

## Annex V

### **Pattern of the programmes, co-financed by the EFRD (goal „Investment for growth and jobs“, ESF +, Cohesion fund n EFFMA — article 16, paragraph 3**

<b>CCI</b>	
<b>Title in EN</b>	[255 characters] PROGRAMME ENVIRONMENT 2021-2027
<b>Title in national language(s)</b>	[255]
<b>Version</b>	
<b>First year</b>	[4] 2021
<b>Last year</b>	[4] 2027
<b>Eligible from</b>	01.01.2021
<b>Eligible until</b>	31.12.2029
<b>Commission decision number</b>	
<b>Commission decision date</b>	
<b>Member State amending decision number</b>	
<b>Member State amending decision entry into force date</b>	
<b>Non substantial transfer (art. 19.5)</b>	Yes/No
<b>NUTS regions covered by the programme (not applicable to the EMFF)</b>	
<b>Fund concerned</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ERDF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cohesion Fund <input type="checkbox"/> ESF+ <input type="checkbox"/> EMFF

#### **1. Programme strategy: main development challenges and policy responses**

Reference: Article 17(3)(a)(i)-(vii) and 17(3)(b) CPR

*Text field [30 000]*

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION AND HORIZONTAL PRINSIPLES**

Programme “Environment” (PE) is a horizontal tool for implementation of environmental and climate change policies. This predetermines the compliance with the horizontal principles set

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Numbers in square brackets refer to number of characters.

out in Art. 3 of TEU and Art. 10 of TFEU, taking into account the EU Charter of fundamental rights – observation of disabled person rights and provision of access, eliminating inequalities and promoting gender equality, as well as opposition to discrimination based on any ground such as sex, race, color, ethnic, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. The sectoral scope of the programme predefines its main objective – to preserve, protect and improve the quality of the environment as set in Art. 11 and Art. 191, para. 1 of TFEU (respecting the “polluter pays” principle).

## SUMMARY OF THE MAIN CHALLENGES

### I. Overall economic conditions, lessons learnt and investment needs based on challenges identified in EU and national recommendations

In the last 10 years Bulgaria remains macroeconomically stable. The Cohesion policy has a significant influence on the EU economy and, in particular, on Bulgarian, leading to cumulated long-term investment effects. The real GDP ~~grows by approximately~~ accelerates from 3.1 % in 2018 to 3.4 % in 2019, following the domestic demand. Following the global COVID-19 pandemic situation, in 2020 a decrease by 3 % in the real GDP is expected, before its growth resumes in the coming years, and is expected to increase by 3.4 % in 2019 and 3.3% in 2020. It is foreseen that the EU-funded investments will continue to stimulate economic growth<sup>2</sup>. The increase in public investments in nominal terms was respectively ~~to~~ 43.6 % in 2018 and 11.4 % in 2019. In 2020 the increase is expected to continue and reach 40.2 %. ~~Public investments increase to 43.6 % in 2018 and similar growth is expected in 2019 and in 2020 –15.5%.~~ Data clearly shows relation between European programmes and country’s progress in the social and economic sphere and confirms the significance of the programme and policies, co-financed by EU funding.

After joining EU, Bulgaria increases its expenditures for environmental protection and restoration and achieves improvement of its ecological indexes, but there are some notable challenges. There are significant discrepancies between NUTS 2 regions in Bulgaria –as well as between urban and rural territories, which gives priority to some horizontal policies.

As a result of the experience gained in the previous programming periods, taking into account the specific recommendations in the Annual country Report Bulgaria 2019 and considering the horizontal character of the environmental and climate change policies, for the period 2021–2027, five areas are identified for financing by the PE. The priorities are “Water”, “Waste”, “Biodiversity”, “Risk and Climate Change” and “Air” and are focused on Policy Objective 2 „Greener, low carbon Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk prevention and management”. The envisaged investments in measures under these priorities shall contribute to achieve the national priorities defined in the strategic framework document National Development Programme Bulgaria 2030, in particular priorities “Circular and Low-Carbon Economy” and “Clean Air and Biodiversity” under development axis 2 “Green and Sustainable Bulgaria” and priority 9 “Local Development” under development axis 3 “Connected and Integrated Bulgaria”.

### II. Water

1. <sup>2</sup> **Seventh Report on Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion.**  
[https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/bg/information/cohesion-report/](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/bg/information/cohesion-report/)

### Lessons learnt, challenges, investment needs

The centralized **water** supply systems cover 99,4% of the population and provide drinking water with relatively good quality. However, the cases of water regimes and poor water quality become more frequent. The main causes are related to climate change but also to water losses, due to the high water supply network amortization - the average age of the pipes is 36 years and more than 50% of the water is “non-revenue generating”, which predetermines the investment needs in the area - reconstruction/ modernization of the water supply networks. Regarding Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption [and its recast], significant investments are required in order to guarantee that the water quality and the use of resources in the water supply meet the requirements of the EU Directives.

Regarding the sewerage and wastewater treatment plants the population’s connectivity is increasing along with improvement of the treatment technologies. However, the infrastructure investment needs in the sector remain high, considering the requirements of the EU acquis. Bulgaria has not yet achieved compliance with the requirements of Directive 91/271/EEC, despite the growing population share connected to public sewerage. There are ~~329-332~~ agglomerations in the country (99 agglomerations of more than 10 000 P.E. ~~and 230 agglomerations of 2 000-10 000 P.E.~~ 249-253 agglomerations of them are on a territory of a consolidated region (a total of 22 designated territories). The non-designated territories are 6 with 79 agglomerations, ~~of which 61 agglomerations fall within areas served by a single WSS Operator (regions where only 1 municipality is not part of the WSS Association).~~ It has to be taken into account that the development of RFSs only for territories of consolidated WSS Operators results in revision of the size and scope of some agglomerations, by applying the concentration principle and by proven need of geographic scope revision. This results in updating of the agglomerations number, hence the data differ from those in OPE 2014-2020 text.

The compliance grows significantly as a result of the increased quantity of wastewater collected and treated by the newly constructed infrastructure and better data reporting and assessment in the Regional Feasibility Studies – 17 agglomeration are in compliance incl. by support of OPE 2007-2013 and OPE 2014-2020. OPE 2014-2020 supports achieving compliance in ~~43-50~~ agglomerations of more than 10 000 P.E. in 15 designated territories (with EUR 1 bln.). In order to achieve full compliance with the Directive for agglomeration with more than 10,000 P.E. in consolidated areas investments are needed in another ~~20239~~ agglomerations. (in the 6 newly consolidated regions and in Sofia Municipality).

The investments planned to be supported in the period 2021-2027 shall upscale and upgrade the results from 2014-2020 period, as PE shall continue to support the most significant needs of highest priority in the WSS sector in order to comply with the EU legislation requirements in the waste water sector respecting the water reform and to ensure water loss reduction and good drinking water quality.

The EU environmental legislation, regarding water sector, requires the potential climate change impact to be taken into account in the relevant planning tools (River basin management plans – RBMP, Flood risk management plans – FRMP, Maritime strategy, etc.). According to the second generation RBMP, the rivers in Bulgaria are affected mostly by wastewater discharging from settlement sewerage systems (22%) and pollution from agricultural activities (19%). The most significant pressure on ground water bodies comes from agricultural (50%), as well as

pollution from settlement discharges that are not connected to sewerage network (49%). The ecological status is good or very good in 46% of all assessed water bodies. Based on that, it is concluded that Bulgaria has to intervene additionally in order to achieve the goals for good water status in accordance with the requirements of the WFD. In this context the European Commission recommends priority measures to be taken, including ICT-based solutions, to enhance the monitoring capacity aiming to decrease the dependence of the ecological status assessment of water bodies on expert statements. In this regard, the efforts to improve the water monitoring networks remain necessary, [introduction of an automated collection and evaluation of the data with appropriate equipment and software](#) as well as to develop the necessary [model, instruments and tools](#) to improve assessment reliability and water management effectiveness.

#### **Contribution to objectives of strategic documents and macro-regional strategies**

The envisaged investments under priority 1 “Water” will ensure consistency with and shall contribute to achieve national objectives under priority 9 “Local development” of the NDP Bulgaria 2030 and to the UNO objective “Insuring accessible and sustainable management of waters and wastewater networks for every one”. The eligible measures will insure complementarity with the indicative actions stipulated in Art. 4, para 2, p. d of the draft Regulation establishing the Just transition fund “investments in the deployment of technology and infrastructures for affordable clean energy, in greenhouse gas emission reduction, energy efficiency and renewable energy” (through considering possibilities for utilization of sludge from WWTP). In addition measures under priority 1 “Water” shall contribute to the achievement of Pillar 2 “Water protection”, strategic objective 2 “Stimulating urban development”, Priority Area “Water quality” of the draft revised Action plan to the Danube Strategy (as per Staff working document of the EC from 06.04.2020) and to the Black Sea Marine Strategy regarding attainment of marine water “good status” and establishment of a policy to achieve or maintain good environmental status in the marine environment.

### **III. Waste**

#### **Lessons learnt, challenges, investment needs**

Regarding the **waste** policies and the effective use of resources, decrease in the resource intensity of Bulgaria’s economy is observed, but at a slower pace, compared to EU. Significant element of the resource efficiency is recycling through internal reuse of materials and reducing waste [formation/generation](#). In this regard, by taking legislative and non-legislative initiatives, Bulgaria's policies are in line with the policies at European level. It should be noted that significant results are achieved – the generated domestic waste shows a lasting reduction tendency for the last 10 years, registering cumulative reduction by 27.4% in 2017 and the share of treated domestic waste increases to 99.7%. The share of the population covered by waste collection system is 99.7% and includes 4 642 settlements (NSI, 2017). The recycling level is 34.6%, which is still behind the EU values of 46.4%. The reduction of the waste share going to landfills remains a challenge. After joining EU, the relative share of landfilled waste decreases significantly, but the level achieved in 2017 (61.8%) remains higher than the EU average.

In 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 support is provided aiming to achieve the 2020 objectives regarding municipal waste management and regional waste management. Through OPE 2014-2020 more than EUR 260 mln. are focused on ensuring separate collection of green and/or biodegradable municipal waste and construction of composting installations (43 installations

serving a total of 98 municipalities from 24 waste management regions) and anaerobic installations (3 installations serving a total of 13 municipalities from 3 waste management regions) and pre-treatment installations (19) for 74 municipalities in Bulgaria from 17 waste management regions; as well as 1 RDF recovery installation with energy production for 1 municipality from 1 region.

The investments in 2021-2027 period continue to be focused on interventions to stimulate the transition to a circular economy. Priority is given to develop and upgrade municipal waste management systems at a region level, namely waste management infrastructure that targets recycling and separate waste collection in order to achieve the 2030 objectives.

#### **Contribution to objectives of strategic documents**

Implementing the commitments, set in the European legislation, Bulgaria takes steps for transforming its economy from linear to circular. In the Circular Economy Package from 2018 the European Commission includes a monitoring framework about the progress toward circular economy. The analysis of the 10 indicators in the monitoring framework shows that in 2016 the share of the circular (secondary) use of materials in Bulgaria is 4.3% (which is far under the average for EU-28 – 11.7%). In the Environmental Implementation Review (EIR) from 2017<sup>9</sup> it is indicated that “no overarching circular economy policy programme exists in Bulgaria”. The country takes measures for development of a Strategy and action plan for transition to circular economy for the 2021–2027 period. At the same time, grants for demonstration projects under OPE 2014-2020 contributes to the transition to circular economy in Bulgaria, including by generating good practices and ideas, as well as providing opportunities for their subsequent wider introduction in 2021-2027 programming period. The concept for transition to circular economy is in accordance with the sustainable development goals from the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the achieving of which guarantees sustainable economic growth. Some goals are dedicated to promoting the effective use of resources during their whole lifetime cycle, including repair, reuse and recycling, which will not only lead to waste amount reduction, but will also reduce the need of new resources extraction. The implementation of measures that guarantee separate collection at source and recycling of priority waste flows is encouraged. It is also important to facilitate separate collection and proper treatment in accordance with the waste hierarchy and with the objective to reduce greenhouse gases emissions from landfills.

#### **IV. Biodiversity**

##### **Lessons learnt, challenges, investment needs**

In sector **Biodiversity** and Natura 2000 the efforts continue to be focused on biodiversity conservation, maintenance and restoration. Through the Biological Diversity Act in 2002 began the process of establishing the Natura 2000 ecological network, it also introduces the requirements of both European environmental Directives. From 2002 to 2006, a national list of Natura 2000 sites is elaborated through the implementation of several projects. In the period 2008-2019, the national list is supplemented and expanded a couple of times. The contribution of the country to the pan-European network is 41 560.59 km<sup>2</sup> protected areas (38 739.23 km<sup>2</sup> of them are terrestrial and 2 821.35 km<sup>2</sup> are marine territory). Subject to conservation in Natura 2000 in Bulgaria are 92 types of habitats and 121 species, other than birds – including 28 priority habitats and 8 priority species, also 120 birds and 70 migratory birds.

In the period 2007-2013, support from the ESIF and national budget is dedicated to the implementation of projects in the protected territories and sites, which are of fundamental

importance for the sector : “Mapping and determining the nature conservation status of natural habitats and species - Phase I”, which provides that the country presents its first report to the EC under Art. 17 of the Habitats Directive and Art. 12 of the Birds Directive; development and introduction of an information system for the Natura 2000 network of protected sites, containing all the available information on the status of species and habitats; National information and communication strategy for the Natura 2000 network, where priority topics, stakeholders and communication channels are defined for a 10 year period.

The 2014-2020 investments (nearly ERU 60 mln.) are fully focused on the Natura 2000 network. In accordance with Art. 8 of the Habitats Directive, the country has developed a National prioritised action framework (NPAF). Measures related to completing the establishment of the marine environment network, establishment of protected sites’ management bodies and their capacity building and development of management plans are among the most important measures, identified in the NPAF as well as in the EC Position paper for the programming period. The process of establishing effective management structure for the network at national level has delayed, due to the need for reaching an agreement by all participants in the process of coordinating the proposed approach. With a Decision № 147/05.03.2020, the Council of Ministers approved the amendments of the Biodiversity Act, and the approach is to be approved by the National Assembly. This will finalize the formal establishment of the management structure.

All necessary steps at expert level are being taken to set up the management bodies, ~~of the Natura 2000 network, but given the delay in its legislative adoption in the period 2014-2020, considering the short deadlines in the period 2014-2020. The~~ process of their actual establishment, building their capacity and development of the planning documents for the sites management continue with support by PE 2021-2027. These processes have to be upgraded through active communication with the stakeholders in order to ensure their support, understanding and continuity. The new National Priority Action Framework (NPAF) for Natura 2000 network for the period 2021-2027, along with the above-mentioned measures, ~~identifies-prioritizes also~~ the necessary conservation and horizontal measures for improvement of the conservation status ~~of at the biogeographical level for~~-specific species and habitats, which is envisaged to be supported by PE 2021-2027. ~~The management bodies shall provide the most proper investment approach based on territorial management plans, which consider the specifics of the respective protection sites.~~ The main objective is to support implementation of the measures determined in NPAF in order to attain better conservation status of species and habitat types according to both Habitats Directive and Birds Directive and in line with the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030.

#### **Contribution to objectives of strategic documents**

The planned investments are in accordance with the determined measures within the national Prioritization Action Framework-for the period 2021-2027 and based on scientific analysis and prioritization in order to preserve or significantly improve the condition of natural habitats and species at the biogeographical level, on territorial management plans for Natura 2000 protection sites. The implementation of these measures shall contribute to achieve the objectives of Development axis 2 “Green and Sustainable Bulgaria”, priority 5 “Clean Air and Biodiversity” of NDP Bulgaria 2030.

#### **V. Risk and climate change**

##### **Lessons learnt, challenges, investment needs**

As far as disaster **risk and climate change** adaptation are concerned floods remain the most significant nature disaster for Bulgaria. It is reported that they have caused major damages, followed by landslides, droughts and wildfires, storms and whirlwinds, earthquakes (NSI, 2018). Disaster damages indicate that society is still not protected and prepared enough to stand such risks and the higher frequency of the extreme climate events constantly rising as a result of climate change. This led to the conclusion, as set in the [Country Report Bulgaria 2019, including an In-Depth Review on the prevention and correction of macroeconomic imbalances country-specific report, 2019](#), that support should be provided for establishment of a comprehensive disaster risk management system oriented rather towards preventing and averting such risks. The increased frequency of extreme events and disasters on the territory of the country affects socio-economic and natural systems. The assessment of climate change costs is difficult, but most of the researches show that even minor climate change can result in significantly high costs. In particular, specific risks can lead to cascading impact across different economic sectors. Key horizontal problem for all sectors is the vulnerability to extreme weather events and the need to develop resilience and preparedness through comprehensive management and disaster risk prevention.

In order to implement the WFD and Directive 2007/60/EC requirements, Bulgaria approved and implements long-term planning to reduce the flood risk. The country develops six-year period Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) for the territory of the four basin management regions. For the programming period 2014-2020 financial resources were aimed at implementing measures with high priority outlined in the Programs of measures, annexes of the FRMPs. OPE 2014-2020 funding (over EUR 55 mln.) supports measures for prevention, preparedness, protection and response of the population: more than 165 000 people benefits (expected to reach 1 390 000 people) from the implementation of flood prevention measures; the FRMP 2022-2027 are being developed; financial support is provided for the construction of 6 regional centers to raise population's preparedness for an adequate response to floods, aimed at developing unified model for capacity building of the population to react in case of floods and subsequent crises (over 90 000 individuals are expected to pass trainings); a pilot of a National Real Time Water Management System is being established – for Iskar river, complemented with a system integrating local information systems for early warning in case of floods and landslides; 13 landslides (80 ha) are fortified.

For the period 2021-2027 part of the resources continue to be directed towards the implementation of the FRMPs Programs of measures for the upcoming period due to the significant needs related to flood risk management and prevention actions. In addition the supported investments shall be upgraded. Priority is set to implementation of green infrastructure measures for higher population protection through performance of eco-friendly and environmentally sound measures that offer alternatives to standard solutions. Where feasible and viable a holistic approach will be promoted for investments in ecosystem-based options together with grey infrastructure as the efforts will target the areas with significant potential flood risk reflecting the national strategic documents (FRMPs). [In the last years the country meets a new challenge – draughts and water scarcity, thus this requires a proper evaluation of the draught impact on the water resources and implementation of adaptation measures to reduce the impact and improve the preparedness. In this context, PE envisages measures related to analysis, studies, evaluations and models aimed at examining the climate change effects on the extreme events \(floods/draughts\) and their impact on water resources and implementation of measures in the RBMPs and FRMPs.](#)

Landslides and land movements in general remain challenge and dealing with it shall be targeted in 2021-2027. In comparison with the measures supported in the 2014-2020 period

focused on fortification of landslides on municipal territories, the actions envisaged to be financed in 2021-2027 period shall target all type of land movements. The main objectives are to ensure remote monitoring and to perform subsequent interventions on site, incl. along the road network; thus, contributing to road safety.

As indicated in the analysis above the range of the extreme natural disasters for the territory of the country becomes broader. Support for measures aimed at wildfire prevention, disaster monitoring and early warning, additional strengthening of capacity for prognosis and preparedness for reaction to different natural disasters (incl. earthquakes) is planned under the PE. Investments are envisaged in upgrading the capacity of the Unified Safety System (USS) and extending the National system for early warning and announcement. The USS includes all bodies, authorities and organizations (ministries and agencies, municipalities, commercial companies and sole entrepreneurs, emergency medical care centers, other medical and health care establishments, non-profit organizations, including voluntary formations) responsible for disaster risk prevention and reaction, as well as for protection of human life and health. Regarding the prevention measures raising the public awareness and providing information and trainings for the population is outlined as one of the priority measures. The PE financing shall ensure support to natural disaster risk management and protection.

#### **Contribution to objectives of strategic documents**

The implementation of the programme contributes to achieve goals of the National climate change adaptation strategy and Action plan, which set out the strategic framework and priorities for climate change adaptation by 2030 and the National disaster risk reduction strategy 2018-2030. Recommendations under other strategic documents (National report for Bulgaria for 2019) are also considered, as the investments will have contribution for implementation of the objectives of priority 9 “Local Development” under development axis 3 “Connected and Integrated Bulgaria” of the National Development Programme Bulgaria 2030. [The envisaged actions contributes to the achievement of the objectives of Priority area 5 – Ecological risks of the Danube strategy.](#)

#### **VI. Air**

##### **Lessons learnt, challenges, investment needs**

As regards the **air quality** domestic heating and transport are one of the main air pollutants with particulate matter (PM). PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> are the most problematic pollutants affecting human health. The solid fuel for domestic heating is the major pollutant contributing to the recorded exceedances of the air quality standards. The negative impact of transport air pollution is recorded mainly in larger cities. Despite the significant investments in 2014-2020 programming period to address these two major air pollutants resulting in reduction in PM<sub>10</sub> levels (over EUR 300 mln.), upscaling is needed to overcome the poor air quality problems considering also the relatively low standard of living, traditions in people’s behaviour and attitude related to heating and private transport, etc.

The main objective of the National air pollution control programme (NAPCP 2020–2030), developed under OPE 2014-2020, is to implement the obligations for emission reduction for 2020 and 2030, related to the annual common anthropogenic emissions of: sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), non-methane volatile organic compounds, ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) and PM<sub>2.5</sub>, compared to the emissions in the basic year 2005, according to Directive (EU) 2016/2284 requirements. The Strategic National Air Quality Management Programme (NAQMP 2018-



2024), developed by the World Bank team with the support of OPE 2014-2020, adopted with Council of Ministers Decision 334/07.06.2019 sets a complex of measures to contribute to achieve the PM standards according to Directive 2008/50/EC (CAFE) and the national legislation, not later than 2024. The proposed measures are related to reducing the primary PM<sub>10</sub> emissions of certain sources with main focus on domestic heating on solid fuel. Replacing solid fuel stoves/boilers with alternative heating options will contribute to reduction of the harmful emissions and hence air quality improvement, which will lead to significant benefits to human health. Additional positive effect will also be the contribution to both households' resource efficiency and energy efficiency. Regarding transport personal cars are identified as serious polluter given the outdated private fleet (predominantly diesel). Promoting the phasing out of diesel vehicles of citizens is aimed to reduce the exceeding PM and NO<sub>x</sub> levels and to improve ambient air quality. The e-cars are proving to be not only low-emission but also cost-effective – the benefits for human health are complemented by low maintenance costs. For replacing transport means on conventional fuels with ones using electricity the necessary conditions need to be ensured in order to guarantee not only inner-city travelling but also inter-cities journeys. E-charging stations are needed to allow people to have only one car for both urban and extra-urban travels. ~~A funding and financed support is envisaged for construction of such along the main directions of the national road network between some of the largest cities in the country.~~ Of high importance is to change the peoples's point of view and overall attitude , especially in the cities. People need to realize that investments for clean air are investments in their families health. This also leads to a reduction in the family's medical expenses and compensates the refusal of the use of low budget solid fuel fuel and high emission diesel vehicles. . In this regard information and awareness raising campaigns are one of the main priorities to be supported by the programme.

#### **Contribution to objectives of strategic documents**

The programme support aim to contribute for achieving compliance with the requirements of Directive 2008/50/EC (CAFE) and Directive (EU) 2016/2284 of 2016 on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants according to the (nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), non-methane volatile organic compounds, PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>). The envisaged investments plan to address the main challenges outlined within the National Air Quality Management Programme (2018-2024) and the National Air Pollution Control Programme (2020-2030) and to contribute to their main objectives. ~~The funds provided under the program will help reduce the levels of PM and nitrogen oxides to 24 kt (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and 98 kt (nitrogen oxides) and will contribute to the achievement of the objectives for improving air quality set in Priority 5. Clean air and biodiversity of the Objective of the National Development Program Bulgaria 2030. is to reduce the PM and nitrogen oxides to 24 kt (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and 98 kt (nitrogen oxides) and will contribute to the achievement of the objectives for improving air quality set in Priority 5. Clean air and biodiversity of the Objective of the National Development Program Bulgaria 2030.~~

#### **COVID-19 outbreak relations with the envisaged ESIF support in 2021-2027**

The coronavirus outbreak is a major shock for the European and global economies. It constitutes a challenge for the state economies and the livelihood of citizens. During this health crisis it is vital to protect critical sectors by ensuring new job opportunities and workers' confidence as well as to invest in measures that shall improve ecosystems and the environmental conditions and as consequence prevent further spread of the virus and worse health outcomes. It has been estimated that outdoor air pollution leads to a large increase in the COVID-19 spread and death rate. New studies show an association between areas of higher PM pollution, higher coronavirus infection rates, and subsequent worse health outcomes. Analysis carried out by World Bank has found that levels of PM concentration are highly significant predictors of confirmed COVID-19 cases and hospital admissions. The linkage between PM pollution and

COVID-19 reinforces the need to bear down on PM pollution and PM emissions in the post-Covid recovery efforts.

Investment in the NAQMP and NAPCP measures under PE will contribute to health protection and community resilience against future communicable disease of the kind of Covid-19 – and will contribute to local economic recovery. It appears that reducing levels of PM could improve individual outcomes and provide a measure of community resilience in the face of Covid-19. Actions targeting air pollution may be considered as a part of a strategy to counter Covid-19. The emissions reduction is a strategic public health measure in increasing community resilience to coronavirus and reducing ambient exposure.

In addition, numerous studies have shown that the virus causing COVID - 19 survives after being excreted by human metabolism and is found in raw wastewater, and that the virus survives up to 48 hours in freshwater. In this regard, capturing as much wastewater as possible from the population in a sewerage system and ensuring that it is treated before discharging it into surface waters is essential to limit the spread of the virus in freshwater. The provision of adequate infrastructure for drainage and treatment of wastewater is an essential factor for reducing the pollution of groundwater and surface water from the discharge of untreated wastewater, improving the quality of life and protecting human health.

#### **Programme Environment in the light of the Green Deal**

Compliance of the programme’s interventions with the Green deal objectives for transition to CO<sub>2</sub> neutrality shall be strongly promoted. The support under the PE shall demonstrate how climate and environmental challenges may be turned into opportunities regarding the efficient use of resources, moving to a clean, circular economy and restoration of ecosystems and biodiversity and cutting pollution, especially in relation to water and air sectors.

#### **Challenges in administrative capacity and governance**

Regarding the administrative capacity, needs to upgrade the internal capacity of the OPE MA are identified, concerning the programme administration processes with a focus on implementing simplified cost options. Additional efforts are necessary to strengthen the capacity related to both topics – financial instruments and state aid. Retaining qualified and efficient staff is a challenge, considering the shortage of labor market in Bulgaria and the salaries growth in the private sector. In addition, despite the experience gained, some of the beneficiaries still lack project preparation and implementation capacity, causing difficulties in the programme implementation. In this regard the good practices for information campaigns when opening calls for proposals and introduction trainings for beneficiaries after issuing grant contracts will continue during 2021-2027.

*For Jobs and growth goal*

<b>Policy objective</b>	<b>Specific objective or dedicated priority*</b>	<b>Justification (summary)</b>
2	Promoting sustainable water management	[2 000 per specific objective or dedicated priority] Implementing Recommendation 3 of the Council from 05.06.19 regarding 2019 National Reform Programme of Bulgaria and containing statement regarding 2019 Convergence Programme of Bulgaria and continuing the efforts to comply with the Framework Water Directive requirements and Urban Waste Water Treatment

**Commented [A1]:** This does not always align with the key challenges section above.  
It is also heavily focused on response to reports from the EC and does not refer to national documents/ambition.  
SO “Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution” is listed twice, it should be consolidated.

		<p>Directive (UWWTD). Implementation of the Country Report Bulgaria 2019 requirements, according to which the levels of connectivity and treatment of urban wastewater are very low. The analysis shows that the water supply and sewerage investments are significantly increased during the last decade, financed mostly by EU-funding. However, weaknesses are identified in planning and managing these projects. The specific objective will address investment needs with high priority defined in 2019 National Report to increase the level of connectivity and urban waste water treatment, aimed at stimulating sustainable water management and more specifically - improvement of water collection and waste water treatment with priority to agglomerations of more than 10 000 P.E. and reduction of water losses. Investments in agglomerations between 2 000 и 10 000 P.E. are planned to be supported if financial resources are available. Support for the development of RBMP for 2028-2033 period is foreseen in order to implement the commitments under Art. 13 of Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EU by addressing measures from the Plans. The investments contribute to implementation of the water reform under the Strategy for Development and Management of the Water Supply and Sanitation Sector in Bulgaria 2014-2023 and to National Development Program Bulgaria 2030, reflecting the needs identified in the National investment plan in water and wastewater sectors.</p> <p>The planned investments will contribute also for the implementation of priority actions in EIR 2019 for Bulgaria, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Improve monitoring capacities with a view to lower the dependence on expert judgment for assessing the ecological status/potential of the water bodies in accordance with the WFD</li> <li>• Step up efforts to address compliance gap with the UWWTD”</li> </ul>
2	Promoting the transition to a circular economy	<p>Implementing Recommendation 3 of the Council from 05.06.19 regarding 2019 National Reform Programme of Bulgaria 2019 and containing statement regarding Convergence Programme of Bulgaria 2019, continuing the efforts to comply with the requirements of Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC. Implementation of the Country Report Bulgaria 2019 requirements, according to which the waste management is still challenging, although the generated waste quantity is under the EU-average. The percentage of landfilled municipal waste is among the highest in EU and the separate waste collection is not functioning optimally at all levels. This is also observed by the respective infrastructure, increasing public awareness and <del>monitoring/control</del>; the <del>administrative and financial</del> -capacity of municipalities to organize, contract and manage waste collection and treatment is limited. Addressing the recommendations aiming to support the transition to circular economy. The priority target is the municipal waste (<del>according to the definition under Art. 3 (2b) of Directive 2008/98 / EC on waste and repealing certain Directives, as amended by Directive (EU) 2018/851 and also mass disseminated waste</del>), <del>bio-waste, incl. food waste</del>, construction and demolition waste, through investment measures for achieving the 2030 recycling and <del>landfilling reduction disposal</del> targets, with a focus on separate collection and recycling.</p> <p>The foreseen interventions will contribute also for the implementation of priority actions from EIR 2019 for Bulgaria: “Improve and extend separate collection of waste, including for bio-waste” and are in line with Priority 4. Circular and low-carbon economy of the National Development Program Bulgaria 2030 which defines the vision and goals of the development policy. The focus is “on the transition from landfilling to prevention, reuse, recycling and recovery of most of the generated waste in industrial processes and everyday life”. The interventions also comply with the Analysis of the Socio-Economic Development of Bulgaria 2007-2017 for setting the national priorities for the period 2021-2027 in particular to the recommendation “Interventions oriented towards waste management will continue, in an effort to intensify the processes of transformation from linear to a circular economy and a reduction in the share of landfilled waste at the expense of recycled waste”. All measures address the identified needs within the National Waste Management Plan 2021-2028.</p>
2	Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment,	<p>Implementation of the Country Report Bulgaria 2019 recommendations, according to which, the efforts should focus on further establishment of effective management structures of Natura 2000, as well as the support for defining objectives and measures regarding the protected areas within Natura 2000 <u>at the level of objects of</u></p>

	and reducing pollution	<p><u>interventions</u> and their subsequent implementation. The focus is on conservation, maintenance and restoration of ecosystems and their inherent biodiversity on the territory of the country. In addition to the ongoing interventions under the NPAF aimed at improving the status of species and habitats subjects of conservation in Natura 2000 sites, as well as improving the knowledge on them, <u>the activities will continue to be supported regarding the management of protected sites</u>; of stakeholders capacity building to be effectively involved in Natura 2000 management processes <u>shall be upgraded, and</u> providing public support for the network. <u>Support is also planned for protected areas territories, as a priority, where they overlap with protected areas.</u> The interventions foreseen will also contribute to the implementation of priority actions in EIR 2019 for Bulgaria, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the SAC designation process as a matter of priority and put in place clearly defined site-specific conservation objectives and the necessary conservation measures for each habitat and species of community interest in all Natura 2000 sites</li> <li>• Establish efficient management structures for the Natura 2000 network, with sufficient administrative and financial capacity</li> </ul> <p>Implementing the Country Report Bulgaria 2019 recommendations and continuing the efforts to comply with the requirements of Directive 2008/50/EC (CAFE), by building on the investments under OPE 2014-2020, addressing domestic heating and transport as main air pollutants. Investments will be in accordance with the National Air Quality Management Programme (2018-2024) and will contribute to the objectives of the National Air Pollution Control Programme (2020-2030). Support is envisaged for investments in achieving ambient air quality standards and, where applicable, keeping compliance with these standards. The objective is to meet them for PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>, according to CAFE Directive and the national legislation. The implementation of measures will additionally lead to decrease in polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons emissions and will contribute to fulfill the commitments according to Directive (EU) 2016/2284. Support will be provided for combined implementation of measures, aiming to achieve synergy of ESIF contribution by implementing various complementing activities, in comparison to 2014-2020 programming period, when the pilot nature of the investments predetermined their fragmented character. The interventions shall focus as a priority on replacement of heating devices on solid fuel, but also on transport, given according to the text of the NAQMP up to 2024 it is necessary to „encourage a faster uptake of more modern, cleaner vehicles“. The interventions foreseen will also contribute to the implementation of priority actions in EIR 2019 for Bulgaria, namely Accelerate the reduction of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions and NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations; accelerate reductions in PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> emission and concentration.</p>
2	Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience	<p>Implementation of the Country Report Bulgaria 2019 recommendations, according to which investments are necessary in emergency management systems for disaster prevention and reaction, for limitation of the risks and adaptation to climate change. Implementation of risk prevention and management measures focused on floods, landslides and building on the measures from 2014-2020 period with investments, addressing droughts, forest fires, earthquakes and other natural disasters, according to the documents, developed at national level (the Disaster risk management plan – enabling condition for the 2021-2027 period; National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action plan, National Disaster risk reduction strategy 2018-2030). Support is envisaged for development of the Flood Risk Management Plans 2028-2033 and investments in measures within the Plans aiming to fulfill the commitments under the Flood Directive 2007/60/EC. The focus is on preventing the risks for population’s life and health; upscaling Iskar pilot with elaboration of the National Real Time Water Management System and extending the scope of water bodies covered by the System; further development of existing risk management and early warning systems, extending their scope with forest fires, earthquakes and other natural disasters; continuing the investments in increasing the population preparedness for reaction, aiming to reduce the risk of actions under affect.</p> <p>Support for transition from response-oriented management system to a more comprehensive disaster risk prevention and management system aimed to promote climate change adaptation. Implementation of preparedness measures is also envisaged to be supported focusing on the response reserve of the EU civil protection pool. <u>In relation with the reduction of the impacts of drought on water resources,</u></p>

		<u>assessments and analyzes are envisaged regarding the risk of drought and support the implementation of measures set out in the RBMP and FRMP.</u>
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\* Dedicated priorities according to ESF+ Regulation

For the EMFF:

Table1 A			
Policy objective	Priority	SWOT analysis (for each priority)	Justification (summary)
		Strengths [10 000 per priority]	[20 000 per priority]
		Weaknesses [10 000 per priority]	
		Opportunities [10 000 per priority]	
		Threats [10 000 per priority]	
		Identification of needs on the basis of the SWOT analysis and taking into account the elements set out in Article 6(6) of the EMFF Regulation [10 000 per priority]	

### 1. Priorities other than technical assistance

Reference: Article 17(2) and 17(3)(c)

**Table 1 T: Programme structure\***

Identification code	Title [300]	Technical assistance	Basis for calculation	fund	Category of region supported	Specific Objective selected
1	Priority 1 „Water“	No		EFRD	Transition Less developed	SO 1 Promoting of sustainable development of the water sector
2	Priority 2 „Waste“	No		CF	NA	SO 1 Promoting the transition to a circular economy
3	Priority 3 „Biodiversity“	No		<del>CF</del> EFRD	NA	SO 1 Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the

						urban environment, and reducing pollution
4	Priority 4 „Risk and climate change“	No		EFRD	Transition Less developed	SO 1 Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience
5	Priority 5, „Air“	No		CF	NA	SO 1 Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution

\* Information on this table will serve as technical input to prefill other fields and tables in the template in the electronic format - Not applicable to EMFF.

## 2.1 Title of the priority [300] (repeated for each priority)

Priority 1 “Water“

<input type="checkbox"/>	This is a priority dedicated to a relevant country-specific recommendation
<input type="checkbox"/>	This is a priority dedicated to youth employment
<input type="checkbox"/>	This is a priority dedicated to innovative actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	This is a priority support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (xi) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ regulation]
<input type="checkbox"/>	This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (x) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation 8

\* Table applicable to ESF+ priorities.

\*\* If marked go to section 2.1.2

### 2.1.1. Specific objective2– repeated for each selected specific objective for priorities other than technical assistance

Specific objective: “Promoting sustainable water management”

#### 2.1.1.1 Interventions of the Funds

Reference: Article 17(3)(d)(i),(iii),(iiia), (iv),(v), (vi) CPR

The related types of actions – Article 17(3)(d)(i) from the CPR, Article 6 (2) of ESF+ Regulation:

Text field [8 000]

The eligible measures are in implementation of the River Basin Management Plans, as follows:

- Measures, outlined in the RBMPs to improve the water status and achieving the objectives of the WFD; protection of water quality, provided for drinking water supply; incl. establishment

**Commented [A2]:** There are no operations of strategic importance listed and no references to macro regional strategies? For water and risk management at least this should be of relevance?

**Commented [A3]:**  
Regarding RCR41: “Population connected to improved public water supply”. The text refers to agglomerations, should this be taken to mean an urban area, or a water supply zone? The reason for this query is that there is a specific definition of agglomeration in the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, but no reference to agglomeration in the Drinking Water Directive.

It is not clear why for water supply sanitation the use of p.e. is used, this is defined only in the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive. Also, not apparent why the range of 2 000 to 10 000 is applied to water supplies, it seems arbitrary and does not relate to the current (or recast) Drinking Water Directive.

Generally, not clear from the text whether the recast Drinking Water Directive has been taken into account, or if the intention is that it will.

BG reported in the RBMPs that a large number of significant pressures are to be addressed with measures in the programme of measures (part of the RBMPs). Among the obstacles to their implementation is availability of funding to support the required investments. In this context we would like to know if funding of the Key Types of Measures (KTM) will be covered by the new OPE.

There are no measures related to achieving good environmental status under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. Can we conclude that all necessary measures have already been envisaged and financing ensured?

The principles from the current period to prioritise investments in water and wastewater infrastructure (i.e. one region, one operator, one RFS, one project) are not present, why?

Some measures are quite high level and it is not clear what will be envisaged or what should be prioritised (e.g. in terms of monitoring considering that similar investments were made in the current period or on the capacity building which could fit under technical assistance)

~~of sanitary protective zone in the area of the water taking facilities, —~~ Construction and reconstruction of water supply and sewerage (WSS) infrastructure:

- o water supply component – to achieve compliance with Directive 98/83/EC [its recast]
- o wastewater treatment and sewerage component – to achieve compliance with Directive 91/271/EEC based on Regional Feasibility Studies for designated territories of consolidated Regional Water Operators (respecting the principle “one RFS – one region – one beneficiary – one project”) with priority to agglomerations of more than 10 000 p.e. and if residual financial resource is available – in agglomerations between 2 000 and 10 000 p.e. in complementarity to the measures under the Recovery and Resilience Facility;

~~- Measures, outlined in the RBMPs to improve the water status; protection of water quality provided for drinking water supply incl. establishment of sanitary protective zone in the area of the water taking facilities, etc.~~

~~- Preparation and~~ Development of strategic, programing and planning documents in Water sector and WSS sector, incl RBMP;

- Strengthening the capacity for planning, managing and implementing the commitments in Water and WSS sectors;

Eligible beneficiaries: WSS Operators (in partnership with the Bulgarian WSS Holding EAD if applicable), Sofia municipality, Ministry of regional development and public works (MRDPW), Structures of/within Ministry of environment and water (MoEW), Structures of/within Ministry of Health.

*List of planned operations of strategic importance- Article 17(3)(d)(i):*

*Text field [2 000]*

The projects for construction of WSS infrastructure in agglomerations above 10 000 p.e. are outlined as operations of strategic importance. They shall be listed based on specific terms of application. 7 projects are identified – the projects of the newly consolidated 6 Regional WSS Operators with RFSs under elaboration in 2014-2020 period and Sofia Municipality. In addition, after the rest 6 regions finalize their consolidation – the projects of the WSS Operators for these regions shall be included. These operations provide key contribution to the achievement of the PE’s objectives in the WSS sector and is the most representative of the programme embodying its goal on achieving compliance with the Wastewater Directive, given it is directly related to citizens’ quality of life and environmental protection.

*The main target groups - Article 17(3)(d)(iii) from the CPR:*

*Text field [1 000]*

Bodies with obligations according to Environmental Protection Act, Water act and Regulation of Water Supply and Sewerage Services Act, about implementation of eligible activities; Financial intermediaries in cases of funding through financial instruments; population.

*Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination – Article 17(3)(d)(iiia) CPR*

*Text field [2 000]* Environmental protection and climate change adaptation are horizontal policies, focused on Bulgarian citizens as a main target group, regardless of their sex, race, or ethnicity, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. During the planning, assessment and implementation of the measures supported within this priority the equality, inclusion and non-discrimination principles are going to be applied. The priority supports the access to drinking water, to collection, disposal and treatment of waste water.

*Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools – Article 17(3)(d)(iv) CPR*

*Text field [2 000]*

Measures under the Priority can be implemented at territorial level through the integrated territorial investment (ITI) approach at NUTS 2 **region level**. Construction of WSS infrastructure in industrial zones/parks is eligible where the required water supply and sewerage infrastructure is identified in the RFS for the designated territory on which the zone/park is located.

The need for such measures at local and regional level can be identified in the Integrated territorial development strategies for NUTS 2 regions. The PE projects that are eligible under the ITI approach will be implemented on integrated concepts basis, which should be developed and implemented in partnership between different local stakeholders. The PE projects will be implemented in co-ordination with the projects under the other programs, financing the relevant integrated concept.

A specific demarcation between programmes and avoiding the risk of double financing will be provided at pre-selection stage of ITI concepts by the Regional development councils. Demarcation will also be ensured at the stage of project proposals selection, performed by each MA in order to sign grant contracts.

*The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions – Article – 17(3)(d)(v) of the CPR*

*Text field [2 000] NA*

*The planned use of financial instruments – Article – 17(3)(d)(vi)*

*Text field [1 000]*

FIs are planned in supporting the construction of WSS infrastructure taking into account the 2014-2020 lessons learnt. The type and the amount of the FIs will be determined based on the Ex-Ante assessment of the FI about the 2021-2027 **period**.

### 2.1.1.2 Indicators

*Reference: Article 17(3)(d)(ii)*

**Table 2: Output indicators**

**Commented [A4]:** How will the MA make sure that investments made through ITIs are in line with the RFS/the water reform?

For all priorities under the programme:

- How were the actions for territorial tools selected? What was the rationale?
- How will the MA ensure that the OP objectives are achieved, will there be specific ITI calls launched? What will be the process?

**Commented [A5]:** Since the water sector is revenue generating and on the basis of the current period, it is possible at this stage already to indicate that FI should be used in this axis and that the ex ante assessment will provide more info when ready. This applies to a number of priorities (e.g. waste)



Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024 r.)	Target (2029 r.)
Water	Promoting sustainable water management	EFRD	Transition	RCO 32	New or upgraded capacity for waste water treatment	population equivalent	0	<del>22</del> 749336 000
			Less developed					

**Table 3: Result indicators**

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference year	Target (2029)	Source of data [200]	Comments [200]
Water	Promoting sustainable water management	EFRD	Transition	RCR 41	Population connected to improved public water supply	persons	0	<del>2018</del> 2020 01	<del>1 538 594</del> 400 000	Projects supported, MRDP W. PE MA	
			Less developed								
			Transition	RCR 42	Population connected to at least secondary public waste water treatment	persons	0	<del>2018</del> 2020 01	<del>492 454</del> 69 000	Projects supported, PE MA	
			Less developed								

**2.1.1.3 Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention (not applicable to the EMFF)**

Reference: Article 17(3)(d)(vii)

**Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field**

Priority №	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
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1 „Water“	EFRD	Transition	Promoting sustainable water management	039 Provision of water for human consumption (extraction, treatment, storage and distribution infrastructure, efficiency measures, drinking water supply)	
		Less developed		040 Water management and water resource conservation (including river basin management, specific climate change adaptation measures, reuse, leakage reduction)	
		Transition		040 Water management and water resource conservation (including river basin management, specific climate change adaptation measures, reuse, leakage reduction)	
		Less developed		041 Waste water collection and treatment	

**Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing**

Priority №	Фонд	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
1 „Water“	EFRD	Transition	Promoting sustainable water management	01 Grant	
		Less developed			
		Transition		02-05 Financial instruments – depending on the results of The Ex-ante assessment of FI	
		Less developed			

Priority №	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
1 „Water“	EFRD	Transition	Promoting sustainable water management	17	
		Less developed		48	

**Commented [A6]:** Why was code 17 chosen rather than code 13?

Priority №	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

### 2.1.2 Specific objective addressing material deprivation

Reference: Article 17(3); CPR

Types of support

Text field [2 000 characters]

Main target groups

Text field [2 000 characters]

Decryption of the national or regional schemes of support

Text field [2 000 characters]

Criteria for the selection of operations<sup>3</sup>

Text field [4 000 characters]

### 2.1 Title of the priority [300]

Priority 2 „Waste“

<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to a relevant country-specific recommendation
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to youth employment
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to innovative actions
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (xi) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ regulation]**
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (x) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation 8

<sup>3</sup> Only for programmes limited to the specific objective set out in Article 4, Paragraph 1, (xi)(c) of the ESF+ Regulation.

**Commented [A7]:** Plans to invest mostly in separate collection and recycling seems consistent with the risk identified in the early warning report. Nevertheless, investment on waste prevention measures would also be appropriate in line with the CEAP2 and the waste hierarchy.

In terms of collection, are the additional 170,000 tons per year directed to specific waste streams or municipal waste only?

In terms of recycling, To what extent would this capacity bring BG closer to meeting the recycling targets for municipal waste for 2020 target and 2025 target? The additional capacity of 170,000 tons per year does not seem sufficient to meet the 55% target for 2025 - and also puts at risk the preparation for the subsequent 60% target for 2030.

The additional 170,000 tons per year only represent about 5% of the 2017 municipal waste volume taking recycling up to about 40% from the current levels, maybe somewhat more if the 2020 figures show an improvement compared to 2017. How will the rest be financed? Are the additional 170,000 tons per year going to be directed to specific waste streams? If so can you specify? In particular, does this aim to address the non-compliance to the Ni-Ca 75 % recycling target for batteries?

We welcome composting sites and anaerobic digesters as their output can count as recycled under certain conditions.

Is Bulgaria investing in electronic waste data collection system? According to EU waste legislation this is a requirement for hazardous waste and is recommended also for municipal and other waste streams. Such system would be essential to comply with the new calculation of municipal and packaging waste recycling rules and reporting rules

\* Table applicable to ESF+ priorities.

\*\* If marked go to section 2.1.2

**2.1.1. Specific objective** – repeated for each selected specific objective of support, for priorities other than technical assistance

**Specific objective:** Promoting the transition to a circular economy

### 2.1.1.1 Interventions of the Funds

Reference: Article 17(3)(d)(i)(iii)(iia)(iv)(v)(vi) CPR;

The related types of actions – Article 17(3)(d)(i) from CPR; art.6 (2) from SFC+:

Text field [8 000]

The eligible measures comply with the needs identified in the National waste management plan:

-Measures for development/upgrade of municipal waste management infrastructure at Municipal Waste Management Region level, aiming to achieve the 2030 targets for waste recycling and landfilling;

- Waste generation prevention measures;

- Measures for preparation for reuse and repair;

- Waste recycling measures;

- Construction, extension and/or upgrade of separate waste collection systems;

- Improvement of knowledge base about circular economy, waste monitoring and material flows;

- Models for optimizing the process of municipal waste management by the municipalities in Bulgaria and testing them in three regional waste management systems;

- Raising awareness on practices and behavior in connection to sustainable consumption, as well as information and awareness campaigns for stakeholders and population.

- Other measures identified in the National Waste Management Plan 2021-2028 and in the Strategy and Action Plan for Transition to the Circular Economy of the Republic of Bulgaria for the period 2021 - 2027, the implementation of which will have a complementary contribution to achieving the objectives by 2030.

Measures are focused with priority on municipal waste, (as defined in Article 3 (2b) of Directive 2008/98 / EC on waste and repealing certain Directives, as amended by Directive (EU) 2018/851), as well as to ~~but also target mass disseminated waste, bio waste, inc. food waste,~~ construction and demolition waste.

Measures for municipal waste management infrastructure focus mainly on regions with needs to complete their waste management systems to meet regulatory targets at regional level by 2030, incl. but not only construction of recycling and separate waste collection facilities; lacking installations for pre-treatment of mixed municipal waste or with a need to be upgraded with additional section for stabilization of the organic fraction.

Eligible beneficiaries: municipalities, profit legal persons and non-profit legal persons, National Association of the Municipalities (for models for optimizing the process of municipal waste management and for measures to ~~for~~ improveing the knowledge base, awareness raising and

clarification campaigns for stakeholders), non-profit legal entities, business legal entities (with the exception of waste recovery organizations, whose activity is financed with funds from product fees<sup>4</sup> / royalties /).

The measures will be implemented in complementarity and in demarcation, according to the National waste management plan 2021-2027 and the Strategy and action plan for circular economy of Republic of Bulgaria for 2021-~~2027~~2028. Synergy of the measures towards promoting the transition to a circular economy will be achieved by ensuring complementarity between PE and Programme “Innovation and Competitiveness in enterprises 2021-2027” (PICE) support, following the demarcation: PE — ~~waste packaging organizations and enterprises, which activity is related to separate collectionseparately collect~~, pre-treatment and recycle waste (~~excluding waste of own production~~); PICE - trading and manufacturing enterprises, incl. those that recycle waste as part of the production process. ~~In addition, PIC envisages support for applied research and strengthening of the cooperation between the universities, scientific institutions and the enterprises with reflection of new horizontal areas, incl. circular economy.~~ Thus, complementarity of investments towards circular economy will be ensured at national level.

**Commented [A8]:** Good to see this cross programme reference here. There could also be some synergies with OP science from the R&D side

*List of planned operations of strategic importance- Article 17(3)(d)(i):*

Text field [2 000]

*The main target groups - Article 17(3)(d)(iii):*

Text field [1 000]

Population of Republic of Bulgaria, business, municipalities

*Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination – Article 17(3)(d)(iiia) CPR*

Text field [2 000] Environmental protection and climate change adaptation are horizontal policies, focused on Bulgarian citizens as a main target group, regardless of their sex, race, or ethnicity, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. During the planning, assessment and implementation of the measures supported within this priority the equality, inclusion and non-discrimination principles are going to be applied. This priority supports transition to circular economy, decrease of the generated waste and of the waste going to landfills, increase of the recycled waste, etc.

*Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools – Article 17(3)(d)(iv) CPR*

Text field [2 000]

Measures under the Priority can be implemented at territorial level through the integrated territorial investment (ITI) approach at the NUTS 2 ~~level~~region. According to PE MA preliminary assessment, measures for construction of centers for preparation for reuse and repair, for ensuring separate collection and recycling of municipal, mass-dissaminated and construction waste, incl. in

<sup>4</sup> The funds collected from the fees, which are set in that way, in order to cover all costs for the management of the respective waste stream, are spent on the activities related to the implementation of the waste recycling / recovery objectives.

industrial zones if proven necessary (without waste generated by the own production of enterprises and hazardous waste) are identified as eligible.

Commented [A9]: Why this precision?

The need for such measures at local and regional level can be identified in the Integrated territorial development strategies for NUTS2 regions. The PE projects eligible under the ITI approach will be implemented on integrated concepts basis, which should be developed and implemented in partnership between different local stakeholders. The PE projects will be implemented in co-ordination with the projects under the other programs, financing the relevant integrated concept.

A specific demarcation between programmes and avoiding the risk of double financing will be provided at pre-selection stage of ITI concepts by Regional development councils. Demarcation will also be ensured at the stage of project proposals selection, implemented by each MA before signing the grant contracts.

*The interregional and transnational actions – Article – 17(3)(d)(v)*

*Text field [2 000] NA*

*The planned use of financial instruments – Article – 17(3)(d)(vi)*

*Text field [1 000]*

FIs are planned in supporting the eligible waste management activities under the priority taking into account the 2014-2020 lessons learnt. The type, the scope and the amount of the FIs will be determined based on analyzes and studies on the preparation of the Ex-Ante assessment of the FI about the 2021-2027 period and conducted consultations and studies for interest in using a financial instrument under the priority. According to preliminary studies, the measures for construction of installations for recycling of construction waste and demolition waste have the potential to provide a financial instrument.-

**2.1.1.2 Indicators<sup>5</sup>**

*Reference: Article 17(3)(d)(ii)*

**Table 2: Output indicators**

Priority	Specific objective (Jobs and growth goal or area of support (EMFF))	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024 )	Target (2029)
Priority 2 „Waste“	Support of transition to circular economy	CF		RCO 34	Additional capacity for waste recycling	tonnes/year	0	177 000
				RCO 107	Investments in facilities for	euro	0	<u>40 515</u> <u>532,74</u>

<sup>5</sup> Prior to the mid-term review in 2025 for the ERDF, the ESF+ and the CF, breakdown for the years 2021 to 2025 only



				043 Household waste management: mechanical biological treatment, thermal treatment	
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**Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing**

Priority №	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
Priority 2 „Waste“	CF		Promoting the transition to a circular economy	01 Grant	
				02-05 Financial instruments – depending on the results of The Ex-ante assessment of FI	

**Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus**

Priority №	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
Priority 2 „Waste“	CF		Promoting the transition to a circular economy	17	
				48	

**Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes**

Priority №	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

### 2.1.2 Specific objective addressing material deprivation



Reference: Article 17(3); CPR

Types of support

Text field [2 000 characters]

Main target groups

Text field [2 000 characters]

Decryption of the national or regional schemes of support

Text field [2 000 characters]

Criteria for the selection of operations <sup>7</sup>

Text field [4 000 characters]

## 2.1 Title of the priority [300]

### Priority 3 „Biodiversity”

<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to a relevant country-specific recommendation
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to youth employment
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to innovative actions
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (xi) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ regulation]
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (x) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation 8

\* Table applicable to ESF+ priorities

\*\* If marked go to section 2.1.2

**2.1.1. Specific objective <sup>8</sup> (Jobs and growth goal) or Area of support (EMFF)** – repeated for each selected specific objective or area of support, for priorities other than technical assistance

Specific objective: “Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution”

#### 2.1.1.1 Interventions of the Funds

Reference: Article 17(3)(d)(i)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi);

The related types of actions – Article 17(3)(d)(i):

Text field [8 000]

Eligible measures aimed at implementing the country’s commitments under the European biodiversity legislation, specified in strategic and planning documents at European and national level:

- Measures related to development of NATURA 2000 network:

<sup>7</sup> Only for programmes limited to the specific objective set out in Article 4(1)(c)(vii) of the ESF+ Regulation.

<sup>8</sup> Except for a specific objective set out in Article 4(1)(c)(vii) of the ESF+ Regulation.

**Commented [A10]:** Sufficient funding should be planned for finalising the territorial management plans for Natura 2000

How will the MA avoid the pitfalls from the previous period (e.g. delays to procedures due to delays in national legislative framework?)

We would also expect to see communications measures/awareness raising measures and green infrastructure in urban areas, unless this will be covered under the regional programme?

The capacity development measures sound like technical assistance?

Under this priority it is important to understand the demarcation with the rural programme which are not explained yet.

This section is not fully in line with what is presented in the PA

- Development of territorial management plans for Natura 2000 ~~protected areas~~ – elaboration of guidelines; development of 15 management plans for protected areas covering the entire territory of Natura 2000 in Bulgaria, including research in relation to clarifying the distribution, population size and impacts ~~of pressures~~ and threats for ~~identified in NFPAPAF~~ species and natural habitats, incl. conducting public awareness campaigns and involving stakeholders in the process of developing plans;-
- Implementation of the management approach in Natura 2000 ~~protected areas~~ – ensuring support for the management bodies of Natura 2000 ~~protected areas~~.
- Improving the knowledge for the species and natural habitats through field research (including mapping where defined in NFPAPAF) and determining their conservation status; verification of taxonomic affiliation; identifying the effects of resettlement of non-indigenous species and etc.
- Ensuring support for the development and management of ecosystem services and assessment of the elements of green infrastructure.
- Development of action plans for species.
- ~~Information and awareness rising~~–Capacity building of stakeholders to implement measures from NFPAPAF and the protected area management plans.

- Measures aimed to improve the conservation status of habitats and species (incl. birds, fish, cave-bats, reptiles, vascular plants, and coastal, rock, dune types of natural habitats, freshwater habitat types, shrub habitats, etc.), subject to conservation in Natura 2000 network, as per NPAF 2021-2027:

- Improving the conservation status of species and habitat types by restoring the hydrological regime; removal of abandoned and/or unusable infrastructure causing fragmentation; building sea connections; restoration of the natural water regime of wetlands and maintenance of appropriate water regime; restoration of nesting sites of species; partial restoration of natural reservoirs that are drained in the past; management of reed massifs; eliminating invasive alien species; limiting grazing; reintroduction into potential habitats; placing electric fences; restoration of damaged areas; purchase of land; securing electricity grids; etc.
- Improving the conservation status of species through pilot restoration of existing /potential wetlands and meanders along the Danube and its tributaries;

- Measures for protection/ restoration of ecosystems and their inherent biodiversity, focused on improving ecosystems and ecosystem services and providing connectivity of Natura 2000 network – implementation of measures from the National Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation and National plan for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and genetic resources 2020 – 2024, measures from management plans for protected territories.

Eligible beneficiaries: Structures for Natura 2000 management, Structures of/within MoEW, Structures of/within MAFF, Road Infrastructure Agency (RIA) (for measures in relation to fragmentation of habitats on existing road infrastructure), non-profit legal persons, municipalities, scientific institutes, universities.

Complementarity of the priority measures will be ensured through implementation of the measures set out in the NPAF for Natura 2000. The framework identifies all eligible measures as well as their funding sources – ESIF programmes, national budget, LIFE programme, CAP etc., thus ensuring both synergistic effect of improving the conservation status of species/ types of natural habitats and providing demarcation among the respective measures envisaged.

List of planned operations of strategic importance- Article 17(3)(d)(i):

Text field [2 000]

The main target groups - Article 17(3)(d)(iii) CPR:

Text field [1 000] Population of Republic of Bulgaria

Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination – Article 17(3)(d)(iiia) CPR

Text field [2 000]

Environmental protection and climate change adaptation are horizontal policies, focused on Bulgarian citizens as a main target group, regardless of their sex, race, or ethnicity, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. During the planning, assessment and implementation of the measures supported within this priority the equality, inclusion and non-discrimination principles are going to be applied. This priority supports nature preservation by protection/restoration and support of ecosystems and their inherent biodiversity.

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools – Article 17(3)(d)(iv) CPR

Text field [2 000]

Measures under the Priority can be implemented at territorial level through the integrated territorial investment (ITI) approach at the NUTS 2 level/region. According to PE MA preliminary assessment, measures, focused on species and habitats in ‘unfavourable-inadequate’ or ‘unfavourable-bad’ nature conservation status are identified as eligible for financing under the ITI approach.

The need for such support at local and regional level can be identified in the Integrated territorial development strategies for NUTS 2 regions. The PE projects eligible under the ITI approach should comply with NPAF measures and will be implemented on integrated concepts basis, which should be developed and implemented in partnership between different local stakeholders with the participation of Natura 2000 management bodies. Projects under PE will be implemented in co-ordination with the projects under the other programs, financing the relevant integrated concept.

A specific demarcation between programmes and avoiding the risk of double financing will be provided at pre-selection stage of ITI concepts by Regional development councils with the participation of Natura 2000 management bodies. Demarcation will also be ensured at the stage of project proposals selection, implemented by each MA before signing the grant contracts.

Regarding the implementation of the CLLD approach, taking into account the experience from the programming period 2014-2020, some of the measures set out in the NPAF can be identified as applicable at the moment, both conservation for species of local importance and aimed at capacity building- at local level for implementation of measures from NPA-F and from the territorial plans for management of the protected areas.

ITI and CLLD within the priority are two separate instruments for territorial development, which are based on different territorial levels, with the respective differences, both in the scale of investments and in terms of their territorial significance and impact. Both approaches will be

applied in addition to ensure the complexity of the measures for restoration and maintenance of species and habitats at regional and local level.

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions – Article – 17(3)(d)(v) CPR

Text field [2 000] NA

The planned use of financial instruments – Article – 17(3)(d)(vi) CPR

Text field [1 000 ]

No FIs are planned under this priority.

### 2.1.1.2 Indicators

Reference: Article 17(3)(d)(ii)

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
Priority 3 Biodiversity	“Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution”	<del>ERDF</del>		RCO 37	Surface of Natura 2000 sites covered by protection and restoration measures	ha	7 600 000 0	14 000 000 <del>To be defined based on NPAF analysis and NPAF draft</del>

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference year	Target (2029)	Source of data [200]	Comments [200]
Priority 3 „Biodiversity“	“Enhancing biodiversity,”	<del>ERDF</del>	NA	Programme-specific indicator	<del>NPAF’s measure &amp; support</del>	number	0	2021	<del>To be defined based</del>	Projects supported,	

**Commented [A11]:** Please consider having at least 1 common indicator for this priority

	green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution”				ed under PE 2021-2027 Species, supported in order to attain better conservation status				on NPA F analysis and NPA F draft 40	PE MA	
			NA	Program me-specific indicator	Types of habitats, supported in order to attain better conservation status	number	0	2021	To be defined based on NPA F analysis and NPA F draft	Projec ts suppor ted, PE MA	

**2.1.1. Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention (not applicable to the EMFF)**

Reference: Article 17(3)(d)(vii)

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field					
Priority №	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
Priority 3 „Biodiversity“	EFRDCF		Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution	049 Protection, restoration and sustainable use of Natura 2000 sites	
				050 Nature and biodiversity protection, green infrastructure	

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing
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Приоритет №	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
Priority 3 „Biodiversity“	EFRD CF		“Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution”	01 grant	
				02-05 Financial instruments – depending on the results of The Ex-ante assessment of FI	

**Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus**

Biodiversity №	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
Priority 3 „Biodiversity“	EFRD CF		“Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution”	17	
				27	
				48	

Commented [A12]: Will CLLDs not be used in this period?

**Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes**

Priority 3 „Biodiversity“	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

### 2.1.2 Specific objective addressing material deprivation

Reference: Article 17(3); CPR

Types of support

Text field [2 000 characters]

Main target groups

Text field [2 000 characters]

Description of the national or regional schemes of support

Text field [2 000 characters]

Criteria for the selection of operations<sup>9</sup>

Text field [4 000 characters]

## 2.1 Title of the priority [300]

Priority 4 "Risk and climate change"

<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to a relevant country-specific recommendation
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to youth employment
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to innovative actions
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (xi) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ regulation]**
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (x) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation 8

Table applicable to ESF+ priorities.

\*\* If marked go to section 2.1.2

**2.1.1. Specific objective<sup>10</sup>** – repeated for each selected specific objective or area of support, for priorities other than technical assistance

Specific objective: "Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience".

### 2.1.1.1 Interventions of the Funds

Reference: Article 17(3)(d)(i)(iii)( iia) (iv)(v)(vi) CPR;

The related types of actions – Article 17(3)(d)(i) CPR:

Text field [8 000]

In relation to the identified broader scope of natural disasters and the strategic objectives at national level, the following measures are eligible:

- Flood and drought risk prevention and management measures (with priority to green infrastructure and if applicable in combination with grey infrastructure) – giving priority to the implementation of measures identified in the FRMPs. It should be noted that the implementation of green measures under the priority contributes both to the achievement of the objectives of the Water Framework Directive and the Flood Directive concerning actions planned under the RBMPs and FRMPs for natural water retention, restoration of wet lands, etc. These measures

<sup>9</sup> Only for programmes limited to the specific objective set out in Article 4(1)(c)(vii) of the ESF+ Regulation.

<sup>10</sup> Except for a specific objective set out in Article 4(1)(c)(vii) of the ESF+ Regulation + .

**Commented [A13]:** The text would benefit from concrete references to strategies/ action plans on the basis of which the enumerated measures would be implemented. An analysis of what strategies are currently in place or are being developed with a view to the 2021-2027 period, as well as a clearer link between the adaptation challenges outlined in Section 1 and the proposed measures would contribute to the coherence of the text.

Please clarify the link with actions under the water priority regarding flood risks and measures from the RBMPs and FRMPs

Please explain the demarcation with the rural fund especially regarding forest fire prevention and management

The evaluation report for OPE 214-2020 recommended to have a registry for landslides, will this be considered?

Are no awareness raising measures planned for the population?

Please clarify the gap analysis regarding monitoring systems following the investments made in the current period

It should be made clearer that green infrastructure should be the priority over grey infrastructure

have positive effect on the environment and water quality improvement – RBMPs requirement, and on the flood risk management – FRMPs objective. In addition investments, included in the RBMPs programme of measures and foreseen to be supported under priority 1 (~~such as~~incl. construction/reconstruction of sewerage systems) shall contribute to the mitigation of the negative flood effects. The reduction of water losses as a result of the investments planned in water supply infrastructure shall reduce the water abstraction as a measure directed to climate change adaptation.

- Risk analyses and implementation of prevention and protection measures concerning processes related to land movement – landslides, erosion, abrasion, collapsible soils, etc. (incl. green infrastructure, if applicable, in combination with grey infrastructure), including those along the road network identified as threat for road safety.

- Measures aimed at natural disaster risk management and population's life protection (focus on increasing the population preparedness for reaction and the capacity of the responsible units for an adequate response in cases of floods, fires and earthquakes - strengthening the capacity of the Unified Safety System regarding the policies on risk prevention and management and climate change adaptation);

- Raising public awareness, trainings, information and education measures in order to shape, apply and implement ~~these~~the climate change policies' goals.

- Establishing new and optimizing and/or expanding existing warning, monitoring, reporting, forecasting and alarming systems; development of digital models, analysis and forecasts in relation to climate change such as:

- further development and completion of the National Real Time Water Management System establishment for the rest 12 main rivers;
- expanding the National System for Early Warning (NSEWA) and announcement at regional level for the territory of the country;
- forest fire risk monitoring – development of comparative model for mobile and stationary wild fire monitoring;
- landslides monitoring – pilot project for a prioritized territory with regard to population's life protection;

- Research and assessments regarding FRMPs development for the period 2028-2033.

- Studies, ~~and~~ analyzes and evaluations aimed at examining the climate change effects on the extreme events and their impact on water resources on the territory of the country.

Eligible beneficiaries: municipalities, regional administrations (district government), Road Infrastructure Agency, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (MRDPW), Structures of/within MoEW, National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (NIMH) (for forecasts, analysis, models regarding climate change), Structures of/within Ministry of Interior.

*The main target groups - Article 17(3)(d)(iii) CPR:*

*Text field [1 000]* Population of Republic of Bulgaria, response forces, Unified Safety System's structures, volunteers

*Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination – Article 17(3)(d)(iiia) CPR*

*Text field [2 000]*

Environmental protection and climate change adaptation are horizontal policies, focused on Bulgarian citizens as a main target group, regardless of their sex, race, or ethnicity, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. During the planning, assessment and implementation of the measures supported within this priority the equality, inclusion and non-discrimination



principles are going to be applied. This priority supports natural disasters risk prevention and management, focused on protection of life and health of all Bulgarian citizens and on protection of the property.

Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools – Article 17(3)(d)(iv)

Text field [2 000]

Measures under the Priority can be implemented at territorial level through the integrated territorial investment (ITI) approach at the NUTS 2 ~~level~~region. According to PE MA preliminary assessment, measures for flood risk prevention and management (including green infrastructure, if applicable, in combination with gray infrastructure), as well as measures addressing landslides movements in ~~urban-municipal~~ areas are eligible for financing under the ITI approach.

The need for such measures at local and regional level can be identified in the Integrated territorial development strategies for NUTS 2 g regions. The PE projects eligible under the ITI approach will be implemented on integrated concepts basis, which should be developed and implemented in partnership between different local stakeholders. The OPE projects will be implemented in co-ordination with the projects under the other programs, financing the relevant integrated concept.

A specific demarcation between programmes and avoiding the risk of double financing will be provided at pre-selection stage of ITI concepts by Regional development councils. Demarcation will also be ensured at the stage of project proposals selection, implemented by each MA before signing the grant contracts.

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions – Article – 17(3)(d)(v) CPR

Text field [2 000] NA

The planned use of financial instruments – Article – 17(3)(d)(vi) CPR

Text field [1 000]

No FIs are planned under this priority.

### 2.1.1.2 Indicators

Reference: Article 17(3)(d)(ii)

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
Priority 4 „ Risk and	Promoting climate change adaptation,	ERDF	Transition	RCO 24	Investments in new or upgraded disaster monitoring,	Euro	0	<del>28</del> 62 000 000

**Commented [A14]:** Втора фаза  
Мониторинг пожари  
Мониторинг свлачища  
НСРП

climate change”	risk prevention and disaster resilience”		Less developed		preparedness, warning and response systems			
			Transition	RCO 27	National and sub-national strategies addressing climate change adaptation	number	0	5
			Less developed					
			Transition	RCO 28	Areas covered by protection measures against wildfires	ha	0	343 700
			Less developed					
			Transition	RCO 106	Landslide protection newly built or consolidated	ha	0	230
			Less developed					

**Table 3: Result indicators**

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference year	Target (2029)	Source of data [200]	Comments [200]
Priority 4 „Risk and climate change”	“Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience”	ERDF	Transition	RCR 35	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	persons	0	20192021	34 550 000 880 000	Project supported, PE MA	
			Less developed								
			Transition		Population benefiting	persons	0	20192021		Project support	

			Less developed	RC R 36	from wildfires protection measures					1 264 114 500	ed. PE MA	
			Transition		Population benefiting from protection measures against non-climate related natural risks and risks related to human activities	persons	0	20192021		1 150 000	Project support ed. PE MA	
			Less developed	RC R 96								

Commented [A15]: Which measures relate to this indicator?

### 2.1.1.3 Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention(not applicable to the EMFF)

Reference: Article 17(3)(d)(vii)

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field

Priority №	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
Priority 4 „Risk and climate change ”	ERDF	Transition	“Promoting climate change adaptation,risk prevention and disaster resilience ”	035 Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: floods (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems and infrastructures)	
		Less developed			
		Transition		036 Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate	

		Less developed		related risks: fires (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems and infrastructures)	
		Transition		037 Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: others, e.g. storms and drought (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems and infrastructures)	
		Less developed		<u>038 Risk prevention and management of non-climate related natural risks (i.e. earthquakes) and risks linked to human activities (e.g. technological accidents), including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems and infrastructures</u>	

**Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing**

Priority №	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
Priority 4 „Risk and climate change ”	ERDF	Transition	Promoting climate change adaptation,risk prevention and disaster resilience ”	01 Grant	
		Less developed			
		Transition			
		Less developed		02-05 Financial instruments – depending on the results of The Ex-ante assessment of FI	

<b>Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus</b>					
Priority №	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
Priority 4 „Risk and climate change ”	ERDF	Transition	Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience	17	
		Less developed		48	

<b>Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes</b>					
Priority №	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>

### 2.1.2 Specific objective addressing material deprivation

Reference: Article 17(3); CPR

Types of support

Text field [2 000 characters]

Main target groups

Text field [2 000 characters]

Decryption of the national or regional schemes of support

Text field [2 000 characters]

Criteria for the selection of operations<sup>11</sup>

Text field [4 000 characters]

### 2.1 Title of the priority [300]

Priority 5 „Air”

<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to a relevant country-specific recommendation
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to youth employment

<sup>11</sup> Only for programmes limited to the specific objective set out in Article 4(1)(c)(vii) of the ESF+ Regulation.

<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to innovative actions
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (xi) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ regulation]
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a priority dedicated to support to the most deprived under the specific objective set out in point (x) of Article 4(1) of the ESF+ regulation <sup>8</sup>

\*Table applicable to ESF+ priorities.

\*\* If marked go to section 2.1.2

**2.1.1. Specific objective<sup>12</sup>** – repeated for each selected specific objective of support, for priorities other than technical assistance

Specific objective 1: Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution

**2.1.1.1 Interventions of the Funds**

Reference: Article 17(3)(d)(i)(iii)(iiia)(iv)(v)(vi) CPR;

The related types of actions – Article 17(3)(d)(i)CPR:

Text field [8 000]

- Measures addressing reduction of air pollution from domestic heating – ~~phasing out of the use of heating devices on solid fuel, introduction of low emission zones, expansion of central heating network~~ phased replacement of heating devices on solid fuel; introduction of low emission zones; promoting district heating, incl. expansion of district heating distribution network<sup>13</sup>; promotion of renewable energy, hydrogen, other innovative alternatives, where applicable. The investments shall upscale and build upon the 2014-2020 results under OPE projects and LIFE-IP Clean Air.
- Measures, addressing reduction of air pollution from transport – ~~phasing out the use of high emission personal vehicles by promotion of electromobility; incl. provision by construction of infrastructure for alternative fuels in the main directions of the national road network, environmental friendly vehicles, promoting the phasing out of the use of outdated personal cars and their replacement with electric vehicles,~~ introduction of low emission zones, etc.
- ~~Green measures in urban areas, incl. establishment of green belts / zones;~~ Measures addressing secondary dusting – green infrastructure in urban areas, incl. establishment of green belts/zones, street sweeping machines, etc.;
- Improvement AAQ monitoring, incl. upgrade of the National AAQ real time monitoring system and the Information AAQ data reporting system;
- Development/update of strategic/programme/planning/analytical documents, regarding ambient air quality, forecasting, modeling;
- Training and information-educational measures.

The focus of the interventions will be on municipalities with poor air quality, as a main priority are those that fall within the scope of the Judgment of the Court of Justice of the European

**Commented [A16]:** There seems to be a high focus on addressing air pollution from residential heating which is in line with the main source of air pollution. However, there also seems to be a missed opportunity to consider how to maximise synergies between air quality and energy/climate policy objectives, notably by including under this priority specific objectives linked to energy efficiency to address air quality (e.g. energy efficiency, renewable energy with no/low emissions of air pollutants).

It is not clear how efforts will be combined to create synergies with OPRD in practice and the link to energy efficiency improvements from SMEs is also missing

There is little reference to the experience built in the current period in terms of know-how and capacity building through the work of the WB and through the LIFE IP programme on which programme environment could build

The NEC directive objectives should partly be supported by structural funds, please explain the contribution of programme environment

All measures related to transport address PO3 objectives and should therefore be moved to the transport programme

What are green measures compared to green infrastructure?

<sup>12</sup> С изключение на специфичната цел, посочена в член 4, параграф 1, буква в), точка vii) от регламента за ЕСФ+.

<sup>13</sup> Only for non-coal power plants.

Union in case C-488/15 of 5 April 2017 on non-compliance with the norms for PM<sub>10</sub> in ambient air in agglomerations and areas of the country and the non-compliance with the obligations under Directive 2008/50 / EC with regard to limit values for particulate matter in ambient air. Support for measures addressing sources of air pollution is also eligible for municipalities where there are no permanent monitoring points, but excessive pollution has been registered under the PM<sub>10</sub> indicator with the mobile automatic stations of the EEA.

Eligible beneficiaries: municipalities, Executive environmental agency, , profit legal persons (for secondary dusting measures), Road Infrastructure Agency (measures for construction of infrastructure for alternative fuels on the National Road Network (NRN)), National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (for training and educational measures, development of forecasts, models, analytical documents), Association of environmental experts from the municipalities in Bulgaria (training and information-educational measures; creation of a network of experts in the field of air quality), natural persons (for combined financial instruments for enhancing e-mobility).

The measures addressing reduction of air pollution from domestic heating will have synergy with the building energy efficiency measures under P Development of Regions incl. RES, air conditioning systems and heating systems (excluding those using solid fuel), as well as through the national budget. PE will support the replacement of heating systems and solid fuel stoves as a priority in energy efficient buildings. Measures for achieving certain energy efficiency class complement the stove replacement where justified by an energy audit. The replaced heating appliances/ systems will additionally directly contribute to improving the energy efficiency of the buildings in general, on the other hand, improved energy efficiency of the buildings will result in lower energy consumption, which contributes to reduction of air pollution emissions.

The measures for reduction of air pollution from transport provide complementarity with PTransport Connectivity (measures related to intermodality in urban environment) and PDevelopment of Regions (sustainable urban mobility interventions, replacement of public transport fleet) by considering also the demarcation between the envisaged investments. Implementing green measures in urban environment, incl. green belts / zones, will ensure complementarity with green infrastructure measures in the cities under PDR (overall interventions for green areas, incl. parks, lanes, resting spots, etc.), as the PE focus is on the air quality through investments in plant species with highest efficiency with regard to the capture of PM and air purification.

*List of planned operations of strategic importance- Article 17(3)(d)(i):*

*Text field [2 000]*

The projects for phasing out the use of heating devices on solid fuel is outlined as operations of strategic importance. They shall be listed based on specific terms of application, taking into account the average annual and average daily emissions' exceedances, the compliance of the Municipal Air Quality Management Plans, etc. These are projects of municipalities falling under Judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union Case C-488/15 of 5 April 2017, for non-compliance with the limit values for PM<sub>10</sub> in zones and agglomerations and failure to fulfil the obligations under Directive 2008/50/EC on limit values for PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations. These operations provide a key contribution to the achievement of the PE's objectives and is the most representative of the programme embodying its goal on achieving air quality standards, given it is directly related to citizens' health and quality of life.

As operations of strategic importance may be also outlined the planned pilot investments in heating systems based on hydrogen technologies as alternative domestic heating option.

*The main target groups - Article 17(3)(d)(iii):*

*Text field [1 000] Population of Republic of Bulgaria*

*Actions safeguarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination – Article 17(3)(d)(iia) CPR*

*Text field [2 000]*

Environmental protection and climate change adaptation are horizontal policies, focused on Bulgarian citizens as a main target group, regardless of their sex, race, or ethnicity, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. During the planning, assessment and implementation of the measures supported within this priority the equality, inclusion and non-discrimination principles are going to be applied. This priority supports ambient air quality improvement investments aiming at health protection of all citizens in Republic of Bulgaria.

*Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of territorial tools – Article 17(3)(d)(iv) CPR*

*Text field [2 000]*

Measures under the Priority can be implemented at territorial level through the integrated territorial investment (ITI) approach at NUTS 2 ~~level~~ regions. According to PE MA preliminary assessment, green measures in urban areas, incl. construction of "green belts / zones" on the territories of municipalities with poor AAQ, in compliance and demarcation with measures, financed under OPDR are eligible. ~~The support for measures to achieve AAQ standards, addressing sources of air pollution and measures for municipalities where pollution rates are measured by methods other than the National Air Monitoring Systemis, is also eligible.~~

The need for such measures at local and regional level can be identified in the Integrated territorial development strategies for NUTS 2 regions. The PE projects eligible under the ITI approach will be implemented on integrated concepts basis, which should be developed and implemented in partnership between different local stakeholders. The PE projects will be implemented in co-ordination with the projects under the other programs, financing the relevant integrated concept.

A specific demarcation between programmes and avoiding the risk of double financing will be provided at the pre-selection stage of ITI concepts implemented by Regional development councils. Demarcation will also be ensured at the stage of project proposals selection, implemented by each MA before signing the grant contracts.

*The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions – Article – 17(3)(d)(v)*

*Text field [2 000] NA*

*The planned use of financial instruments – Article – 17(3)(d)(vi) CPR*

*Text field [1 000] FIs are planned in supporting the promotion of e-mobility taking into account the 2014-2020 lessons learnt. The type and the amount of the FIs will be determined based on the Ex-Ante assessment of the FI about the 2021-2027 period.*



### 2.1.1.2 Indicators

Reference: Article 17(3)(d)(ii)

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
Priority 5 Air	Specific objective 1: Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution	CF		RCO 36	Green infrastructure supported for other purposes than adaptation to climate change	ha	€10	€6160
		CF		Programme specific indicator	Dwellings with replaced solid fuel heating installations	number	0	+20 900 000
		CF		RCO 59	Alternative fuels infrastructure (refuelling/recharging points)	refuelling/recharging points	0	5040

Commented [A17]: Some indicators under SO 2.1 could be considered instead

Commented [A18]: This is a PO3 indicator

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference year	Target (2029)	Source of data [200]	Comments [200]
Priority 5 Air	Specific objective 1: Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the	CF		RCR 50	Population benefiting from measures for air quality	persons	0	2024-2021	3 949 904 89900 0	Supported projects, PE MA	

	urban environment, and reducing pollution											
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**2.1.1.3 Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention(not applicable to the EMFF)**

Reference: Article 17(3)(d)(vii)

Table 4: Dimension 1 – intervention field					
Priority №	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
Priority 5 Air	CF		Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution	048 Air quality and noise reduction measures	

Table 5: Dimension 2 – form of financing					
Priority №	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
Priority 5 Air	CF		Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution;	01 Grant	
				02-05 Financial instruments – depending on the results of The Ex-ante assessment of FI	

Table 6: Dimension 3 – territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus					
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Priority №	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
Priority 5 Air	CF		Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution	17	
				48	

Table 7: Dimension 6 – ESF+ secondary themes					
Priority №	Fund	Category of region	Specific objective	Code	Amount (EUR)
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

### 2.1.2 Specific objective addressing material deprivation

Reference: Article 17(3); CPR

Types of support

Text field [2 000 characters]

Main target groups

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Description of the national or regional schemes of support

Text field [2 000 characters]

Criteria for the selection of operations <sup>14</sup>

Text field [4 000 characters]

## 2.T. Technical assistance priority, pursuant to Article 30(4)

### 2.B.1 Priority for technical assistance pursuant to Article 30(4) – repeated for each TA priority

Reference: Article 17(3)(e bis) CPR;

#### 2.B.1.1 Intervention from the Funds

The related types of actions – Article 17(3)(e)bis(i) CPR

Text field [8 000]

The Technical assistance (TA) priority axis during the programming period 2014-2020 supports the programming, management, implementation, monitoring and control of the

<sup>14</sup> Only for programmes limited to the specific objective set out in Article 4(1)(c)(vii) of the ESF+ Regulation

**Commented [A19]:** The demarcation between the technical assistance to beneficiaries under this priority and the other priorities is not clear. A number of priorities above refer to measures focusing on capacity building too. Please clarify.

A number of measures below seem to be supporting the organisation rather than the achievement of goals, as previously commented in the meeting on the PA in February 2020.

Overall, the technical assistance axis is heavily focused on supporting the MA rather than the beneficiaries.

programme's activities, as well as the Monitoring committee (MC) work. Support is provided for developing high expertise of the MA employees, in accordance with the specificity of the activities performed. Development of methodological documents in the environmental sector, researches, analyses, studies and evaluations, necessary for programme implementation, as well as information campaigns, transparency and publicity activities are supported. Practical support for the beneficiaries is provided for presenting the funding opportunities and the successful implementation of the project proposals submitted.

The TA Priority in 2021-2027 will ensure the successful implementation of ~~OP~~Programme "Environment" 2021-2027 through support of programme planning, implementation, monitoring, control and assessment, its popularization, including contribution of the funds, as well as capacity building of MA and the newly introduced(potential) beneficiaries and their partners. Taking into account the rising requirements and changing needs, regarding the professional qualification and skills of the structures, engaged with ESIF, measures for building up and development of ~~MA and MC~~the administrative capacity off all stakeholders will be applied. Dedicated support for new beneficiaries/applicants and their partners will continue in complementarity and demarcation with measures funded under the specific PE priorities, where targeted measures to relevant sectoral beneficiaries under the respective call for proposals are envisaged. The capacity and motivation enhancement of the MA employees officials will be synchronized with the functional tasks of the units and the individual professional development needs, according to the ~~OPE~~ priorities and targets beyond 2020.

The implementation of this priority aims at realization of the following objectives:

*Specific objective 1: Provision of targeted trainings for beneficiaries, upgrading the capacity of the Managing authority and ensuring the promotion and public awareness of the program.*

~~*Specific objective 1: Providing proper and effective implementation, management and administration of Programme „Environment“ 2021-2027*~~

~~The application of the principles of good governance and an improved approach, based on good practices and experience gained from previous programming periods must be maintained.~~

Achieving effective and efficient management of PE in accordance with the principle of sound financial management, as well as in accordance with the European and national legislation. ~~The successful programme implementation is directly related to the MA employees' qualification and motivation, to the proper functioning of the MC and the qualitative contribution of the specialized MoEW administration, responsible for environmental and climate change policies.~~

To prepare high quality project proposals from the potential beneficiaries/beneficiaries and their partners, and thus shortening the deadlines for their evaluation, contracting and subsequent implementation is also one of the main tasks under this specific objective, together with ~~Another objective is raising awareness of the general public for better understanding of the scope, results and best practices of PE funded projects, incl. developing environmental awareness in children, pupils and university students.~~

Results expected:

Provided constant and upgraded trainings for (potential) beneficiaries and their partners for project preparation, implementation and further proper operation and maintenance of the assets acquired. Provided transparency of PE implementation, popularization, as well as wide

awareness and the contribution of ESIF among the general public, young generation - students (in school and university) and all citizens;

Specific objective 2: Providing proper and effective implementation, management and administration of Programme „Environment” 2021-2027

Results expected:

Increased efficiency of the Managing Authority for the smooth implementation, monitoring, evaluation and control of the programme, ensuring a high level of absorption of EU funds.

~~To prepare project proposals of high quality from the newly identified potential beneficiaries, and thus shortening the deadlines for their evaluation, contracting and subsequent implementation is one of the main tasks under this specific objective. Another objective is raising awareness of the general public for better understanding of the scope, results and best practices of PE-funded projects, incl. developing environmental awareness in children, pupils and university students.~~

- organization of practical seminars, introductory trainings, information days, etc. for the potential beneficiaries and new beneficiaries and their projects partners;

- providing methodological assistance as standard documents, manuals and written instructions, on the requirements for the preparation of PE projects and the subsequent sustainable management of the assets / results obtained under the programme;

- organization of public events; production and dissemination of advertising and information materials; work with mass media; development and dissemination of audio-visual materials; ~~outdoor commercials; social media communication; stakeholders communication;~~ development and implementation of communication campaigns; licenses and copyrights purchase; conduction of social surveys, etc.

- implementation of measures, set out in the Communication plan of PE 2021-2027 and following the requirements for funds implementation transparency and for programmes communication, set in the Common Provisions Regulation.

- other activities in relation to capacity building of stakeholders.

Indicative activities for support of planning, implementing, monitoring, control and assessment of the programme (SO 2):

- logistics and technical provision of the PE implementation, incl. Monitoring committee's work;

- providing materials, technical equipment and information systems about the PE management;

- supporting project assessment and selection processes (evaluation committee organization, hiring external experts, involving international institutions etc.), independent project assessments;

- supporting monitoring, financial control and audit, as well as risk assessment; anti-fraud, irregularities, anti-corruption measures;

- providing external expertise, incl. preparation of expert reports, analyses, studies and evaluations (incl. Evaluation plan), related to the PE 2021-2027 management, as well as to closure of OPE 2014-2020 and preparation of the next programming period 2028+;

- financing remunerations of the human resources engaged only with the implementation of strictly specified tasks on management, implementation, monitoring, assessment, providing of information and publicity and control of PE, in accordance with the national legislation or with the developed rules (incl. social and health insurance and all adjoining expenses, according to the legislation).

~~participation in and organization of trainings, as well as events for MA employees, Monitoring committee members and for employees for MoEW and other structures, who assist the work of the MA (meetings, conferences, seminars, study visits and experience exchange, etc.)~~

Indicative activities for capacity building of new potential beneficiaries and publicity (SO2): programme Environment“.

The main target groups - Article 17(3)(d)(iii):

The general public, mass media representatives, partners within the Thematic Working Group and MC; potential beneficiaries, beneficiaries and their partners; stakeholders, the administration responsible for environmental and climate change policies; students (in school and university); MA of the programme.

### 2.B.1.2. Indicators

Output indicators with the corresponding milestones and targets

Reference: Article 17(3)(e)bis(ii) CPR

Table 2: Output indicators

Priority	Specific Objective	Fund	Category of region	ID [5]	Indicator [255]	Measurement Unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
TA	<p>Provision of targeted trainings for beneficiaries, upgrading the capacity of the Managing authority and ensuring the promotion and public awareness of the program.</p> <p>Providing information, transparency and communication, reinforcement of the capacity of MA and the new potential beneficiaries for preparation and management of projects under PE</p>	ERDF	Less developed	TA1	Officials of (potential) beneficiaries /partners trained to increase its administrative capacity	number persons	120 75	720 200
				TA2	Trainings for MA officials to increase administrative capacity	number	40 120	240 720
					Officials of (potential) beneficiaries /partners trained to increase its administrative capacity			

			<u>TA3</u>	<u>Information campaigns held</u>	<u>number</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>
TA	<u>Providing proper and effective implementation, management and administration of Programme „Environment“ 2021-2027</u>		<u>TA4</u>	<u>MA officials supported by TA</u>	<u>number persons</u>	<u>118</u> <u><del>115</del></u>	<u>121</u> <u><del>118</del></u>
	<u>Providing proper and effective management, implementation and administration of Programme „Environment“ 2021-2027</u>		<u>TA5</u>	<u>Carried out internal and external evaluations under the programme</u>	<u>number</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>

Reference: Article 17(3)(e); Article 29, Article 30, Article 31, Article 89 CPR;

Description of technical assistance under flat rate payments – Article 30

Text field [5 000]

Description of technical assistance under payments not linked to costs – Article 31

Text field [3 000]

**Table 8: Dimension 1 – intervention field**

Priority №	Fund	Category of region	Code	Amount (EUR)
P6 TA	ERDF/ERDF		140 Information and communication	
			141 Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control	
			142 Evaluation and studies, data collection	
			143 Reinforcement of the capacity of Member State authorities, beneficiaries and relevant partners	

**Table 9: Dimension 5 – ESF+ secondary themes**

Priority №	Fund	Category of region	Code	Amount (EUR)
			NA	

## 2. Financial plan

Reference: Article 17(3)(f)(i)-(iii); Article 106(1)-(3), Article 10; Article 21; CPR

**A Transfers and contributions<sup>15</sup>**

Reference: Article 10; Article 21; CPR

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Programme amendment related to Article 10, CPR (contribution to Invest EU)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Programme amendment related to Article 21, CPR (transfers to instruments under direct or indirect management between shared management funds) |

**Table 15: Contributions to InvestEU\***

	Category of regions	Window 1	Window 2	Window 3	Window 4	Window 5	amount
		(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)=(a)+(b)+(c)+(d)+(e)
ERDF	More developed						
	Less developed						
	Transition						
ESF+	More developed						
	Less developed						
	Transition						
CF							
EMFF							
Total							

\*Cumulative amounts for all contributions during programming period.

**Table 16: Transfers to instruments under direct or indirect management\***

Fund	Category of regions	Instrument 1	Instrument 2	Instrument 3	Instrument 4	Instrument 5	Transfer amount
		(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)=(a)+(b)+(c)+(d)+(e)
ERDF	More developed						

<sup>15</sup> Applicable only to programme amendments in line with Article 10 and 21, CPR..



	Transition						
	Less developed						
	Outermost and northern sparsely populated						
ESF+	More developed						
	Transition						
	Less developed						
	Outermost						
CF							
EMFF							
Total							

\*Cumulative amounts for all transfers during programming period.

**Table 17: Transfers between shared management funds\***

		ERDF				ESF+				CF	EMFF	AMF	ISF	BMVI	Total
		More developed	Transition	Less developed	Outermost and northern sparsely populated	More developed	Transition	Less developed	Outermost						
<b>ERDF</b>	More developed														
	Transition														
	Less developed														
	Outermost and northern sparsely populated														
<b>ESF+</b>	More developed														
	Transition														
	Less developed														
	Outermost														
<b>CF</b>															
<b>EMFF</b>															
<b>Total</b>															

\*Cumulative amounts for all transfers during programming period.

### 3.1 Financial appropriations by year

Reference: Article 17(3)(f)(i)

**Table 10: Financial appropriations by year**



### 3.2 Total financial appropriations by fund and national co-financing<sup>XVI</sup>

Reference: Article 17(3)(f)(ii), Article 17(6)

For Jobs and growth goal:

Table 11: Total financial appropriations by fund and national co -financing										
Policy objective No or TA	Priority	Basis for calculation EU support (total or public)	Fund	Category of region*	EU contribution (a)	National contribution (b)=(c)+(d)	Indicative breakdown of national contribution		Total (e)=(a)+(b)**	Cofinancing rate (f)=(a)/(e)**
							public (c)	private (d)		
	Priority 1	P/T	ERDF	Less developed						
More developed										
Transition										
Special allocation for outermost and northern sparsely populated regions										
	Priority 2		ESF+	Less developed						
More developed										
Transition										
Outermost										

<sup>XVI</sup> Prior to the mid-term review in 2025 for the ERDF, the ESF+ and the CF, financial appropriations for the years 2021 to 2025 only.

	Priority 3		CF							
TA	TA Art 29 CPR		ERDF or ESF+ or CF							
	TA Art 30 CPR		ERDF or ESF+ or CF							
<b>Total ERDF</b>				More developed						
				Transition						
				Less developed						
				Special allocation for outermost and northern sparsely populated regions						
<b>Total ESF+</b>				More developed						
				Transition						
				Less developed						
				Outermost						
<b>Total CF</b>			N/A							
<b>Grand total</b>										

\* For ERDF: less developed, transition, more developed, and, where applicable special allocation for outermost and northern sparsely populated regions. For ESF+: less developed, transition, more developed and, where applicable, additional allocation for outermost regions. For CF: not applicable. For technical assistance, application of categories of region depends on selection of a fund.

\*\* Where relevant for all categories of region.

For the EMFF:

Reference: Article 17(3)(f)(iii)

**Table 11 A**

Priority	Type of area of support (nomenclature set out in the EMFF Regulation)	Basis for calculation of EU support	EU contribution	National public	Total	Co-financing rate
Priority 1	1.1	Public				
	1.2	Public				
	1.3	Public				
	1.4	Public				
	1.5	Public				
Priority 2	2.1	Public				
Priority 3	3.1	Public				
Priority 4	4.1	Public				
Technical assistance	5.1	Public				

**3. Enabling conditions**

Reference: Article 19(3)(h)

**Table 12: Enabling conditions**

Enabling conditions	Fund	Specific objective (N/A to the EMFF)	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification

Updated planning for required investments in water and wastewater sectors	ERDF	Promoting of sustainable development of the water sector	No	<p>For each or both sectors, a national investment plan is in place and includes:</p> <p>1. An assessment of the current state of implementation of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (UWWTD) 91/271/EEC [and the recast of the Drinking Water Directive (DWD) 98/83/EC]</p> <p>2. The identification and planning of any public investments, including an indicative financial estimation</p> <p>a. Required to implement the UWWTD, including a prioritization with regard to the size of agglomerations and the environmental impact, with investments broken down for each wastewater agglomeration</p> <p>b. Required to implement the DWD Directive 98/83/EC</p> <p>c. [Required to match the needs stemming from the proposed recast (COM(2017)75 final), regarding in particular the revised quality parameters detailed in annex I]</p> <p>3. An estimate of investments needed to renew existing wastewater and water supply infrastructure, including networks, based on their age and depreciation plans</p> <p>4. An indication of potential sources of public financing, when needed to complement user charges.</p>	No	[500]	<p>Under point 1. and 2. Preparation of an updated assessment of the implementation of Directive 91/271 / EEC and Directive 98/83 EC, incl. of the requirements for amending the Directive.</p> <p>According to point 3. Update of the evaluation of the necessary investments for the reconstruction of the existing water supply and sewage infrastructure.</p> <p>Under point 4. Preparation of analysis for potential sources and ways of public financing</p> <p>Deadline: <del>June</del>December 2020</p>
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Updated planning for waste management	ERDF	Promoting the transition to a circular economy	No	<p>Waste management plan(s) are in place in accordance with Article 28 of Directive 2008/98/EC as amended by Directive EU 2018/851/EU and covering the entire territory of the Member State and include:</p> <p>1. An analysis of the current waste management situation in the geographical entity concerned, including the type, quantity and source of waste generated and an evaluation of their future development taking into account the expected impacts of measures set out in the Waste Prevention Programme(s) developed in accordance with Article 11149/19 ADD 1 AFG/NTC/cs 37 ANNEX ECOMP.2 EN 29 of Directive 2008/98/EC as amended by Directive 2018/851/EU</p> <p>2. An assessment of existing waste collection schemes, including the material and territorial coverage of separate collection and measures to improve its operation, as well as the need for new collection schemes</p> <p>3. An investment gap assessment justifying the need for the closure of existing waste installations and additional or upgraded waste infrastructure, with an information of the sources of revenues available to meet operation and maintenance costs</p> <p>4. Information on how future site locations will be determined and on the capacity of future waste treatment installations.</p>	No	<p>Development and adoption of a National waste management plan for the period 2021-2028, including:</p> <p>Under point 1. An analysis of the current waste management situation;</p> <p>Under point 2. An assessment of the current waste collection schemes;</p> <p>Under point 3 and 4 - Preparation of assessment of the investments gap and information on future waste treatment sites.</p> <p>Deadline: December 2020</p>
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Effective disaster risk management framework.	ERDF	Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience	No	<p>A national or regional disaster risk management plan, established on the basis of risk assessments, taking due account of the likely impacts of climate change and the existing climate adaptation strategies, is in place and includes:</p> <p>1. A description of key risks, assessed in accordance with the provisions of Article 6 (1) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU8, reflecting current and evolving risk profile. The assessment shall build, for climate related risks, on climate change projections and scenarios.</p> <p>2. Description of the disaster prevention, preparedness and response measures to address the key risks identified. The measures shall be prioritized in proportion to the risks and their economic impact, capacity gaps, effectiveness and efficiency, taking into account possible alternatives</p> <p>3. Information on financing resources and mechanisms available for covering the operation and maintenance costs related to prevention, preparedness and response</p>	No	<p>Preparation and adoption of a National disaster risk management plan, including:</p> <p>Under point 1 - Development of risk assessment methodology; collecting data on damage and losses from disasters and identifying threats and risks at national level;</p> <p>Under point 2 - Development of a National disaster risk reduction programme;</p> <p>On point 3 - Provision of financial support mechanisms for prevention, preparedness and response activities</p> <p>Deadline for point 1-3: December 2020</p>
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#### 4. Programme authorities

Reference: Article 17(3)(j); Article 65, Article 78 CPR

Table 13: Programme authorities			
Programme authorities	Name of the institution [500]	Contact name [200]	E-mail [200]

Managing authority	General Directorate “Operational Programme Environment” in the Ministry of Environment and Water	Valeria Kalcheva	<a href="mailto:vkalcheva@moew.government.bg">vkalcheva@moew.government.bg</a>
Audit authority	Executive Agency “Audit of EU Funds”	Lyudmila Rangelova	<a href="mailto:aeuf@minfin.bg">aeuf@minfin.bg</a>
Body which receives payments from the Commission	“National Fund” Directorate in the Ministry of Finance	Manuela Milosheva	<a href="mailto:natfund@minfin.bg">natfund@minfin.bg</a>
Accounting authority	“National Fund” Directorate in the Ministry of Finance	Manuela Milosheva	<a href="mailto:natfund@minfin.bg">natfund@minfin.bg</a>

## 5. Partnership

Reference: Article 17(3)(g)

Text field [10 000]

The specifics of OP-Programme “Environment” and its main priority areas, require wide partnership with organizations [at national level]. This is guaranteed by the Thematic working group (TWG), dedicated to the development of OPE 2021-2027, in accordance with Article 7 of Council of Ministers Decree 142/7.06.2019. The experience from both programming periods - 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 shows the key importance of the cooperation on EC level for the efficient management and implementation of the programme.

In August 2019 an internal working group (IWG) is established with task to prepare the necessary analyses to be the basis for the work of the OPE 2021-2027 TWG. In the IWG the specialized administrations of MoEW are represented that are responsible for the policy making in the field of environment and climate change, subject of funding in the framework of OPE 2021-2027. For the IWG work is prepared a working version of the programme. Based on it the first OPE draft is developed. The draft includes a strategy for programme contribution to the policy objectives / thematic objectives for 2021-2027 programming period. The strategy is developed on the basis of analysis of the member state engagements, regarding the European and national legislation on environment and climate change; analysis of the current situation; lessons learned from past experience; challenges about the administrative capacity and governance and is based on relevant national documents (plans, programs and strategies) as well as on EU documents. Justification for the selected policy objectives / thematic objectives is developed, and also priorities of the programme, incl. specific objectives of each priority. In October 2019 a meeting of the IWG is held, during which the main parameters of the 2021-2027 programming period are discussed, the commitments of each unit, the terms and the way of functioning of the IWG. As a result of the work of this group, all documents necessary for the preparation of the first draft of the programme are elaborated.

As next step, OPE MA initiates establishment of a thematic working group (TWG) for development of OPE 2021-2027, in pursuance of Article 7, paragraph 1 of Council of Ministers Decree 142 / 2019 and with members in accordance with the provisions of Article 7, paragraph 4 of the Decree. Represented within the TWG are: Central coordination unit (CCU); the programmes’ certification and audit bodies for the 2014-2020 programming period; the ministries, designated by the Council of Ministers to

**Commented [A20]:** As the programme draft was first prepared by the IWG and before the set up of the TWG, please explain how the partnership principle was followed. Please also explain what were the main comments of the TWG members which were acted upon in revising the draft programme.

**Commented [A21]:** Article 6 of the regulation focuses on regional and local partners. Please explain how regional and local partners were included in the preparation of the programme.

develop the programmes; administrations, responsible for the respective sector policies; regional development councils; employers and workers representative organizations; nationally representative organizations of and for people with disabilities, National association of the Municipalities, National statistical institute, academic community representatives; Fund Manager of Financial Instruments, etc. To ensure representation of non-profit legal organisations, working in public interest in the fields in accordance with Article 7, paragraph 4, point 14 of Decree 142 / 2019, on 24.9.2019 the respective invitation is published. Applications are submitted by the relevant representatives of the NGO sector. Due to the lack of applications by organizations working in the field of social inclusion and integration of marginalized groups, the invitation was re-published (on 21.10.2019), aiming to guarantee their representation.

The working group composition is coordinated at national level with the CCU. The first meeting of the TWG is organized and held on 09.01.2020. During the meeting, the documents elaborated by the IWG, are presented and discussed, as well as the requirements on the programme development and the general context of the TWG work. Based on the comments and suggestions received during the meeting, the draft OPE 2021-2027 was updated and resent to the working group members for follow-up comments and proposals with an extended review period of 15 working days.

After analysis and consideration of the received materials, on 11.3.2020 a new updated draft of OPE 2021-2027 is sent to the members of the TWG for review and proposals, and the comments received are reflected in the current document.

Following the partnership principle, the Thematic working group is subsequently transformed into a OPE Monitoring committee 2021-2027.

## 6. Communication and visibility

*Reference: Article 17(3)(i) CPR, Article 42(2) CPR*

*Text field [4 500]*

### Objectives

#### Main objective:

Promoting the role of OP-Programme "Environment" 2021-2027 and the European union in ensuring healthy environment in Bulgaria (incl. through improving environmental infrastructure) and enhancing the quality of life of Bulgarian citizens.

#### Specific objectives:

SO1: Raising awareness of the general public for better understanding of the scope, results and best practices of OPE funded projects;

SO2: Informing potential beneficiaries, partner organizations and other stakeholders about the funding opportunities provided by OPE;

SO3: Raising awareness and competence of beneficiaries in project implementation;

SO4: Developing environmental awareness in all citizens of the country as a guarantee for sustainability of the measures taken

SO5: Ensuring maximum transparency of the OPE management and implementation process and raising awareness and confidence in the opportunities provided by the EU through the European structural and investment funds.

### TARGET AUDIENCE

- General public - active adult population living on the territory of the country and Bulgarian citizens abroad;

- Children and adolescents – students (in school and university);
- Potential beneficiaries – beneficiaries eligible for participation in a specific procedure;
- Organizations that have awarded a grant contract for implementation of a project with European funding;
- Administration - all units and bodies involved in the management of EU funds in Bulgaria with functions in managing and administration of the programmes, as well as the ones responsible for environmental and climate change policies;
- Mediators / disseminators of information - institutions and persons who inform, opinion and attitude makers, influence in the decision-making process, support the activities of beneficiaries / potential beneficiaries and the governing administration - media, environmental NGOs and other related to OPE projects, European institutions, information networks, end-users of project results

### 1. COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

The planned activities are focused on all target groups and the choice of specific measures is linked to the goals set. Use of various communication channels is envisaged, and in all cases, where appropriate, an active communication and feedback will be sought with the target groups:

- Information and education campaigns (incl. online);
- Conduction of information events (incl. Online);
- Conduction of the monitoring committee meetings;
- Management of the OPE website [www.eufunds.bg/en/opos](http://www.eufunds.bg/en/opos) and social media presence;
- Meetings and information days with potential beneficiaries, training seminars / information meetings for beneficiaries, public discussions;
- Others.

### 2. CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION

- Electronic media;
- Print media;
- Online media (online platforms of information sites, social networks);
- Direct communication (events, information days, seminars, discussions, trainings, etc.);
- OPE website [www.eufunds.bg/en/opos](http://www.eufunds.bg/en/opos);
- Information portal of the European structural and investment funds – [www.eufunds.bg](http://www.eufunds.bg);
- Information system for management and monitoring of EU funds in Bulgaria - UMIS;
- Monitoring Committee;
- 28 information centers network for promotion of EU Cohesion policy in Bulgaria;
- Economic and social partners;
- Others

### 3. BUDGET

The planned budget (estimated only on the basis of European co-financing) is 0.3% of ESIF share under the programme, which amounts to nearly BGN 10 mln (EUR 5 mln.). The communication and transparency budget is based on the whole programme budget and is to be refined on the basis of national contribution. The indicative budget shall be distributed for each year from the 2021-2027 programming period.

### 4. MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT INDICATORS

**Quantitative Indicators:** Measurement of the achieved quantitative parameters of physical performance / progress (outputs)

- number of campaigns carried out;
- number of Monitoring committees meetings held;

**Commented [A22]:** Consider including impact indicators, e.g. number of people reached by the campaigns etc.

- number of information events held (incl. online);
- number of publications on [www.eufunds.bg/en/opus](http://www.eufunds.bg/en/opus);
- number of hits on the OPE website and social networks (web analytics, social media indicators);
- **number** of broadcasts / publications in the electronic / print media;
- **level of public awareness - number of people reached by communication measures;**
- meetings and information days with potential beneficiaries and branch organizations for presenting open calls and eligible activities;
- training seminars / information meetings for beneficiaries for implementation of OPE funded projects.

**Qualitative indicators:** Measurement of effect/result, as well as of lasting impact, by conducting national representative social surveys to measure the level of public awareness:

Level of public awareness as a result of the OPE information and communication measures implemented.

These indicators will be set at procedures level in order to report the contribution of the programme to raising awareness and transparency, regarding the public ESIF funds spending.

## 7. Use of unit costs, lump sums, flat rates and financing not linked to costs

Reference: Articles 88 and 89 CPR

**Table 14: Use of unit costs, lump sums, flat rates and financing not linked to costs**

Indication of use of Articles 88 and 89:*	Priority No	Fund	Specific objective (Jobs and growth goal) or area of support (EMFF)
Use of reimbursement of eligible expenditure based on <b>flat rates</b> under priority according to Article 88 CPR (simplified cost options) will be applied for <b>indirect costs under all Programme's priorities – organization and management, information and communication, elaboration of tender documentation.</b>	Priority 1 "Water"	ERDF	Promoting of sustainable development of the water sector
	Priority 2 "Waste"	CF	Promoting the transition to a circular economy
Use of reimbursement of eligible expenditure based on <b>unit costs</b> under priority according to Article 88 CPR (simplified cost options) will be applied for <b>direct costs under priority 5 Air – expenditures for replacement of heating device/installation using solid fuel.</b>	Priority 3 "Biodiversity"	<del>CF</del> ERDF	Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution
	Priority 4 "Risk and climate change"	ERDF	"Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience".
	Priority 5 "Air"	CF	Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution

\* Full information will be provided according to the models annexed to the CPR.

## APPENDICES

- Reimbursement of eligible expenditure based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates (Article 88 CPR)
- Financing not linked to costs (Article 89 CPR)
- EMFF action plan for small-scale coastal fishing
- EMFF action plan for each outermost region

**Appendix 1: Reimbursement of eligible expenditure from the Commission to the Member State based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates**

**Template for submitting data for the consideration of the Commission**  
**(Article 88)**

Date of submitting the proposal	
Current version	

**A. Summary of the main elements**

Priority	Fund	Specific objective (jobs and growth goal) or area of support (EMFF)	Category of region	Estimated proportion of the total financial allocation within the priority to which the SCO will be applied in % (estimate)	Type(s) of operation		Corresponding indicator name(s)		Unit of measurement for the indicator	Type of SCO (standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates)	Corresponding standard scales of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates (in national currency)
					Code	Description	Code	Description			
Water	ERDF										
Waste	CF										
Biodiversity	<del>CF</del> ERDF										
Risk	ERDF										
Air	CF										

**B. Details by type of operation (to be completed for every type of operation)**

**Did the managing authority receive support from an external company to set out the simplified costs below?**

**If so, please specify which external company: Yes/No - Name of external company**

Types of operation:

1.1. Description of the operation type	
1.2 Priority /specific objective(s) concerned (Jobs and growth goal) or area of support (EMFF)	
1.3 Indicator name <sup>1</sup>	
1.4 Unit of measurement for indicator	
1.5 Standard scale of unit cost, lump sum or flat rate	
1.6 Amount	
1.7 Categories of costs covered by unit cost, lump sum or flat rate	
1.8 Do these categories of costs cover all eligible expenditure for the operation? (Y/N)	
1.9 Adjustment(s) method	
1.10 Verification of the achievement of the unit of measurement - what document(s) will be used to verify the achievement of the unit of measurement? - describe what will be checked during management verifications (including on-the-spot), and by whom. -what arrangements to collect and store the data/documents described?	
1.11 Possible perverse incentives	

<sup>1</sup> Several complementary indicators (for instance one output indicator and one result indicator) are possible for one type of operation. In these cases, fields 1.3 to 1.11 should be filled in for each indicator.



or problems caused by this indicator, how they could be mitigated, and the estimated level of risk	
1.12 Total amount (national and EU) expected to be reimbursed	

**C: Calculation of the standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates**

1. Source of data used to calculate the standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates (who produced, collected and recorded the data; where the data are stored; cut-off dates; validation, etc.).

2. Please specify why the proposed method and calculation is relevant to the type of operation.

3. Please specify how the calculations were made, in particular including any assumptions made in terms of quality or quantities. Where relevant, statistical evidence and benchmarks should be used and attached to this annex in a format that is usable by the Commission.

4. Please explain how you have ensured that only eligible expenditure was included in the calculation of the standard scale of unit cost, lump sum or flat rate.

5. Assessment of the audit authority(ies) of the calculation methodology and amounts and the arrangements to ensure the verification, quality, collection and storage of data.

*Appendix 2: Financing not linked to cost*

**Template for submitting data for the consideration of the Commission  
(Article 89)**

Date of submitting the proposal	
Current version	

A. Summary of the main elements

Priority	Fund	Specific objective (Jobs and growth goal) or area of support (EMFF)	Category of region	<i>The amount covered by the financing not linked to cost</i>	Type(s) of operation	Conditions to be fulfilled/results to be achieved	Corresponding indicator name(s)		Unit of measurement for the indicator
							Code	Description	
The overall amount covered									

**B. Details by type of operation (to be completed for every type of operation)**

Types of operation:

1.1. Description of the operation type			
1.2 Priority / specific objective(s) (Jobs and growth goal) or area of support (EMFF) concerned			
1.3 Conditions to be fulfilled or results to be achieved			
1.4 Deadline for fulfilment of conditions or results to be achieved			
1.5 Indicator definition for deliverables			
1.6 Unit of measurement for indicator for deliverables			
1.7 Intermediate deliverables (if applicable) triggering reimbursement by the Commission with schedule for reimbursements	Intermediate deliverables	Date	Amounts
1.8 Total amount (including EU and national funding)			
1.9 Adjustment(s) method			
1.10 Verification of the achievement of the result or condition (and where relevant, the intermediate deliverables) - describe what document(s) will be used to verify the achievement of the result or condition - describe what will be checked during management verifications (including on-the-spot), and by whom. - describe what are the arrangements to collect and store the data/documents			
1.11 Arrangements to ensure the audit trail Please list the body(ies) responsible for these arrangements.			

**Appendix 3: EMFF action plan for small-scale coastal fishing**

**Template for submitting data for the consideration of the Commission**

Date of submitting the proposal	
Current version	

**1. Description of the small-scale coastal fleet**

*Text field [5 000]*

**2. General description of the strategy for the development of profitable and sustainable small-scale coastal fishing**

*Text field [5 000] and indicative overall EMFF amount allocated*

**3. Description of the specific actions under the strategy for the development of profitable and sustainable small-scale coastal fishing**

Description of the main actions	Indicative EMFF amount allocated (EUR)
Adjustment and management of fishing capacity <i>Text field [10 000]</i>	
Promotion of sustainable, climate resilient and low-carbon fishing practices that minimize damage to the environment <i>Text field [10 000]</i>	
Reinforcement of the value chain of the sector and the promotion of marketing strategies <i>Text field [10 000]</i>	
Promotion of skills, knowledge, innovation and capacity building <i>Text field [10 000]</i>	
Improvement of health, safety and working conditions on board fishing vessels <i>Text field [10 000]</i>	
Increased compliance with data collection, traceability, monitoring, control and surveillance requirements <i>Textfield [10 000]</i>	
Involvement of small-scale operators in the participatory management of the maritime space, including Marine Protected Areas and Natura 2000 areas <i>Textfield [10 000]</i>	
Diversification of activities in the broader sustainable blue economy <i>Text field [10 000]</i>	
Collective organisation and participation of small-scale operators in the decision-making and advisory processes <i>Textfield [10 000]</i>	

**4. Where appropriate, the implementation of the FAO voluntary guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries**

*Text field [10 000]*

**5. Where appropriate, the implementation of the regional plan of action for small-scale fisheries from the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean**

*Text field [10 000]*

## 6. Indicators

Table 1: Output indicators			
Title of the output indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)

Table 2: Result indicators				
Title of the result indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Target (2029)

**Appendix 4: EMFF action plan for each outermost region**

**Template for submitting data for the consideration of the Commission**

Date of submitting the proposal	
Current version	

**1. Description of the strategy for the sustainable exploitation of fisheries and the development of the sustainable blue economy**

*Text field [30 000]*

**2. Description of the main actions envisaged and the corresponding financial means**

Description of the main actions	EMFF amount allocated (EUR)
Structural support to the fishery and aquaculture sector under the EMFF <i>Text field [10 000]</i>	
Compensation for the additional costs under Article 21 of the EMFF <i>Text field [10 000]</i>	
Other investments in the sustainable blue economy necessary to achieve a sustainable coastal development <i>Text field [10 000]</i>	

**3. Description of the synergies with other sources of Union funding**

*Text field [10 000]*

**4. Description of the synergies with the action plan for small-scale coastal fishing**

*Text field [10 000]*