



Operational Programme Regional Development 2007 – 2013



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EUROPEAN REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT FUND

Operational Programme Regional Development 2007 – 2013

Overall Objective:

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

Programme Budget: BGN 3 131 821 212

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



Contract No. BG161PO001/1.1-01/2007/009

“Renovation and refurbishing of the educational infrastructure on the territory of Aksakovo Municipality”

Beneficiary: Aksakovo Municipality

Contract value: BGN 5,7 million

Contract term: 24 months



Contract No. BG161PO001/2.1-02/2007/019

“Reconstruction of municipal road Burgaski Mineralni Bani – Banevo – Izvorishte from km. 1+240 to km. 8+050, Burgas Municipality”

Beneficiary: Burgas Municipality

Contract value: BGN 4,7 million.

Contract term: 24 months

Priority Axis 1: Sustainable and integrated urban development

Budget: BGN 1 641 074 314

Beneficiaries: Municipalities on the territory of 86 urban areas situated within urban agglomeration areas, European Investment Bank (in the capacity of a JESSICA Holding Bank), Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Health, Social Assistance Agency, Employment Agency, Ministry of Interior /General Directorate “Fire Safety and Protection of Population Service”, Ministry of Education, Youth and Science, associations of owners of homes in multifamily residential buildings, non-profit operators in partnership with municipalities, non-governmental organizations and universities, when acting as non-profit operators for provision of health, social, educational and cultural services.

Priority Axis 2: Regional and local accessibility

Budget: BGN 782 955 301

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



Priority Axis 3: Sustainable Tourism Development

Budget: BGN 426 554 051

Beneficiaries: Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism, 264 municipalities, associations of municipalities, local, regional and national tourism organizations registered in the National Tourist Register, public authorities managing cultural monuments of national and world significance.

Priority Axis 4: Local development and cooperation

Budget: BGN 175 381 989

Beneficiaries: District administrations, 178 municipalities outside urban agglomeration areas, associations of municipalities, Euro regions and non-governmental organizations in partnership with municipalities or district administrations.

Priority Axis 5: Technical Assistance

Budget: BGN 105 855 557

Beneficiaries: The Managing Authority of OPRD



Contract No. RD-02-2910109/02.07.2010 “Manufacture and mounting of billboards towards OPRD popularization”

Beneficiary: the Managing Authority of OPRD – Directorate General Programming of Regional Development

Contract value: BGN 540 000

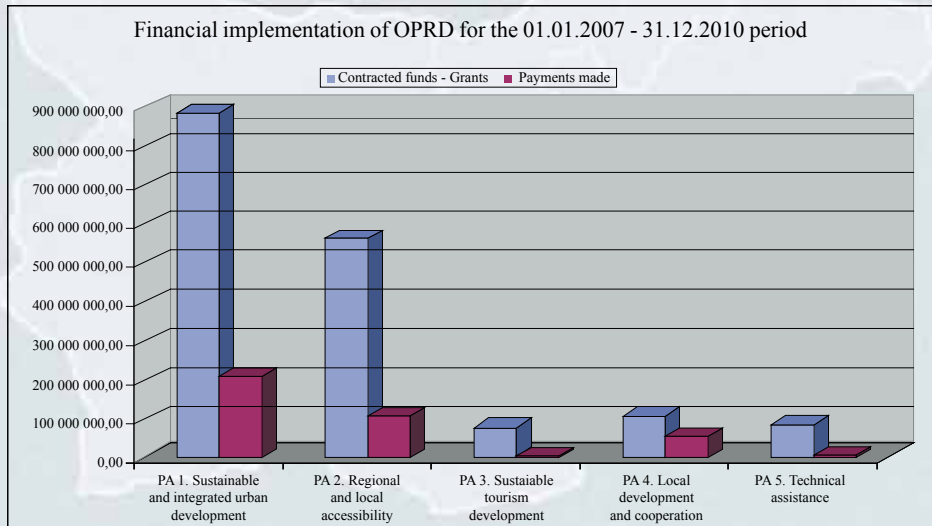
Contract term: 14 months

OPRD implementation progress and optimization of the management and control systems

01 January 2010 – 31 December 2010

I. Overall programme implementation as of 31.12.2010

- Published 33 grant schemes for a total of BGN 2,366 billion or 76% of OPRD funding
- Number of project proposals submitted – 1 338, total number of contracts signed – 482
- Total grant amount – BGN 1 649 billion or 53% of OPRD funding
- Total amount of contract payments – BGN 362 million or 22% of contracted funds and it represents 12% of OPRD funding.



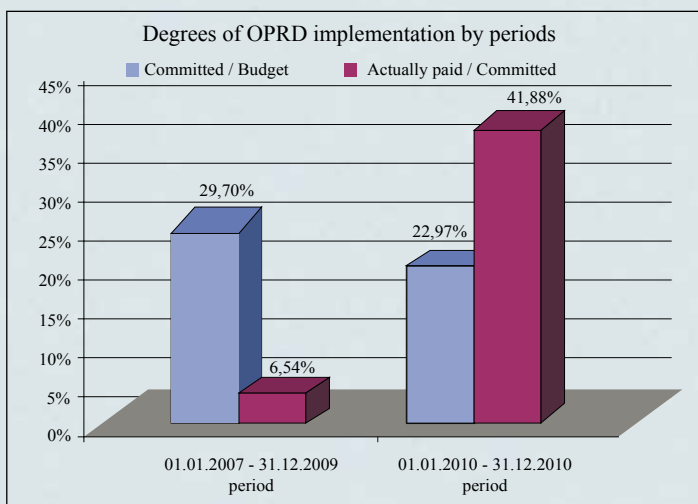
II. Optimization of the management and control systems

- Optimized system for payment to beneficiaries and introduced procedure for more flexible management of available OPRD financial resource;
- Implemented risk-assessment-based and sample-based on-the-spot checks;
- Optimized and reduced time for verification of requests for payment submitted by beneficiaries;
- Sample-based and risk-assessment-based ex-ante control of beneficiaries' documents for participation in public procurement procedures;
- Optimized and improved procedure for preparation and approval of projects under Priority Axis 5 Technical Assistance.



As a result of optimized programme implementation management and control systems, amounts actually paid in the period 01.01.2010 – 31.12.2010 have increased by more than 5 times against the period from the start of OPRD implementation till 31.12.2009

	Budget – Grant Schemes	Committed – Grant Schemes	Actually paid – Grant Schemes	Committed/ Budget	Actually paid/ Committed
Data as of 31.12.2009	3 131 821 211,90	930 227 868,69	60 807 363,85	29,70 %	6,54 %
Data for the period 01.01.2010-31.12.2010	3 131 821 211,90	719 357 346,80	301 302 688,50	22,97 %	41,88 %



TRANSPARENCY AND COMMUNICATION WITH BENEFICIARIES:

- Weekly reception day for OPRD beneficiaries;
- Updated instructions for beneficiaries;
- Draft Application Guidelines published on the OPRD Internet site at www.bgregio.eu for every new application scheme;
- Information days carried out at regional level for every published scheme;
- Approved Methodology for verification and adjustment of prices of construction and assembly works in the bills of quantities of infrastructure projects;
- Evaluation committees necessarily include external evaluators with the required qualification and experience, specialists designated by the Chamber of Architects in Bulgaria, the Chamber of Engineers in Investment Design, the Bulgarian Chamber of Builders, and representatives of organizations of people with disabilities.



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Key Projects Under Operational Programme Regional Development 2007 – 2013

Deinstitutionalization of children in the Republic of Bulgaria – BGN 39 million

- The project will contribute for gradual closing over a period of 15 years of the specialized institutions for children at risk. This is a joint initiative of OP Regional Development and OP Human Resources Development. Funds will be allocated for the implementation of a joint project which will provide a framework for strategic changes in the institutional scheme for children.

Reconstruction and rehabilitation of second- and third-class roads – BGN 501 million

- The main objective is to encourage accessibility, interconnectivity and cohesion within regions through improvement and repair of regional and local roads. The project is implemented by the Road Infrastructure Agency which is a specific beneficiary of OPRD grand scheme BG161P001/2.1-01/2007 “Support for reconstruction and rehabilitation of second- and third-class roads” financed under OP Regional Development 2007-2013.



Contract No. BG161P0001/2.1-02/2007/012

“Rehabilitation of road sections in Varna Municipality”

Beneficiary: Varna Municipality

Contract value: BGN 5,8 million

Contract term: 17 months



Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas Initiative - JESSICA – BGN 65 million

- Bulgaria is among the first Member States that actually implement this initiative which will support sustainable and integrated urban development. On 7 October, the National Assembly ratified a financial agreement between the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works and the European Investment Bank for the set up of a JESSICA Holding Fund. On 19.10.2010 the agreement entered into force by publication in State Gazette.

Integrated urban transport on the territory of 7 major cities – Sofia, Plovdiv, Burgas, Varna, Ruse, Pleven and Stara Zagora – in cooperation with JASPERS Initiative – BGN 411 million

- Prepared projects and implementation thereof will contribute for the modernization and development of sustainable urban transport and for ensuring accessibility and cohesion by building integrated and modernized urban transport systems. The operation will finance major projects within the meaning of Article 39 of Regulation 1083/2006.

Good Practice Examples, Operational Programme Regional Development 2007 – 2013



Contract No. BG161PO001/4.1-01/2007/015

“An European home for our children”

Beneficiary: Svilengrad Municipality

Contract value: BGN 1,1 million

Contract term: 18 months



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Forthcoming OPRD implementation

To date, calls for proposals have been launched under 4 new schemes:

- BG161PO001/1.4-06/2010: “Support for small-scale measures to prevent floods in urban agglomerations”, value BGN 42 million, application deadline 30.11.2010;
- BG161PO001/1.4-07/2010: “Support for integrated urban revitalization development plans”, value BGN 22 million, application deadline 04.01.2011;

Good Practice Examples, Operational Programme Regional Development 2007 – 2013



Contract No.

BG161PO001/1.1-01/2007/006

“Providing effective, accessible and modern educational infrastructure for sustainable development of Gabrovo Municipality”

Beneficiary: Gabrovo Municipality

Contract value: BGN 5,5 million

Contract term: 19 months





- BG161PO001/3.1-03/2010 “Support for development of natural, cultural and historical attractions”, value BGN 174 million, application deadline 14.01.2011;
- BG161PO001/4.1-04/2010 “Support for small-scale measures to prevent floods in 178 small municipalities”, value BGN 32 million, application deadline 30.11.2010.

Good Practice Examples, Operational Programme Regional Development 2007 – 2013



Contract No. BG161PO001/1.1-01/2007/003

“Reconstruction, renovation and equipping of educational institutions in Lovech Municipality”

Beneficiary: Lovech Municipality

Contract value: BGN 6 million

Contract term: 22 months



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The main objective of the Managing Authority of OPRD for the next calendar year is to achieve 100% contracting of programme funds while also increasing significantly the growth in payments. Schemes to be announced in 2011 are as follows:

Support for deinstitutionalization of social institutions providing services for children at risk

- Total scheme amount – BGN 39 million.
- Potential beneficiaries – 86 municipalities in agglomeration areas as per Annex 3 of OPRD, NGOs

Support for providing modern social housing for accommodation of vulnerable, minority and socially weak population groups and other vulnerable groups

- Total scheme amount – BGN 16 million.
- Potential beneficiaries – public authorities, NGOs, associations of owners in multifamily residential buildings in 86 municipalities in urban agglomerations

Support for reconstruction of the common areas of multifamily residential buildings

- Total scheme amount – BGN 63 million.
- Potential beneficiaries – public authorities, NGOs, associations of owners in 86 municipalities in urban agglomerations

Support for integrated urban transport

- Total scheme amount – BGN 204 million.
- Potential beneficiaries – Sofia, Varna, Plovdiv, Ruse, Stara Zagora and Pleven

Support for development of critical, protected, secure and reliable ICT public infrastructure

- Total scheme amount – BGN 39 million.
- Specific beneficiary - Executive Agency “Electronic Communication Networks and Information Systems”

Support for development of regional tourist product and destination marketing

- Total scheme amount – BGN 19 million.
- Potential beneficiaries – 264 municipalities, regional, local and national tourist organizations



Programming period 2014-2020

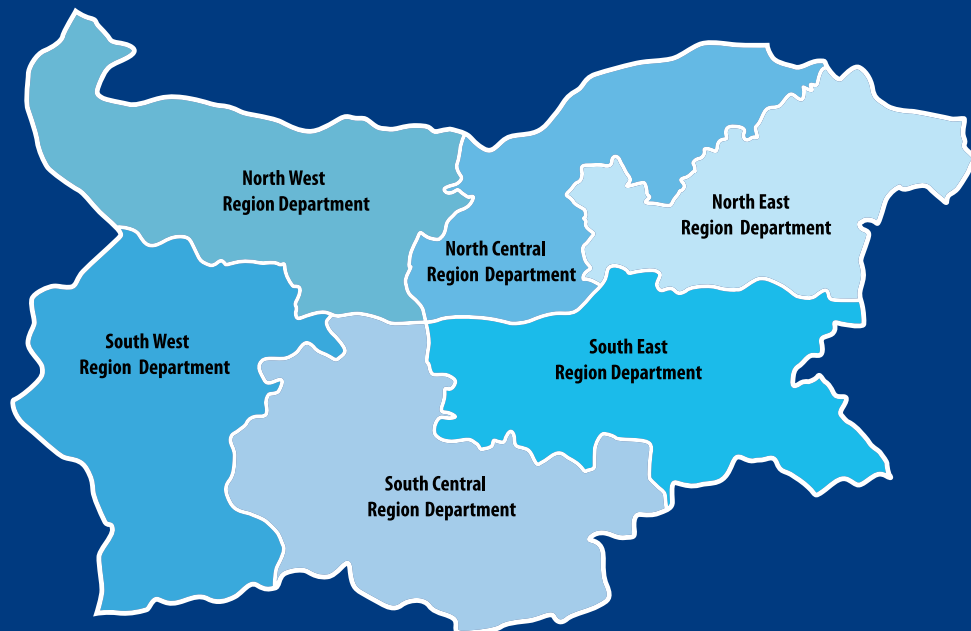
For the next programming period, the challenges to OPRD MA include active participation in discussions on defining the new Cohesion Policy strategic objectives and priorities at European level, effective involvement in the elaboration of the policy for programming of Republic of Bulgaria's development till 2020, ensuring maximum efficient coordination and coherence in strategic planning, zoning and programming of regional development of the country after 2014, surmounting the crisis' consequences in terms of pressure on public budgets, and taking a national decision on the appropriate territorial level for development of regional/operational programme(s).

When developing strategic programming documents for the next period the conclusions of the Vth Report of the European Commission on Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion will be considered. The Report presents the Cohesion Policy perspectives, emphasizes on the necessity of close coherence of future Cohesion Policy investment with objectives of Europe 2020 strategy; an accent is put upon results of the more effective use of funds. The national position on the report supports the conclusion for key importance of the Cohesion Policy for achieving smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and at the same time encourages harmonious development of EU and its regions through diminishing regional differences, mainly by providing assistance to less developed regions. To support the national position MA of OPRD puts an emphasis upon territorial cohesion manifested through specific territorial characteristics of development, application of an integrated approach in cities and urban areas and reinforced use of the leverage effect under the financial engineering instrument in city areas JESSICA.

Decision for EU Funds structures and mechanism of application in Bulgaria, in particular for management and implementation of OPRD will be taken after discussion at national level. In the same direction, an Interministerial Working Group elaborates National Development Programme as a long-term framework document defining vision and long-term objectives of all national sectoral policies, including their territorial dimensions. The programme's principle is to coordinate allocation of financial resources – national and European – to key development priorities of our country.

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