5.2.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.2.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >
7	01	16 750 929.39

<b>Table 9: Dimension 3 – Territory type</b>		
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	
<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
<2A.5.3.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.3.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N >	<2A.5.3.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N >

<sup>93</sup> Amounts include total Union support (the main allocation and the allocation from the performance reserve).

<i>input="S" Decision=N&gt;</i>	<i>input="S" Decision=N &gt;</i>	<i>input="M" Decision=N &gt;</i>
07	07	

<b>Table 10: Dimension 4 – Territorial delivery mechanisms</b>		
Fund	<i>&lt;2A.5.4.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N &gt;</i> ERDF	
Category of region	<i>&lt;2A.5.4.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N &gt;</i> Less developed regions	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
<i>&lt;2A.5.4.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N&gt;</i>	<i>&lt;2A.5.4.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N &gt;</i>	<i>&lt;2A.5.4.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N &gt;</i>
7	07	

<b>Table 11: Dimension 6 – ESF secondary theme<sup>94</sup> (ESF only)</b>		
Fund	<i>&lt;2A.5.5.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N &gt;</i>	
Category of region	<i>&lt;2A.5.5.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N &gt;</i>	
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
<i>&lt;2A.5.5.3 type="S" input="S" Decision=N&gt;</i>	<i>&lt;2A.5.5.4 type="S" input="S" Decision=N &gt;</i>	<i>&lt;2A.5.5.5 type="N" input="M" Decision=N &gt;</i>
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>	<i>&lt;3A.6.1 type="S" input="S"&gt;</i>
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<sup>94</sup> 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.

<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)

### 2.B.1 Priority axis (repeated for each Technical Assistance priority axis)

<i>ID of the priority axis</i>	<2B.0.2 type="N" maxlength="5" input="G">
<i>Title of the priority axis</i>	<2B.0.3 type="S" maxlength="255" input="M"> <b>Technical Assistance</b>

### 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">

### 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"> 52 445 984

### 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)

ID	<2B.1.1 type="N" maxlength="5" input="G">
Specific objective	<2B.1.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M"> <b>Strengthening and enhancing the administrative capacity of the Managing Authority and the beneficiaries of the Programme</b>
Results that the Member State seeks to achieve with Union support <sup>95</sup>	<2B.1.3 type="S" maxlength="3500" input="M"> The objective of the Priority Axis is to guarantee the smooth implementation, monitoring, evaluation, information about and control of the programme, thus providing a high level of EU funds absorption. Considering the scope and number of potential beneficiaries, the publicity and information measures are of particular importance. The priority axis is orientated at strengthening and increasing the institutional capacity of the Managing Authority and the programme beneficiaries. The effective management and implementation of OPRG requires special attention with regard to the technical assistance actions to respond to the main needs for support in the programme coordination and support the development of the capacity of the administrative structures involved in the programme implementation. In this context, within OPRD 2007–2013, an analysis of the capacity of the Direct beneficiaries of OPRG (ministries and agencies) and 36 beneficiary municipalities within the agglomeration areas was carried out and action plans for strengthening their capacity were developed. The project activities were orientated both at identifying the needs of the corresponding beneficiaries in connection with the preparation and implementation of projects during the 2007–2013 period and at evaluating the capacity and readiness of the beneficiaries for the next programming period. The analysis of the capacity of beneficiaries is structured in several main directions, as follows: strategic planning; structural units involved in projects; human resources; processes and procedures; past experience; financial resources; technical resources. Areas for improvement are identified within the listed directions and measures to be implemented for the purpose of enhancing the capacity are identified. In addition, general recommendations are made at central administration level: the OPRG MA, the Council of Ministers and other central administration departments. The main needs of the OPRG beneficiaries can be summarised into the following categories: – continuing need to increase the competence of staff involved in the preparation and management of projects;

<sup>95</sup> Required where Union support for technical assistance in the programme exceeds EUR 15 million.

	<p>– need to increase the motivation and remuneration of experts involved in preparation and management of projects;</p> <p>– need to provide the units involved in the preparation and management of projects with facilities and equipment, including computer equipment, specialised software, vehicles, etc.</p> <p>The priority axis will be orientated at satisfying these needs of beneficiaries with a view to ensure effective utilisation of funds and high-quality implementation of projects.</p>
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## 2.B.5 Result indicators<sup>96</sup>

**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)

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value			Baseline year	Target value <sup>97</sup> (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
			M	W	T		M	W	T		

## 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">
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<sup>96</sup> Required where objectively justified given the content of the action and where Union support for technical assistance in the programme exceeds EUR 15 million..

<sup>97</sup> 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.

	<b>Technical Assistance</b>
<p>&lt;2.B.3.1.2 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M"&gt;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Technical support, consultations, research, analyses, studies, etc. required for the correct management, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and control of OPRG;</li><li>• Delivery and maintenance of computerised information system (hardware and software) and office equipment required for the management, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and control of OPRG;</li><li>• Evaluation of the OPRG implementation (including current evaluation);</li><li>• Support for financial control and audit (including on-the-spot verifications and related reports, internal control systems, observance of compliance with public procurement procedures, etc.);</li><li>• 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;</li><li>• Work organisation, running costs and trainings of the OPRG Monitoring Committee;</li><li>• Training of the staff of the beneficiaries and OPRG MA (working meetings, seminars, exchange of good practices and experience, etc.);</li><li>• Support for the preparation of documents related to the next programming period (consultations, studies, manuals, etc.);</li><li>• Development and maintaining of a web site, media appearances, information films and videos on TV, advertisements and other contacts with the press;</li><li>• Publications, bulletins, leaflets, posters, manuals, etc.;</li><li>• 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.</li><li>• Assessment of the training and consultation needs;</li><li>• Development and implementation of Action Plans to strengthen the administrative capacity of the OPRG beneficiaries based on the assessments made;</li><li>• Development and implementation of training programmes (hiring of experts, organising training events, training materials, etc.) for facilitating the OPRG implementation;</li><li>• Providing support for the preparation of projects to be financed under OPRG;</li><li>• Remuneration, including social security and health insurance contributions, and additional financial incentives for the OPRG MA and beneficiaries, providing funding for business trips of officials directly involved in the programming, management, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and control of OPRG;</li></ul>	

- Rental and maintenance of tangible fixed assets for the needs of OPRG MA.

**Direct beneficiaries:**

- 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 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.

Training of the staff of all stakeholders, at all territorial levels and at all stages – programming, management, monitoring, control and implementation of OPRG, 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 orientated at activities related to the continuous reporting on the progress in the OPRG management and implementation, the conducting of different types of surveys, analyses and reports facilitating the implementation and assessing the impact of the measures envisaged under OPRG in the light of the efficient and effective utilisation of the ERDF funding.

The activities to be financed under this priority axis will also be orientated at ensuring information and publicity under the programme in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations.

With regard to its specific contents, the technical assistance envisages different types of activities, services and supplies, aimed at ensuring high effectiveness of the processes of planning and management both of the co-financed projects and of the ensuring of the overall OPRG implementation.

**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)

<i>ID</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Measurement unit</i>	<i>Target value (2023)<sup>98</sup> (optional)</i>	<i>Source of data</i>
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<sup>98</sup> 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.

			<b>M</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>T</b>	
<2.B.3.2.1 type="S" maxlength="5" input="M">	<2.B.2.2.2 type="S" maxlength="255" input="M">	<2.B.3.2.3 type="S" input="M">	<2.B.3.2.4 type="N" input="M">			<2.B.3.2.5 type="S" maxlength="200" input="M">

## 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 intervention<sup>99</sup>

Table 14: Dimension 1 – Intervention field		
Category of region: <type="S" input="S"> Less developed		
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
<2B.4.1.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N>	<2B.4.1.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N>	<2B.4.1.3 type="N" input="M"> Decision=N>
8	121	36 852 044.58
8	122	4 457 908.63
8	123	4 457 908.63

Table 15: Dimension 2 – Form of finance		
Category of region: <type="S" input="S">		
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
<2B.4.2.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N>	<2B.4.2.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N>	<2B.4.2.3 type="N" input="M"> Decision=N>
1	01	46 065 055.82

<sup>99</sup> Amounts include total Union support (the main allocation and the allocation from the performance reserve).



<b>Table 16: Dimension 3 – Territory type</b>		
<b>Category of region: &lt;type="S" input="S"&gt;</b>		
<i>Priority axis</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Amount (EUR)</i>
<2B.4.3.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N>	<2B.4.3.2 type="S" input="S" Decision=N>	<2B.4.3.3 type="N" input="M"> Decision=N>
8	07	

## 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 <sup>100</sup>	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	168 048 930	10 082 936	176 658 876	10 599 533	186 078 816	11 164 729	193 818 766	11 629 126	201 418 718	12 085 123	208 828 671	12 529 720	216 028 625	12 961 718	1 350 881 402	81 052 884
(2)		In transition regions																
(3)		In more developed regions																
(4)		<b>Total</b>	168 048 930	10 082 936	176 658 876	10 599 533	186 078 816	11 164 729	193 818 766	11 629 126	201 418 718	12 085 123	208 828 671	12 529 720	216 028 625	12 961 718	1 350 881 402	81 052 884
(5)	ESF <sup>101</sup>	In less developed regions																

<sup>100</sup> Total allocation (Union support) less allocation to performance reserve.

<sup>101</sup> Total allocation from the ESF, including matching ESF support for YEI. The columns for the performance reserve do not include matching ESF support for YEI, as this is excluded from the performance reserve.

(6)		In transition regions																
(7)		In more developed regions																
(8)		Total																
(9)	YEI-specific allocation	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
(10)	Cohesion Fund	Not applicable																
(11)	ERDF	Special allocation to outermost regions or northern sparsely populated regions																
(12)	Total		168 048 930	10 082 936	176 658 876	10 599 533	186 078 816	11 164 729	193 818 766	11 629 126	201 418 718	12 085 123	208 828 671	12 529 720	216 028 625	12 961 718	1 350 881 402	81 052 884

### 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 <sup>102</sup>	
				(a)	(b) = (c) + (d)	(c)	(d)	(e) = (a) + (b)	(f) = (a)/(e) <u>(2)</u>	(g)	(h)=(a)-(j)	(i) = (b) - (k)	(j)	(k)= (b) * ((j)/(a))	(l) = (j)/(a)

<sup>102</sup> The national counterpart is divided pro-rata between the main allocation and the performance reserve.

															*100
Priority axis 1. Sustainable and integrated urban development	ERDF	Less developed	Total eligible cost	788 914 739	139 220 248	139 220 248	-	928 134 987	85%	-	741 579 855	130 867 033	47 334 884	8 353 215	6%
Priority axis 2. Regional educational infrastructure	ERDF	Less developed	Total eligible cost	112 933 685	19 929 474	19 929 474	-	132 863 159	85%	-	106 157 664	18 733 705	6 776 021	1 195 768	6%
Priority axis 3. Regional health infrastructure	ERDF	Less developed	Total eligible cost	71 056 362	12 539 358	12 539 358	-	83 595 720	85%	-	66 792 980	11 786 996	4 263 382	752 361	6%
Priority axis 4. Regional social infrastructure	ERDF	Less developed	Total eligible cost	43 228 205	7 628 507	7 628 507	-	50 856 712	85%	-	40 634 513	7 170 796	2 593 692	457 710	6%
Priority axis 5. Regional tourism	ERDF	Less developed	Total eligible cost	108 070 512	19 071 267	19 071 267	-	127 141 779	85%	-	101 586 281	17 926 991	6 484 231	1 144 276	6%
Priority axis 6. Regional road infrastructure	ERDF	Less developed	Total eligible cost	165 347 884	29 179 038	29 179 038	-	194 526 922	85%	-	155 427 011	27 428 296	9 920 873	1 750 742	6%
Priority axis 7. Risk prevention	ERDF	Less developed	Total eligible cost	16 750 929	2 956 046	2 956 046	-	19 706 976	85%	-	15 745 874	2 778 684	1 005 056	177 363	6%
Priority axis 8. Technical assistance	ERDF	Less developed	Total eligible cost	44 579 086	7 866 898	7 866 898	-	52 445 984	85%	-	41 904 341	7 394 884	2 674 745	472 014	6%
Total	ERDF	Less developed	Total eligible cost	1 350 881 402	238 390 836	238 390 836	-	1 589 272 238	85%	-	1 269 828 518	224 087 386	81 052 884	14 303 450	6%
Total	ERDF	Transitio n		Equals total (2) in Table 17											
Total	ERDF	More develope d		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 <sup>103</sup>	Less developed		This does not equal total (5) in Table 17, which includes ESF matching support to YEI <sup>104</sup>											
Total	ESF <sup>105</sup>	Transition		This does not equal total (6) in Table 17, which includes ESF matching support to YEI											
Total	ESF <sup>106</sup>	More developed		This does not equal total (7) in Table 17, which includes ESF matching											

<sup>103</sup> ESF allocation without the matching support for the YEI.

<sup>104</sup> 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.

<sup>105</sup> ESF allocation without the matching support for the YEI.

<sup>106</sup> ESF allocation without the matching support for the YEI.

				support to YEI											
Total	YEI <sup>107</sup>	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				1 350 881 402	238 390 836	238 390 836	-	1 589 272 238	85%	-	1 269 828 518	224 087 386	81 052 884	14 303 450	6%

(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).

<sup>107</sup> Includes the YEI special allocation and the matching support from the ESF.

**Table 18b: Youth Employment Initiative – ESF- and YEI-specific allocations<sup>108</sup> (where appropriate)**

	Fund <sup>109</sup>	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							

<sup>108</sup> To be completed for every (part of a) priority axis which implements the YEI.

<sup>109</sup> 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/sum(2:4)	<3.2.c.1 1 type="P" " input="G">					
7			Ratio of ESF for transition regions 3/sum(2:4)	<3.2.c.1 3 type="P" " input="G">					
8			Ratio of ESF for more developed regions 4/sum(2:4)	<3.2.c.1 4 type="P" " input="G">					

			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	Fund <sup>110</sup>	Category of region	Thematic objective	Union support	National counterpart	Total funding
Priority Axis 1 “Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development”	ERDF	Less developed	Thematic objective 4	344 474 757,57	60 789 663,10	405 264 420,67
	ERDF	Less developed	Thematic objective 6	229 649 838,38	40 526 442,07	270 176 280,45
	ERDF	Less developed	Thematic objective 9	138 870 608,15	24 506 577,91	163 377 186,06
	ERDF	Less developed	Thematic objective 10	75 919 534,81	13 397 564,97	89 317 099,77
Total				788 914 738,90	139 220 248,04	928 134 986,94
Priority Axis 2 “State Educational Infrastructure”	ERDF	Less developed	Thematic objective 10	112 933 685,23	19 929 473,86	132 863 159,09
Priority Axis 3 “Regional Health Infrastructure”	ERDF	Less developed	Thematic objective 9	71 056 361,76	12 539 357,96	83 595 719,71
Priority Axis 4	ERDF	Less developed	Thematic	43 228 204,87	7 628 506,74	50 856 711,61

<sup>110</sup> For the purposes of this table, the YEI (specific allocation and matching ESF support) is considered as a fund.

“Regional Social Infrastructure”			objective 9			
Priority Axis 5 “Regional Tourism”	ERDF	Less developed	Thematic objective 6	108 070 512,18	19 071 266,86	127 141 779,03
Priority Axis 6 “Regional Road Infrastructure”	ERDF	Less developed	Thematic objective 7	165 347 883,63	29 179 038,29	194 526 921,92
Priority Axis 7 “Risk Prevention”	ERDF	Less developed	Thematic objective 5	16 750 929,39	2 956 046,36	19 706 975,75
<b>Total</b>				1 350 881 402	238 390 836	1 589 272 238

**Table 19: Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives**

(Reference: Article 27(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)<sup>111</sup>

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>
<b>1</b>	<b>385 001 199.64</b>	<b>28,5</b>

<sup>111</sup> This table is generated automatically on the basis of tables on categories of intervention under each priority axis.

<b>7</b>	<b>16 750 929.39</b>	<b>1,24</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>401 752 129.02</b>	<b>29,74</b>

## 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 main approaches towards the territorial development of Bulgaria are outlined in the system of strategic planning of regional development.

The socio-economic analysis of OPRG 2014-2020 analyses the different types of territories in Bulgaria, such as urban, rural, mountain, border, Danube and sea-side municipalities. One of the main conclusions, based on their socio-economic characteristics was that a targeted integrated approach is most appropriate to be implemented within the framework of the urban development policy as all the other groups of territories are not enough homogenous.

The **National regional development strategy** determines the long-term objectives and priorities of the regional policy of the Republic of Bulgaria and takes into account the prognoses of the National Development Plan. It is elaborated for a period of 11 years. It identifies the sustainable urban development as one of the main priorities for the regional development of the country.

The **National spatial development concept** provides the guidelines for spatial planning, management and conservation of the national territory and aquatory and creates conditions for spatial orientation and coordination between sectoral policies. It defines the functional and hierarchical structure of the urban network; the potential for formation of agglomerations; the links between the urban network and neighbouring countries; main and secondary development axes of development; transport corridors and infrastructure of international and national importance; the external infrastructure connections in a long-term period; zones for crossborder and interregional cooperation.

Evaluating three different demographic scenarios until 2035 and identifying the need to stabilise the migration processes from small and medium sized cities to the big cities and consequently outside the country it formulates a model of moderate polycentrism for development of the national territory.

The model outlines the hierarchical structure of the settlements in the country and 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 it proposes the) it proposes a polycentric model which include model of 9 core cities from second hierarchical level, balancing the gravitation power of Sofia at national level, 31 one cities from 3<sup>rd</sup> level, which balance the gravitation power of the core cities at NUTS 2 level and 28 cities from 4<sup>th</sup> hierarchical level which act as support centres to the 3<sup>rd</sup> level cities at NUTS 3 level. Thus the moderate polycentric model focuses on a network of 67 cities out of 257 cities and 5000 settlements in Bulgaria.

The Regional Development Plans at NUTS 2 level, also identify the need to develop

polycentric network of cities within the regions and sets a special priority for urban development through the implementation of a model for moderate polycentric development of the network of cities, according the National Spatial Development Strategy, takes into account the expectations of the Integrated Plans for Urban Regeneration and Development (IPURD) and plan their priorities based on the different functional characteristics of the cities for support. All 6 plans focus on the 4th level cities as support centers at district level and highly estimate their impact for the stabilising of the demographic and migration processes.

Based on the needs identified in the above strategic documents OPRG 2014-2020 focus its main priority axis towards the support of the moderate polycentric model of urban development. 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 Integrated Plans for Urban Regeneration and Development.

The other main dimension 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, regional road infrastructure and preventing the risk of landslides 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 that sense a prioritization based on the relevant strategic framework is followed, thus applying sectoral integration. Nevertheless the relevant methodologies applied to prioritisation of the different sectoral policies of regional importance take into account the relevant territorial or regional dimension.

In most cases, the territorial focus of the sectoral policies is concentrated in the network of the cities for support under OPRG due to the fact that within them are concentrated the bulk of public services. This is clearly evidenced by socio-economic analysis of the OPRG 2014-2020 and the National Concept for Spatial Development 2013-2025, which defines the cities for support under OPRG 2014-2020.

In this regard the investments of the sectoral axes will be complementary to the sustainable urban development although these sectoral policies (especially health, social services, and education) are of national and regional significance and the investments will be implemented according to the relevant 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>

N/A

#### 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 Council<sup>112</sup>)

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">

Considering the nationally adopted approach to moderate polycentric development of the territory, the focus of OPRG on urban development is based on the following main principles:

- The support for integrated actions for sustainable urban development is defined within **one priority axis integrating 4 thematic objectives (TO 4, 6, 9 and 10) in accordance with paragraph 2, article 7 of Regulation 1301/2013.**
- The territorial focus shall correspond to the national strategic documents, namely the **National Concept for Spatial Development 2013-2025.**
- **Support for a polycentric network of cities**, including core centres, medium sized cities and small cities providing public services to the population of more than one municipality or having a key border location - as supporting centres to the medium-sized and large cities at district level (NUTS III).
- Funding shall be based on territorial strategies at city level - **Integrated Plans for Urban Regeneration and Development.**
- Concentration of resources in the cities, which are engines for growth – this principle is implemented through a **methodology defining indicative reference budget indicated for each city.**
- Integration with other sectoral policies in the integrated plans - **coordination with the sectoral priorities of the OPRG 2014-2020, the regional development plans, other operational programs and the Danube Strategy.**

The main basis for implementation of the integrated priority for urban development are the Integrated Plans for Urban Regeneration and Development, which are developed by the cities in accordance with the Regional Development act and a Methodological guidelines issued by the Minister of Regional Development.

IPURDs are intended to attain a lasting improvement of the economic, social and

<sup>112</sup> 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).



environmental condition of a given urban area, by way of integration of all activities in such a way as to ensure the interrelation and synergy between its individual elements which would exceed the sum of the impacts of its constituent parts, if applied separately.

In practice IPURDs are the missing link between the Municipal Development Plans and the Urban Master Plans as IPURDs concentrate on a city and even part of a city (intervention zone) and in the same time include clear investment planning with a time schedule and source of funding, thus ensuring prioritisation of needs. In addition IPURDs are largely discussed with the society. In this respect the IPURD is one of the instruments through which the Municipal Development Plan will be implemented.

IPURD includes targeted and problem analysis of the city, vision for development, selection of intervention zones, time schedule and programme for realization, budget and indicators. For the zones which do not have up to date detailed spatial development plans it could include the development of such.

Two of the main criteria for approval of IPURD include the following:

- IPURD must ensure compliance with actual strategic and planning documents and with those which are in a process of development. In that respect IPURDs were the basis for development of the new municipal development plans for the period 2014-2020. An interministerial evaluation committee which evaluated the IPURDS, assessed their compliance with other relevant national strategies.
- An IPURD must ensure interconnectivity and where possible, contribute to the development of the regional links of the city within the territorial scope of its functional area and in a wider territorial scope.

In order to strengthen the functional links between the IPURDS and the surrounding municipal territory, additional guidance to the methodological guidelines for preparing the Integrated Plans for Urban Regeneration and Development was issued. According to it the cities from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> hierarchical level could identify additional projects outside the Intervention zones under the following conditions: those projects should be part of the Municipal Development Plan and shall provide appropriate justification for the project's contribution to strengthening the functional links between the city and the surrounding territory.

#### **Guiding principles in the selection of cities for support under OPRG:**

Support for all cities of level 1, 2 and 3, 2020 time horizon in accordance with the "Moderate Polycentrism" model of NSDC (39 in all – see Appendix 2). Their selection has been carried out in consideration also of European classifications, notably those of ESPON. The assessment was based on main socio-economic criteria such as demography, economic activity, provision of public services such as health social, education and culture, provision of administrative services.

Additional criteria were applied to select the supporting centres from the 4<sup>th</sup> level:

- Whether the city is located along a primary or a secondary development axis;
- Whether it is located in a peripheral territory (in a border area or inland) in order to enable connections with neighbouring territories, including outside of Bulgaria;

- Whether it functions as a service centre for more than one municipality;
- Where possible, in every district there should be at least one more supporting city in addition to the district centre.

**The cities responsible for implementing the IPURD shall be responsible for tasks relating at least to the selection of the operations (projects).** The Managing Authority has already delegated these tasks with the grant contracts for the preparation of the Integrated Plans for Urban Regeneration and Development in which municipalities have chosen their priority projects.

In addition the Managing Authority will conclude framework agreements with the 67 municipalities – specific beneficiaries, **which will explicitly regulate the delegation of project selection** under OP "Regions in Growth" 2014-2020 **in compliance with Art. 123 (6) of the General Regulation 1303/2013.** The framework agreements will include also the selected priority projects from the municipalities. The Managing Authority will reserve the right only to make a final eligibility check of activities before being approved.

The framework agreements will include provisions for management and monitoring the implementation of the integrated plans on the basis of the established in the IPURD implementation mechanism.

Each framework agreement sets out indicative reference budget for the city. Budgets are not provided to the municipalities in advance, and they include a reference calculation of the available resources in view of effective planning.

Reference calculations are defined based on a methodology, including objective criteria taking into account the competitive advantages of each city at the beginning of the period:

- Hierarchical level according to the National Spatial Development Concept 2013-2025;
- Population;
- Capacity of absorption in 2007-2013;
- Socio-economic potential, taking into consideration the overall socio-economic analysis of the cities based on key indicators.

One of the main principles applied in the methodology is the concentration of resources in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> level cities. It is envisaged 13,03% to be indicatively allocated to Sofia, 30,89% for the 2<sup>nd</sup> level cities, 44,91% for the 3<sup>rd</sup> level cities and 11,17% for the 4<sup>th</sup> level cities.

The municipalities of the 4<sup>th</sup> level cities will multiply the effects from the OPRG funding through the opportunity to participate in the Rural Development Programme with the rest of their territories.

In order to stimulate competition between the cities from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>d</sup> level, the Framework Agreement defines a reserve amounting at 20% from the reference sum for each of the cities. Depending on the absorption achieved by each of the cities till the end of year 2018, the reserve is to be absorbed proportionally to the level of absorption compared to the indicative reference budget.

For 4<sup>th</sup> level cities a bigger reserve amounting at 30% is envisaged. This will give the opportunity to the municipalities based on efficiency of the prioritized integrated projects

to determine their own resources in the next period.

This will encourage competition between municipalities. Competition between projects is done at the city level, as the municipality has actually delegated rights for project selection.

**List of cities to receive support for integrated urban development under Priority Axis 1 of OPRG 2014–2020 – 67 cities:**

Pursuant to the National Spatial Development Concept for the period 2013–2025 and the approach adopted by OPRG 2014–2020, the 67 cities are grouped in the following hierarchical levels:

**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, Kardjali, Smolyan, Pazardjik, Pernik, Kyustendil, 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.

**Table 20: Integrated actions for sustainable urban development – indicative amounts of ERDF and ESF support**

<b>Fund</b>	<b>ERDF and ESF support (indicative) (EUR)</b>	<b>Proportion of fund's total allocation to programme</b>
<4.2.2 type="S" input="G">	<4.2.3 type="N" input="M">	<4.2.3 type="P" input="G">
Total ERDF	788 914 738,90	58,40
Total ESF	-	-
TOTAL ERDF+ESF	788 914 738,90	58,40

**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.

*<4.3.1 type="S" maxlength="5000" input="M PA=Y">*

Bulgaria envisages pilot implementation of ITI in Northwest Region (NWR) (NUTS II). The ITI will be implemented on the basis of Integrated Strategy for Territorial Development of Northwest Region. The strategy will provide the package of concrete measures to support from ESIF in order sustainable and inclusive territorial development in the region to be achieved.

For the ITI in the Northwest Region multi-funding from ESIF will be provided and the different OPs will contribute to the ITI implementation. The management and monitoring of the ITI will be implemented by the respective MA of the programmes, which provided funds for the implementation of the ITI in NWR.

In this respect, OPRG 2014-2020 will contribute to the ITI implementation. In the framework of PA 1 of the programme 13 cities for support from NWR are identified according to the NSDC 2013-2025. By allocating an indicative reference budget for each city the OPRG 2014-2020 will provide guaranteed allocation for the NWR. 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 significance (Vidin and Pleven) and 4 cities of hierarchic level 3. In addition 7 small and medium-sized cities of hierarchic level 4 are identified in order supporting centers at regional and district level to be developed.

The possible reallocation of the reserves of the indicative reference budgets for the will be performed between the cities from the region the region in order the guaranteed budget to NWR to be retained.

In addition, in the framework of PA 5 “Regional Tourism” the list of prioritized cultural sites of national and world significance is being developed at regional level according to the respected methodology. In this way funds from this PA will contribute to the ITI implementation.

Specific parameters and coordination between the operational programmes with respect to the implementation of ITI in the Northwest Region as well as the fund allocation will be formulated and determined on the basis of currently developed integrated territorial development strategy of the region.

**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)
<i>&lt;4.3.2 type="S" input="G" PA=Y&gt;</i>	<i>&lt;4.3.3 type="S" input="G" PA=Y &gt;</i>	<i>&lt;4.3.4 type="N" input="M" PA=Y &gt;</i>
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" >

The Danube Strategy covers and 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 North Bulgaria, which is more linked to the Danube River.

Through support for the urban development 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 Pillar 6 - "To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soil" and Priority Axis 7 - "To develop knowledge society through research, education and information technologies. OPRG will contribute through renovation of urban environment, complete regeneration of deprived urban areas and measures for municipal educational infrastructure of local importance.

The OPRG approach regarding the urban development gives the opportunity for achieving targeted investment planning in support of the Danube Strategy.

In the three regions of North Bulgaria support is provided for five cities from second hierarchical level, 12 cities from third hierarchical level and 13 supporting centres from fourth hierarchic level. This is almost **50% of the eligible cities for support** with a population of **43%** from the total population in North Bulgaria.

The smaller cities of fourth hierarchic level are important centres with supra-municipal significance and favourable economic profile, providing basic administrative and social services. The support to these cities will contribute to the balanced development of the regions and achieving the objectives of the Danube Strategy.

The intervention logic of OPRG 2014-2020 allows for targeting the support under the program's sectoral priorities in accordance with the Danube Strategy which will complement the investments envisaged in the framework of Integrated Plans for Urban Regeneration and Development. Direct contribution to Pillar 3 of the Danube Strategy "To promote culture and

tourism and people to people contacts”, which is coordinated by Bulgaria, will be achieved through Priority Axis 5 of OPRG "Regional tourism".

A comprehensive tourist products based on the cultural monuments of national and global significance will be developed. Under Priority Axis 4 “Regional Tourism” of OPRG 2014–2020 support is envisaged for conservation and promotion of cultural heritage of world and national significance. In this context, OPRG will support the achievement of the objectives of the priority area it coordinates and the Danube Strategy as a whole through individual projects supporting the cultural and natural heritage in the Danube region.

## 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 67 cities – Direct beneficiaries 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 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%.

With regard to the territorial coverage of OPRG 2014–2020, data shows that the population of the 67 cities selected for financing under OPRG is 4,373 thousand people. This is 82.1% of the urban population and 59.7% of the entire population of Bulgaria. In the selected 67 cities 117,375 citizens, identifying themselves as Roma, live. They comprise two-thirds of all Roma living in cities and 36.1% of all Roma in Bulgaria.

The main needs identified in the analysis of the marginalised groups, including Roma, in the regions most affected by poverty and at highest risk of discrimination, 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>*

The main documents forming the strategic framework of the policy in support of marginalised groups (in particular Roma), are the Europe 2020 Strategy for Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive growth, “Europe 2020: National Reform Programme”, the National Development Programme Bulgaria 2020, the National Roma Integration Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria 2012 with the Action Plan for the implementation of the National Roma Integration Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria (2012–2020) and “Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005–2015”, the Health Strategy concerning People in Disadvantaged Position, Belonging to Ethnic Minorities (2005–2015).

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 will continue supporting during the next programming period, are related to the construction and rehabilitation of social housing for vulnerable, minority and indigent 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 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. 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 chosen 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 cities from levels 1-3 and the entire territory of the level 4 cities.

**Table 22: Actions to address specific needs of geographical areas most affected by poverty/target groups at highest risk of discrimination or social exclusion<sup>113</sup>**

Target group/geographical area	Main types of planned action as part of integrated approach	Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Investment priority
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"> <li>- 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;</li> <li>- 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;</li> </ul>	Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development	ERDF	Less Developed Regions	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.

<sup>113</sup> If the programme covers more than one category of region, a breakdown by category may be necessary.

	<p>- 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.</p>				
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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)
<7.1.1 type="S" input="S" Decision=N "SME" >	<7.1.2 type="S" maxlength="255" input="M" Decision=N "SME" >	<7.1.3 type="S" maxlength="255" input="M" Decision=N "SME" >
Managing authority	Directorate General "Programming of Regional Development" at the MRD	Snejina Slavcheva – Acting General Director and Head of the Managing Authority
Certifying authority, where applicable	"National Fund" Directorate, Ministry of Finance	Karina Karaivanova – Director of Directorate and Head of the Certifying Authority
Audit authority	"Audit of EU funds" EA	Dobrinka Mihaylova – Executive Director
Body to which Commission will make payments	"National Fund" Directorate, Ministry of Finance	Karina Karaivanova – Director of Directorate 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 the leading authority in the development of each programme, the Ministry of Regional

Development has been designated as the 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 MRD 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 MRD.

In developing the Operational Programme, the drafting team use 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.

The Central Coordinating Unit within the administration of the Council of Ministers and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice constitute the key coordinating authority and have competences in the development and negotiation of the Partnership Agreement with the European Commission, which will determine the financial framework for the implementation of the cohesion policy in Bulgaria during the next programming period 2014–2020.

In accordance with the CPR 1303/2013 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 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 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 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 are 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, approved by the CCU, 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 role of partners in the development of the Operational Programme is detailed in the Order for setting up of the TWG and the Internal Rules of Organisation of Proceedings of the TWG for drafting OPRG 2014–2020. The partners are involved in the preparation, review and coordination of the draft(s) and the final version of the operational program. Their functions are expressed mostly in:

- preparation and submission, in due course, to the relevant authorities, depending on their respective area of competence, of opinions and comments regarding the draft(s) and the final version of the OPRG;
- participation, with voting rights, in the meetings of the TWG;
- submission for discussion within the TWG of proposals relevant to the development of the OPRG and individual sections thereof, and expressing opinions, comments and position papers regarding the agenda and the materials tabled for discussion at the meeting;
- upon request, supplying additional information and/or analyses pertinent to the development of the Operational Programme.

The meetings are held in accordance with clear procedure as provided under the internal rules of conduct, at suitable locations in buildings fitted with disabled access amenities.

To ensure the broad involvement and active participation of the partners in the TWG, in accordance with its internal rules of procedure, the agenda and all documents and materials relevant to a meeting will be sent out to the members of the Working Group at least 5 working days prior to the date for the meeting, through official channels of communication and/or by electronic mail. Where there is an objective impossibility to comply with the said 5-day period, comments on the materials were also accepted after the date of the TWG meeting.

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.bgregion.eu](http://www.bgregion.eu), as well as on the Single information web portal for the management for Structural and Cohesion Funds of the EU – [www.eufunds.bg](http://www.eufunds.bg).

The drafting of the actual texts of OPRG 2014–2020 was commenced on 25/07/2012 by constituting the TWG, which consecutively identified and agreed on the priorities, thematic objectives, financial allocations and the actual wording of the Operational Programme. The OPRG is being developed through broad discussions among the

partners, with a view to selecting the best possible solutions for achieving the goals of the programme. The key comments and recommendations concern the structure of the programme and its compliance with the ESIF Regulations; the selection of priorities; the selection of operations and eligible activities; the selection of beneficiaries; the determination of indicators; the allocated financial resource and its distribution.

Some of the key decisions regarding the programme have been adopted as a result of a thorough discussion, or by a proposal made by the members of the TWG. Thus, for example, the group discussed two options for financing energy efficiency in administrative and residential buildings: as a separate horizontal priority without territorial restrictions or as part of the measures for integrated urban development.

As a result of the debate conducted within it, with the active participation of members of the local authorities and non-governmental organisations, the TWG unanimously decided that any measures related to energy efficiency in residential buildings will be applied in the entire territory of the 67 cities, without any territorial restrictions within the intervention zones.

One of the most important decisions – on determining the range of direct beneficiaries under priority axis 1 “Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development” – was adopted following a discussion of the list of cities eligible for financing under the OPRG 2014–2020 with the NAMRB as organization representing all 264 municipalities in Bulgaria. To ensure that all incoming opinions and comments are duly reflected, prior to every meeting the Secretariat draws up a feedback table where all accepted opinions are entered and the grounds for rejecting the unacceptable ones are also stated.

The partnership principle will also be applied as regards to the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the OPRG. The involvement of the administrative, social and economic partners, identified in the course of the development of the programme, will be ensured through the transforming of the working group into a 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.

The programming process involved several preparatory activities undertaken by the managing authority at the earliest possible time:

Under a project on the cohesion policy and the process of regional development programming in Bulgaria: options for the preparation of the 2014–2020 programming period”, several possible options for the programming of regional development 2014–2020 as well as the experience in different member states were reviewed.

Between September 2010 and February 2011, a mid-term evaluation of OP “Regional Development” 2007–2013 was conducted. The main parameters of that evaluation also included Recommendations for the Next Programming Period.

**A sound socio-economic analysis for the needs of OPRG 2014-2020 was developed. It** identified the strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats for the development of Bulgarian regions; the priority areas of impact for overcoming the disparities in the development; the utilisation of existing opportunities for accelerated and sustainable social and economic development and territorial cohesion. In parallel with that, the analysis served to identify the needs of Bulgaria’s regions while determining their

potential and a strategy for their sustainable development during the period 2012–2022.

The analysis also considered the groups of territories having specific territorial features, with a view to identify the most appropriate measures for attaining the goals of territorial cohesion. The analysis identifies objectively the needs for support which are part of the strategy of OPRG 2014–2020.

The National Spatial Development Concept for the period 2013–2025 was developed in 2012. The concept defines the key parameters of the Strategy for Spatial Development of Bulgaria over a medium/long-term period while specifying the territorial context and focus of both the documents for strategic planning of regional development and the operational programmes for the 2014–2020 period.

The preparation of Integrated Plans for Urban Regeneration and Development, deriving from the Regional Development Act was supported in the period 2010–2014.

To ensure maximum efficiency of the ex-ante evaluation and the environmental assessment of OPRG 2014–2020, they have been scheduled to commence at the earliest possible programming stage. In this way the recommendation of the Commission, contained in the guidelines for conducting an ex-ante evaluation, regarding the parallel implementation of both types of assessments was addressed. This allowed the Managing Authority to integrate all the recommendations of both evaluations during the programming process.

Information regarding the steps undertaken with respect to the preliminary and the environmental assessment is presented at the meetings of the Thematic Working Group. The tentative conclusions from the ex-ante evaluation were presented at the 5th and 6th TWG meeting.

Two focus-group sessions were conducted on 23/01/2013: one with representatives of Managing Authorities of operational programmes, the Central Coordinating Unit, non-governmental organisations and the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences; the other with representatives of the beneficiaries (municipalities and institutions) under OPRG 2014–2020. Opinions were exchanged on the following matters: allocation of funds, indicators, administrative capacity for implementation and application of the horizontal principles in OPRG 2014–2020. The results of the focus-group sessions were reflected in the final report of the contractor that conducted the ex-ante evaluation of OPRG 2014–2020.

With a view to the timely launching of the implementation of projects under the Programme, the OPRG MA is supporting the development of a project pipeline for the projects identified by the municipalities in their IPURD and from the ministries which are selected as direct beneficiaries of the programme. Direct beneficiaries for the development of working / technical designs, which will be supported under OPRG 2014–2020.

### **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>



## **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>*

At national level within the framework of the Partnership Agreement and in the process of programming the EU Funds support instruments, the overall mechanism for ensuring coordination between and complementarity of the different sources of financing is described.

Operational Programme “Regions in Growth” 2014–2020 is a single-fund programme, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund and the national budget.

### **Coordination with other programmes under CSF:**

#### **Operational Programme “Environment” (OPE):**

The activities related to the rehabilitation of the urban environment, including streets and other public open spaces, supported under investment priorities 1.2 and 1.5 of OPRG, 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 39 cities from levels 1, 2 and 3 and the entire urban territory of the level 4 cities, as well as in the entire urban territory of level 1 to 3 cities, where the coordination is with regard to activities related to integrated urban transport;

Investments under OPRD 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 (multi-family residential) buildings and enterprises, as well as introducing other water-saving methods: developing and introducing technologies for recycling and reuse of water.

OPRG supports the conservation, promotion and development of cultural heritage of national and world significance in the entire territory of Bulgaria based on a list of prioritised sites for financing, prepared by the interinstitutional working group set up to define a methodology and prioritising of the tourist and cultural infrastructure of national and global significance. Whenever possible measures under Priority Axis 5 will promote the surrounding natural heritage to the developed cultural sites, thus complying OPE support to natural heritage sites. OPRD supports measures for prevention of the risk of landslides.

#### **Operational Programme “Transport and Transport Infrastructure” (OPTTI):**

OPRG is orientated at improving the connectivity to the TEN-T network. It finances 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 road projects within the TEN-T network.

OPRG 2014–2020 investments in sustainable urban mobility under Investment priority 1.5, will be coordinated with the Sofia Metro project supported by OP “Transport and Transport Infrastructure”.

**Operational Programme “Innovation and Entrepreneurship” (OPIE):**

OPRG supports the development of zones with a potential for economic development within IPURDs and regional tourist marketing. OPIE supports the development of, technological parks of national significance, technological centres. .

Coordination between the two programmes will be seek 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 pertinent for promoting business and entrepreneurship. In addition OPRG 2014-2020 will support construction, renovation, rehabilitation, reconstruction and repair of business and industrial zones within areas with potential for economic development under IPURDs.

Complementarity between the programmes will be achieved in the field of energy efficiency as OPRG supports energy efficiency measures in multifamily residential buildings and administrative buildings of the state and municipal administration and OPIE supports energy efficiency measures in SMEs.

The measures under OPIE for supporting the national tourist marketing will complement the measures under OPRD 2014–2020 for supporting the cultural heritage and the development of regional tourist products.

**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, envisages in OPHRD.

For the objects, financed under OPRG, OPHRD provides complementary financing from the European Social Fund of soft measures. OPHRD supports measures for active inclusion – social inclusion through social services; improving the access to healthcare and health promotion; elimination of the institutional model of childcare, care for elderly people and people with disabilities with a view for improving the quality of life of vulnerable groups. The infrastructure measures under OPRG will be supported by realization of programs for community support and social inclusion of people leaving specialized institutions under OPHRD.

OPHRD supports measures for integration of marginalised communities, such as Roma, including access to social and healthcare services, including providing access to healthcare and improving health education, including health information campaigns. Complementarity will be achieved with the social housing measures under OPRG 2014-2020.

Infrastructure investments for social housing under OPRG within the IPURD will be supported by measures for ensuring better access to labour market, social and health services under OPHRD.

The process of deinstitutionalisation of social services will be continued in a coordinated way, based on the experience gained during the 2007-2013 period.

**Operational Programme “Science and Education for Smart Growth” (OPSESG):**

OPRG finances state educational and municipal educational infrastructure from national and regional significance university infrastructure from the European Regional Development Fund in the entire territory of Bulgaria, and municipal educational infrastructure of local importance within the IPURDs of the 67 cities under Priority Axis 1 “Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development”.

OPREIG provides complementary financing from the European Social Fund for educational programmes.

OPRG 2014-2020 will support educational infrastructure (state, municipal and university) in compliance with the national strategic framework in the education sector.

The prioritisation of the needs follow a methodology for prioritization of education infrastructure, issued by the minister of education.

As regards tertiary education, taking into account significant potential for realization of coordinated and integrated activities to achieve better complementary with OP "Science and education for smart growth", OPRG 2014-2020 will support university faculties, which participate in the centres of excellence and centres for competence, supported by OPSESG.

**Operational Programme “Good Governance” (OPGG):**

OPRG supports only measures for strengthening and enhancing the capacity of the Managing Authority and the programme beneficiaries. OPGG supports the overall strengthening of the institutional capacity and effective public administration by strengthening the institutional capacity and the effective public administration and public services, related to the implementation of ERDF and ESF.

**Rural Development Programme (RDP):**

Both programmes will be coordinated both territorially and sectorally. Local needs will be supported at a territorial level, based on the defined rural areas and the scope of the Integrated Plans for Urban Regeneration and Development. OPRG 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 67 cities identified for support under Priority Axis 1 “Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development” of the Programme, in accordance with the National Spatial Development Concept for the period 2013–2025. Financing of the functional connections with the neighbouring territory is admissible for the cities of levels 1, 2 and 3 for municipal educational, social, sports and cultural infrastructure and urban transport).

RDP finances mirror measures in urban areas – municipal educational, cultural, social infrastructure, urban (village) environment and energy efficiency measures in the administrative buildings of the state and municipal administration within the rural areas.

Sectoral priorities which are not territorially restricted under OPRG support infrastructure of higher (regional or national importance) which does not fall within the

scope of the Rural Development Programme.

In this regard OPRG supports 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> class roads outside the TEN-T network and the RDP supports municipal roads.

OPRG supports infrastructural measures for the conservation, promotion and development of cultural heritage of national and world significance and the RDP will support rural tourism.

OPRG finances infrastructural measures for deinstitutionalisation of children and elderly people, healthcare infrastructure and educational infrastructure of regional importance in the entire territory of Bulgaria. RDP will not finance similar measures.

#### **Territorial cooperation programmes (TCP):**

OPRG finances infrastructure and long-term investments based on predefined projects. The distinction will be based on the list of projects, identified and prioritised in advance. In addition, TCPs support measures and low-scale activities, with the requirement that the projects are prepared by representatives of both neighbouring countries and have clear cross-border impact.

Coordination will be achieved by coordinated implementation of schemes in accordance with the provisions of the Partnership Agreement and the Council of Ministers Decree on the provision of grant schemes under the CSF programmes, which envisage a special mechanism for selection of integrated projects financed by more than one programme.

#### **State Public Investment Programme:**

The support from European Regional Development Fund in the form of grant assistance will be matched and combined with funding from national sources (state and municipal budgets) aimed at the implementation of projects within the Integrated Plans for Urban Regeneration and Development and sectoral policies of regional significance.

Complementarity will be achieved with the Public Investment Programme “Growth and Sustainable Development of Regions” (PIPGSDR) of the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria which invest in projects and programmes of regional and national significance. In the budget for 2014 the Government envisages to implement PIP “GSDR” in the amount of 500 million BGN. This is a new mechanism of investing in priority projects with the national budget. The programme objective is to stimulate the activity of the budget spending authorities and raise the quality of their proposals. At the moment there are resources allocated for 2014 but it is envisaged for the upcoming years such budget to be allocated too. The annual amount of funds will be linked to the economic cycle, the utilization of the EU funds with investment orientation and after a critical review of the existing programmes.

By decree № 4/2014 Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria established an Interdepartmental Committee for evaluation, prioritization and selection of project and programme proposals implementing the objectives of the PIP “GSDR”. The chairman of the Interdepartmental Committee is the Minister of Finance, and its members are the Minister of Economy and Energy, the Minister of Regional Development, the Minister of Investment Planning, the Minister of Transport, Information Technology and Communications, the Minister of Environment and Water and the President of the National Association of Municipalities in Republic of Bulgaria. Committee's work is

organized and supported by a secretariat within the Ministry of Finance.

Under the Public Investment Programme “Growth and Sustainable Development of Regions” projects and programs of the following sectors can be financed: transport infrastructure, environment (water supply, sewerage, waste treatment management, etc.), social and cultural infrastructure (schools and training centers, hospitals and health units, sports halls and sports facilities, cultural and other public buildings), as well as other investments supporting the social-economic development.

Collection and nomination of specific projects of regional and local significance shall be made by regional governors on the basis of proposals from local authorities, after which the projects are available for evaluation, prioritization and selection by the Interministerial Committee.

## 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 and Minister of Justice, who presents regular reports on the progress to the Council of Ministers. The responsible institutions for each ex-ante conditionalities 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 are already fulfilled. The implementation of the not fulfilled is planned for the first half of 2014 until the end of 2015.

**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/pa)	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

		<b>rtially)</b>				
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 Sustainable and integrated urban development	Partially	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.	NO	Article 15 of the Act amending and supplementing the Energy Efficiency Act, promulgated, SG, No. 24 of 12/03/2013  Ordinance No. ПД-16-1058 on energy consumption indicators and energy performance of buildings, MEET and MRD  Ordinance No. 7 on energy efficiency, heat preserving and economy of energy in buildings, MRD, as well as Appendix No. 3 of Ordinance No. 7  <a href="http://www.seea.government.bg/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=9250&amp;Itemid=227&amp;lang=bg">http://www.seea.government.bg/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=9250&amp;Itemid=227&amp;lang=bg</a>  <a href="http://www.mrrb.government.bg/?controller=articles&amp;id=465">http://www.mrrb.government.bg/?controller=articles&amp;id=465</a>	Bulgaria has accepted a methodology for calculation of the energy performance of the buildings, regulated in the given legal documents.  It is foreseen to update the legislation in the field of energy efficiency for planning, construction and renewal of buildings in compliance with the requirements of Directive 2010/31/E and the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 244/2012.
			Measures necessary to establish a system of certification of the energy performance of buildings consistent with Article 11 of Directive 2010/31/EU	YES	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  as well as  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.  <a href="http://www.seea.government.bg/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=9250&amp;Itemid=227&amp;lang=bg">http://www.seea.government.bg/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=9250&amp;Itemid=227&amp;lang=bg</a>	According to the given legal acts regulating the system of certification of the energy performance of buildings energy performance certificates are available to enable the owners or tenants of the buildings to compare or evaluate the energy performance.
			Measures to ensure strategic planning on energy efficiency, consistent with Art. 3 of	YES	Energy strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria  <a href="http://www.mi.government.bg/bg/themes/energijina-strategiya-na-republika-balgariya-do-2020-g-147-">http://www.mi.government.bg/bg/themes/energijina-strategiya-na-republika-balgariya-do-2020-g-147-</a>	Bulgaria has defined a national target for 25% increase of the energy efficiency until 2020 according to the requirements of Art. 3 of Directive

			Directive 2012/27/EU		<a href="#">295.html</a> Regarding the Housing sector there are acting National housing strategy and National programme for renewal of the housing stock in Republic of Bulgaria <a href="http://www.strategy.bg/StrategicDocuments/View.aspx?lang=bg-BG&amp;Id=431">http://www.strategy.bg/StrategicDocuments/View.aspx?lang=bg-BG&amp;Id=431</a> <a href="http://www.strategy.bg/StrategicDocuments/View.aspx?lang=bg-BG&amp;Id=432">http://www.strategy.bg/StrategicDocuments/View.aspx?lang=bg-BG&amp;Id=432</a>	2012/27/EU
			Measures consistent with Article 13 of Directive 2006/32/EC on energy end-use efficiency and energy services to 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	YES	Article 39 (4) of the Energy Efficiency Act, Article 120, Article 150 and Article 195 of the Energy Act, Chapter 7 of the Ordinance on heating supply Legal acts: Energy Efficiency Act (EEA) and Ordinance № 16-334 on heating supply For electricity – art. 120 of EEA; For central heating – art. 139 (1), art. 140 (1), articles 140a to 145, art. 156 of EEA; art. 43, art. 52 (1-5), art. 62 of the Ordinance and the Methodology for distribution of thermal energy for buildings, annexed to art.61 of the Ordinance <a href="http://www.mi.government.bg/bg/library/zakon-za-energetikata-256-c25-m258-2.html">http://www.mi.government.bg/bg/library/zakon-za-energetikata-256-c25-m258-2.html</a> <a href="http://www.mi.government.bg/bg/library/naredba-16-334-ot-6-april-2007-g-za-toplosnabdyavaneto-404-c78-m260-3.html">http://www.mi.government.bg/bg/library/naredba-16-334-ot-6-april-2007-g-za-toplosnabdyavaneto-404-c78-m260-3.html</a> Regulation framework on invoicing by the energy distributors is in art= 38 of EEA <a href="http://www.seea.government.bg/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=9250&amp;Itemid=227&amp;lang">http://www.seea.government.bg/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=9250&amp;Itemid=227&amp;lang</a>	



					<p><a href="#">=bg</a></p> <p>Provisions on general conditions of the contracts – art. 150(1) and art. 1496 of EEA</p> <p><a href="http://www.mi.government.bg/bg/library/zakon-za-energetikata-256-c25-m258-2.html">http://www.mi.government.bg/bg/library/zakon-za-energetikata-256-c25-m258-2.html</a></p> <p>The rest of the information is available in the monthly messages to the invoices sent to the clients of the heating</p>	
5.1. Risk prevention and risk management : The existence of national or regional risk assessments for disaster management taking into account climate change adaptation	Priority Axis 7 Risk prevention	YES	<p>A national or regional risk assessment with the following elements shall be in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– A description of the process, methodology, methods and non-sensitive data, used for risk assessment as well as of the risk-based criteria for the prioritisation of investment;</li> <li>– A description of single-risk and multiple-risk scenarios;</li> <li>– Taking into account, where appropriate, national climate change adaptation strategies.</li> </ul>	YES	<p>As regards the investments under OPRG: Methodology for prioritising of landslides including analysis and risk assessment is available that fulfils the conditionality.</p> <p>At national level: Ordinance on the conditions, procedure and authorities for carrying out analyses, assessments and mapping of disaster risks, was adopted by the Council of Ministers with Decree No. 264 of 25/10/2012 and was promulgated in SG, No. 84 of 02/11/2012</p> <p>National Programme for Protection against Disasters 2009–2013</p> <p>Action Plan for protection against disasters: Part 1. Protection against Disasters;</p> <p>Regional plans for protection against disasters – published in the websites of the 28 district administrations</p>	The Ministry of regional development has developed a Methodology for prioritising landslides. It is based on detailed analyses and risk assessment of all landslides on the territory of Bulgaria

7.1. The existence of a comprehensive plan(s) or framework(s) 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	Priority Axis 6 Regional Road Infrastructure	YES	<p>The existence of a comprehensive transport plan(s) or framework(s) for transport investment which fulfils legal requirements for strategic environmental assessment and sets out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the contribution to the Single European Transport Area consistent with Article 10 of Regulation No. [TEN-T], including priorities for investments in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the core TEN-T network and the comprehensive network, where investment from ERDF and CF is envisaged; as well as</li> <li>▪ secondary connectivity;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• a realistic and mature pipeline for projects envisaged for support from the ERDF and CF.</li> </ul>	YES	<p>As regards the investments under OPRG:</p> <p>Strategy for development of road infrastructure in Republic of Bulgaria 2014-2020 and the Mid-term operational programme for the implementation of the strategy have been elaborated by the Ministry of Regional Development.</p> <p>Methodology for prioritising of road sections under OPRG 2014–2020</p> <p>At national level:</p> <p>Strategy for the Development of the Transport Sector of the Republic of Bulgaria until 2020</p> <p>General Master Plan for Transport</p> <p>Strategic environmental impact assessment (of the General Master Plan for Transport)</p> <p>Analysis of the current condition of the TEN-T network (road and railway sector) for the purpose of identifying the priority investments along the main routes of the TEN-T network until 2020 and 2030</p>	<p>The Strategy for development of road infrastructure in Republic of Bulgaria 2014-2020 contains comprehensive analyses and the strategic priorities for investments in road infrastructure. Together with the Mid-term operational programme the strategy fulfils the criteria, outlining the priorities for investment the core TEN-T network and the comprehensive network, as well as secondary connectivity. The Mid-term operational programme includes lists with prioritised road sections. In addition the road sections for support under OPRG are prioritised according to the Methodology for prioritising of road sections under OPRG 2014–2020 developed by the Road Infrastructure Agency and the maturity of the projects is ensured with technical assistance under OPRD 2007-2013 for preparation of investment projects to be financed in 2014-2020.</p>
			<p>– Measures to ensure the capacity of intermediary bodies and beneficiaries to deliver the project pipeline.</p>	YES	<p>Project BG161PO001/5-01/2008/059 “Optimisation of Road Infrastructure Agency for Management of Programmes and Projects Financed with European Funds”.</p> <p>Project BG161PO001/5-01/2008/052</p>	<p>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</p>

					“Development of Action Plans to Strengthen the Administrative Capacity of OPRD Beneficiaries”	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
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	Priority Axis 1, Priority Axis 4	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;  - depending on the identified needs, includes measures for the shift from institutional to community based care	YES	National strategy for poverty reduction and promotion of social inclusion 2020  <a href="http://www.mlsp.government.bg/bg/docs/National_Poverty_Strategy_2020.doc">http://www.mlsp.government.bg/bg/docs/National Poverty Strategy 2020.doc</a>  National strategy for long term care <a href="http://www.mlsp.government.bg/bg/docs/Long_Term_Care_Strategy_final.doc">http://www.mlsp.government.bg/bg/docs/Long Term Care Strategy final.doc</a>	The National strategy for poverty reduction and promotion of social inclusion 2020 includes detailed analyses and measures supporting the national target for poverty and social exclusion. The national target is defined and all interested parties participated in the development of the document.  The strategy contains measures for shift from institutional to community based care as well as measures to support the access to basic services for all

t guidelines						
9.2. A national Roma inclusion strategic policy framework is in place	Priority Axis 1, Priority Axis 4	YES	<p>A national Roma inclusion strategy is in place that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- identifies where relevant those disadvantaged micro-regions or segregated neighbourhoods, where communities are most deprived, using already available socio-economic and territorial indicators (i.e. very low educational level, long-term unemployment, etc.);</li> <li>- includes strong monitoring methods to evaluate the impact of Roma integration actions and a review mechanism for the adaptation of the</li> </ul>	YES	<p>National Roma Inclusion Strategy 2012 –2020 adopted</p> <p>On 5 January 2012 the Council of Ministers approved the NRIS and adopted an Action Plan to it. On 01 March 2012 the National Assembly adopted the NRIS with a decision.</p> <p>The NRIS satisfies the defined criteria.</p>	<p>The strategy goals cover the 4 goals of EC for Roma integration in terms of access to education, employment, health and housing. The measures for their achievement are foreseen in the Action plan for the implementation of the strategy.</p> <p>The Ministry of Regional Development is the leading institution for implementation of the objectives under Priority “Improving the living conditions”.</p> <p>The strategy identifies where relevant those disadvantaged micro-regions or segregated neighbourhoods, where communities are most deprived, using already available socio-economic and territorial indicators as described in the Regional strategies for Roma integration until 2020 and in the Municipal action plans for the period 2013-2014</p> <p>The mechanisms for management of the integration policy and the monitoring implementation are described in the strategy – page 17-21.</p> <p>Close cooperation and continuous dialogue with Roma civil society, regional and local authorities are</p>

			strategy; - is designed, implemented and monitored in close cooperation and continuous dialogue with Roma civil society, regional and local authorities.			ensured. The strategy and the action plan are prepared with the broad participation of Roma NGOs and experts as well as civil organizations.
			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	National Roma Inclusion Strategy 2012 –2020 adopted	The relevant stakeholders for the measures under OPRG are the municipalities. Measures for support of the beneficiaries for project preparation and implementation are foreseen in the operational programme.
9.3. Health: The existence of a national or regional strategic policy framework for health within the limits of Article 168 TFEU ensuring economic sustainabilit	Priority Axis 3	PARTIALLY	A national and/or regional strategic policy framework for health is in place that: – 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;	YES	National health strategy 2014-2020 <a href="http://www.mh.government.bg/Articles.aspx?lang=bg-BG&amp;pageid=472&amp;home=true&amp;categoryid=6530">http://www.mh.government.bg/Articles.aspx?lang=bg-BG&amp;pageid=472&amp;home=true&amp;categoryid=6530</a>	The National health strategy and the action plan for its implementation contain coordinated measures for better access of all people and measures to stimulate efficiency of the sector as well as adequate monitoring and review system

y			<p>– contains a monitoring and review system.</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 includes coordinated measures to improve access to health services; measures to stimulate efficiency in the health sector by introducing models for delivery of services and infrastructure; contains a monitoring and review framework, defining indicative available budget resources, and cost-efficient focus on priority healthcare needs.</p>	
10.1. The existence of a strategic policy framework to reduce early school leaving (ESL) within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.	Priority Axis 1 Priority Axis 2	YES	<p>A system for collecting and analysing data and information on early school leaving (ESL) at relevant levels is in place that:</p> <p>– provides a sufficient evidence-base to develop targeted policies and monitors developments;</p>	YES	<p>Register of the movement of children and pupils <a href="http://www2.mon.bg/adminrs/login.html">www2.mon.bg/adminrs/login.html</a></p>	<p>Starting from the 2012 / 2013 school year, a web-based register of the movement of children and pupils was introduced, which monitors the number of pupils in kindergartens, general and professional schools, cultural schools and specialised schools. The processes of enrolment of children and pupils, transfer to a different form of education and leaving the educational system are recorded in the register. The data are entered by schools and are reflected in the register in real time. Experts from the MES, the REI of the MES, public administrations, as well as headmasters of schools and kindergartens have access to the register.</p>

			<p>A strategic policy framework on ESL is in place that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- is based on evidence;</li> <li>- covers relevant educational sectors, including early childhood development and addresses prevention, intervention and compensation measures ;</li> <li>- involves all policy sectors and stakeholders that are relevant to address ESL.</li> </ul>	YES	<p>Strategy to decrease the share of early school-leaving (2013-2020)  <a href="http://www.mon.bg/opencms/export/sites/mon/left_menu/strategies/documents/strategy_napusnali_obr_sistema_2013-2020.pdf">http://www.mon.bg/opencms/export/sites/mon/left_menu/strategies/documents/strategy_napusnali_obr_sistema_2013-2020.pdf</a></p> <p>Decade of Roma inclusion 2005-2015 and National action plan  <a href="http://www.nccedi.government.bg/upload/docs/Nacionalen_plan_dekada_2005_2015.pdf">http://www.nccedi.government.bg/upload/docs/Nacionalen_plan_dekada_2005_2015.pdf</a></p> <p>National strategy for Roma integration (2012-2020) and action plan  <a href="http://www.nccedi.government.bg/page.php?category=35&amp;id=1741">http://www.nccedi.government.bg/page.php?category=35&amp;id=1741</a></p> <p>Strategy for educational integration of children and pupils from ethnic minorities  <a href="http://www.nccedi.government.bg/upload/docs/strategy_integration.pdf">http://www.nccedi.government.bg/upload/docs/strategy_integration.pdf</a></p> <p>National Lifelong Learning Strategy 2008–2013  <a href="http://www.minedu.government.bg/opencms/export/sites/mon/left_menu/strategies/documents/strategy_LLL_2014-2020.pdf">http://www.minedu.government.bg/opencms/export/sites/mon/left_menu/strategies/documents/strategy_LLL_2014-2020.pdf</a></p> <p>National Youth Strategy (2010–2020) adopted.  <a href="http://www.mon.bg/left_menu/strategies/">http://www.mon.bg/left_menu/strategies/</a></p>	<p>The strategy is based on evidence, covers relevant educational sectors, including early childhood development and addresses prevention, intervention and compensation measures and involves all relevant policy sectors and stakeholders</p> <p>Taking into account the demographic needs, the infrastructure needs for prevention of ESL are assessed and incorporated in a long-term strategy for infrastructure network in order to guarantee efficiency and sustainability</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10.2. Higher education:</li> </ul>	Priority Axis 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• partially</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A national or regional strategic policy framework for tertiary education is in place with</li> </ul>	- NO	-	

<p>The existence of a national or regional strategic policy framework for increasing tertiary education attainment, quality and efficiency within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.</p>			<p>the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- – where necessary, measures to increase participation and attainment that:</li> <li>- increase higher education participation among low income groups and other underrepresented groups with special regard to disadvantaged people, including people from marginalised communities ;</li> <li>- reduce drop-out rates/improve completion rates.</li> </ul>		
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- measures to increase employability and entrepreneurship, which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- encourage the development of "transversal skills", including entrepreneurship in relevant higher education programmes;</li> <li>- reduce gender differences in terms of academic and vocational choice.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- National Youth Strategy (2010–2020) adopted. Approved with Council of Ministers Decision dated 06/10/2010, excerpt from Protocol No. 35.</li> <li>-</li> </ul>





## 9.2 Description of actions to fulfil ex-ante conditionalities, responsible bodies and timetable <sup>114</sup>

**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
<9.2.1 type="S" maxlength="500" input="G" PA=Y "SME" >	<9.2.2 type="S" maxlength="500" input="G" PA=Y "SME" >	<9.2.3 type="S" maxlength="1000" input="M" PA=Y "SME" >	<9.2.4 type="D" input="M" PA=Y "SME" >	<9.2.5 type="S" maxlength="500" input="M" PA=Y "SME" >

**Table 26: Actions to fulfil applicable thematic ex-ante conditionalities**

Thematic ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible
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.	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	Action 1. Update of legislation in the field of energy efficiency for planning, construction and renewal of buildings in compliance with the requirements of Directive 2010/31/E and the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 244/2012. The update will be based on the results of project BG161PO001-5.3.01-0076 „Analyses, studies and update of legislation in support of OPRG 2014-2020” under Operational Programme “Regional Development” 2007-2013	Deadline for Action 1 June 2014	MEE MRD

<sup>114</sup> 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.

<p>9.3 Health: The existence of a national or regional strategic policy framework for health within the limits of Article 168 TFEU ensuring.</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>	<p>Action 2. Development of new model for emergency health care</p> <p>Action 3. Optimization of hospital care</p>	<p>December 2016</p> <p>December 2015</p>	<p>Ministry of Health</p>
<p>10.2. Higher education: The existence of a national or regional strategic policy framework for increasing tertiary education attainment, quality and efficiency within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.</p>	<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"> <li>- where necessary, measures to increase participation and attainment that:</li> <li>- increase higher education participation among low income groups and other underrepresented groups with special regard to disadvantaged people, including people from marginalised communities ;</li> <li>reduce drop-out rates/improve completion rates.</li> </ul>	<p>Adoption of Strategy for development of higher education in the Republic of Bulgaria for the period 2014-2020</p>	<p>May 2014</p>	<p>Ministry of Education and Science</p>

## 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

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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 execution period.

The main factors creating administrative burden were identified during the 2007–2013 programming period and considerable effort for their overcoming has been made. The main conclusion is that it is necessary to achieve a balance between the effective control over the spending of resources from the EU Funds and the reduction of the administrative burden in the management and implementation of operational programmes.

During the 2007–2013 programming period OPRD beneficiaries implemented for the first time projects, financed from the EU Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund. 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. There is a need for more thorough risk assessment and proportionality and balance in the verification system based on the existing risk for the specific project / beneficiary. The introduced system of 100% control and overlapping of the financial checks by the regional and the central structures of the MA is to some extent problematic. 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. An opportunity for simplifying the system exists in the delegation of powers for some of the financial verifications only to the regional structures of the MA.

- The unbalanced number of on-the-spot verifications 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 verifications for each project and placing higher reliance on the risk assessments.
- During the period 2007–2013 OP “Regional Development” provided support through schemes for Direct beneficiaries and through schemes based on competitive selection. With a view to the nature of the measures under the programme, 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

- Streamlining of the processes for the purpose of speeding up verification:
  - use of external experts for carrying out investor control in on-the-spot verifications;
  - use of external experts for legal services resulting in speeding up the process of processing irregularity alerts;
  - streamlining the structure of the MA by structuring an “Irregularity” Sector and sector for ex-ante / ex-post control for a more focused and effective control and faster and more effective processing of dossiers;
- Streamlining of the processes at the application stage:
  - Joining the stages of administrative assessment and eligibility assessment, increasing the minimum time-period for collecting project proposals for infrastructural projects;
  - Introducing an obligation for preliminary public discussion of the guidelines to 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 actions 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 uniform rates with regard to indirect costs;
- Transition from contractual arrangements for the provision of grants to provision of grants on the basis of a decision of the MA. This, on the one hand, will reduce the time required for awarding the grant, and, on the other hand, will reduce the number of the additional documents submitted prior to the signature of a grant contract.
- 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 also possible to provide grants from priority axes for technical assistance through budget lines within a plan-account, which will be updated on an annual basis, instead of through projects with the corresponding documentation;
- Introducing an administrative process for dispute resolution between the MA and beneficiaries for the purpose of simplifying the mechanism and reducing the time-periods – administrative appeal against acts, which will reduce the court appeals, and single-instance court appeal;
- Electronic reporting and submission of projects.

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 projects defined in advance within the Integrated Urban Regeneration and Development Plans will be applied. Thus the burden for beneficiaries with regard to the preparation of project proposals will be reduced considerably and the wasting of administrative resources for the preparation of many projects, some of which remain unfinanced due to lack of resources under the corresponding scheme, will be prevented.

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 prefinancing payments.

All planned activities, related to the overall management and implementation of OPRG, including the *reduction of the administrative burden*, will be detailed in the Manual of procedure for the management and implementation of the Programme and the management and control systems.

## 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 financed under OPRG 2014–2020 will be approved only following a positive decision / opinion under procedures conducted in accordance with the procedure of the Environmental Protection Act and the Biodiversity Act.

#### **Compliance of OPRG with the guidelines for integration of the Environmental policy (EP) and the Climate change policy (CHP)**

In pursuance of the new requirements for integration of EP and CHP in the EU Funds for the next programming period, OPRG applies the principle of integration of EP and CHP 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 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 1.9. “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 will have a contribution to this direction for measures, comprising part of the repair and reconstruction of buildings subject to financing under OPRG.

Intervention 3 “Interventions required for climate actions: energy efficiency and RES”:

Under Directions 3.1. “Increasing the energy efficiency, including changing the fuels used in: 3.1.1. Public buildings (state and municipal), 3.1.2. Residential buildings, and 3.1.3. healthcare and social establishments (commercial companies)”, OPRG contributes through Priority Axis 1: “Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development”, Priority Axis 2: “State Educational Infrastructure”, Priority Axis 3 “Regional Health Infrastructure” and Priority Axis 4 “Regional Social Infrastructure” to the implementation of energy efficiency measures, applied in public and residential buildings, subject to financing under OPRG.

#### **Intervention 4 “Investments required for climate actions: improving the air quality and reducing the greenhouse gas emissions”:**

Under Direction 4.1. “Implementation of measures for improving the ambient air quality: 4.1.1. Renovation and extension of the systems for sustainable urban transport,

and 4.1.2. Other measures, pursuant to the municipal programmes for reducing the levels of pollutants and reaching the established standards”, OPRG 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 4.5. “Reconstruction and modernisation of the road and street network, as well as pavements in the territory of settlements; construction of bicycle lanes”, OPRG 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.

## 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 system 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. The general framework ensuring compliance with these horizontal principles includes: the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria (Article 6); the Protection against Discrimination Act; the Integration of Persons with Disabilities Act; the National Strategy to Provide Equal Opportunities for Disabled People 2008–2015; the National Strategy for Promotion of Gender Equality for the period 2009–2015; the Long-term Strategy for Employment of People with Disabilities 2011–2020.

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 undertaking of actions for ensuring accessible environment for people with disabilities by developing and introducing a mechanism for implementation of a policy for accessible environment at different levels will increase considerably the opportunities of the economically inactive population, as well as the employment of people with impaired mobility or people living in rural, mountain or remote regions, included in the Long-term Strategy for Employment of People with Disabilities 2011–2020, and will also ensure compliance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



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 3 “Regional Health Infrastructure”

Priority Axis 4 “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 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.

### 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>*

OP “Regions in Growth” will ensure the equality between men and women, as well as the integration of the aspect of gender equality in the implementation of the activities co-financed under the programme. All priorities and activities within the operational programme are based on the principle of equality and non-discrimination.

OPRG contains adequate measures for integrating the principle of gender equality in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Potentially the contribution of OPRG 2014–2020 could be expressed in the interventions related to educational infrastructure and technical assistance, but at the same time it should be borne in mind that OPRG is a programme for investments in infrastructure.

By signing the grant contracts beneficiaries undertake to apply the principle of equal opportunities in the implementation of their projects. They provide to the Managing Authority information about the number of new jobs for men and women, created as a result of the project implementation. The discharging of the above obligations by beneficiaries is subject to on-the-spot verifications.

All projects under OPRG 2014–2020 will include a description of the measures for promoting gender equality and non-discrimination on gender or other basis.

## 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
<12.1.1 type="S" maxlength="500" input="S" decision=N>	<12.1.2 type="D" input="M" decision=N >	<12.1.3 type="D" input="M" decision=N >	<12.1.4 type="D" input="M" decision=N >	<12.1.5 type="S" " input="S" decision=N >

### 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) <sup>115</sup>		
						M	W	T
1	ERDF	Less Developed regions	Certified amount	euro	315 434 409,77			788 914 738,90
1	ERDF	Less Developed regions	Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	kWh/year	70 118 039			175 368 169
1	ERDF	Less Developed regions	Open spaces created or rehabilitated in urban areas	square metres	2 346 818			5 869 492
1	ERDF	Less Developed regions	Total surface area of rehabilitated	hectares	65,2			163,0

<sup>115</sup> The target value may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender.

		regions	land				
1	ERDF	Less Developed regions	Capacity supported childcare education infrastructure	of persons or	60 393		151 045
		Less Developed regions	Rehabilitated housing in urban areas	housing in units	474		1 186
		Less Developed regions	Population covered by improved social services	persons by	132 113		330 420
2	ERDF	Less Developed regions	Certified amount	euro	45 229 940,93		112 933 685,23
2	ERDF	Less Developed regions	Capacity supported childcare education infrastructure	of persons or	94 359		235 603
3	ERDF	Less Developed regions	Certified amount	euro	28 777 826,51		71 056 361,76
3	ERDF	Less Developed regions	Population covered by improved health services	persons by	1 491 281		3 682 175
4	ERDF	Less Developed regions	Certified amount	euro	17 291 281,95		43 228 204,87
4	ERDF	Less Developed regions	Number supported objects of social infrastructure in in the process of deinstitutionalization	of objects of	38		95
5	ERDF	Less Developed regions	Certified amount	euro	44 308 909,99		108 070 512,18
5	ERDF	Less	Increase	in visits/year	87 600		213 659

		Developed regions	expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions				
6	ERDF	Less Developed regions	Certified amount	euro	65 725 784,74		165 347 884,63
6	ERDF	Less Developed regions	Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	kilometres	267		672,9
7	ERDF	Less Developed regions	Certified amount	euro	8 727 234,21		16 750 929,39
7	ERDF	Less Developed regions	Strengthened landslide area	square meters	745 310		1 430 538

### 12.3 Relevant partners involved in preparation of programme

*<12.3 type="S" maxlength="10500" input="M" decision=N>*

#### **List of partners involved in the elaboration of Operational program “Regions in Growth” 2014 – 2020**

The working group for development of OPRG 2014–2020 comprises representatives of the following departments and organizations:

##### **Certifying Authorities, Ministry of Finance**

- 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**

- Cabinet of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice
- “Strategic Development and Coordination” Directorate
- “Coordination of EU Affairs” Directorate
- “Programming of EU Funds” Directorate
- Operational Programme “Technical Assistance” 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

#### **Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism**

- “European Funds for Competitiveness” Directorate-General
- “Tourism Policy” Directorate
- “Marketing, Promotion and Information in Tourism” Directorate
- “Energy Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Energy Development” Directorate
- “Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship” Directorate
- Public Procurement Agency

#### **Ministry of Environment and Water**

- “Cohesion Policy for Environment” Directorate
- 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
- National Council for Integration of People with Disabilities

#### **Ministry of Finance**

- Operational Programme “Administrative Capacity” Directorate
- “National Fund” Directorate
- “Economic and Financial Policy” Directorate
- “International Financial Institutions and Cooperation” Directorate

#### **Ministry of Agriculture and Food**

- “Rural Development” Directorate
- National Agency of Fisheries and Aquaculture
- State Fund “Agriculture” – Paying Agency

#### **Ministry of Education and Science**

- “State Property and Public Procurement” Directorate

#### **Ministry of Health**

- “International Projects and Specialised Donor Programmes” Directorate

**Ministry of Culture**

- “Coordination of Programmes and Projects” Directorate

**Ministry of Education, Youth and Science**

- “Investment Policy and Property Management” Directorate

**Ministry of Interior**

- “Coordination of the Fight Against Infringements Affecting the Financial Interests of the EU” (AFCOS) Directorate
- “International Projects” Directorate

**Ministry of Investment Planning**

- “Rules and Standards for Design in Construction” Directorate
- “Public Works” Directorate
- “Administrative, Legal and Financial Services” Directorate
- Agency for Geodesy, Mapping and Geoinformation Systems

**Ministry of Regional Development**

- Directorate General “Programming of Regional Development”
- Directorate General “Strategic Planning of Regional Development and Administrative – Territorial Structure”
- Directorate General “Management of Territorial Cooperation”
- “European Infrastructural Projects and Public Utility Activities” Directorate
- “Renovation of Residential Buildings” Directorate
- “Water Supply and Sewage” Directorate
- Road Infrastructure Agency

**National Statistical Institute**

- “Statistics of Environment, Infrastructure and Regions” 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 land”
  - “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

National Council for Integration of People with Disabilities (Secretariat)



**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)