

Project Application Form

Under the Recovery and Resilience Facility

1. Project name

Development of an electronic identification (eID) national scheme and its personalization in the Bulgarian Personal Documents

2. Description of the project (objectives, main activities)

The main project purpose is to develop a system for electronic identification and its personalization in the Bulgarian Personal Documents (BPDs) by creating a **Centralized Electronic Identification System** (CeIDS) and a **Centralized System for Bulgarian Personal Documents Personalization** (CSBPDP), logically compatible and workable. This will enable individuals to obtain modern identity documents that identify them reliably in the physical and electronic environments.

In 2016, the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria adopted a new Electronic Identification Act (EIA), which regulates the implementation of a National Electronic Identification Scheme for persons in accordance with EU Regulation 910/2014. According to the provisions of the law, the Ministry of Interior (Mol) is a national electronic identification authority that issues an electronic identity certificate (eIDC). Mol maintains an electronic register of electronic identity certificates, an electronic register of electronic identity administrators, an electronic register of electronic identification centers (validation authorities) and an electronic register for authorizations. The building of an independent, secure and reliable information and communication infrastructure as well as the development of open source information systems, registers and public portals allow their reuse by various organizations, companies and citizens.

The eID system implementation has a critical importance for the successful execution of the other projects and initiatives laid down in the Roadmap for E-government development in the Republic of Bulgaria and for the new information systems development that will use the National Electronic Identification Scheme as a unified method for secure identification of citizens.

The Bulgarian Personal Documents Act (BPDA) defines that the identity card may serve as a media of an electronic identity certificates, Art. 23 (4). This provision requires the integration of CSBPDP and the National Automated Information Fund "National Register of Bulgarian Identity Documents" (NAIF NRBID) with the Centralized Electronic Identification System. The system for issuing the Bulgarian Personal Documents cannot fulfill the legal requirement BPDs to serve as media of a unique electronic identifier (UeID) without established CeIDS, as it will be impossible to generate electronic identifiers and eIDC personalize on the issued BPDs. It would not be possible to ensure the issuance of BPDs, which serve as media of a unique electronic identifier, if the three systems are not built and upgraded simultaneously in the necessary logical compatibility and operability. This would hinder a key building component for the transition to a unified electronic identification of persons to National and European public e-services. In this regard, Protocol

Decision item 16 under Protocol № 39 of the meeting of the Council of Ministers on 13.09.2017 with the addition of the Protocol Decision under item 40 of 31.01.2018 it is assumed that the CeIDS is a key element of the System for issuing Bulgarian personal documents (SIBPD).

The specific project objectives are related to providing an appropriate mechanism for centralized electronic identification of individuals in the electronic world, allowing easy and convenient verification of their identity with maximum protection (highest level, according to EU Regulation 910/2014), for secure transactions. The systems will provide flexible opportunities for issuing electronic identification certificates, both in Bulgaria and for citizens abroad, and their personalizing on the BPDs, in order to ensure maximum distribution at minimum cost for the citizens.

The project will contribute directly to overcoming the main challenges identified in the Strategy for e-government of the Republic of Bulgaria in the period 2019-2023 and the Roadmap for its implementation. It will support the accession to the European Cross-Border Electronic Identification Initiative.

Another specific project goal is the development of various electronic administrative and internal administrative services related to the processes covered by the various subsystems of the National Electronic Identification Scheme.

Main activities:

Activity 1 – Development of a Centralized Electronic Identification System including terminals for eIDC recording.

The activity includes the following services and deliveries: eID national scheme development, building and commissioning of basic and additional specialized software components for eID scheme execution and delivery, integration and warranty support of specialized hardware, system and application software for the implementation of the infrastructure and the environment for eID scheme development, as well as the necessary trainings.

The project will develop connected registers, systems, subsystems and others, such as registers of electronic identity certificates, electronic identifiers, administrators of electronic identity and electronic identification centers, authorizations and others.

Electronic administrative services will be registered and put into operation in the Administrative Register as follows:

a) eID services:

- Request for an additional eID;
- eID suspension;
- eID cancelling;
- Resumption of a suspended eID;
- Extension of validity.

b) Electronic authorization services:

- Authorization of a person for a specific administrative service, set of services or representation to an administrative body;
- Suspension of a person authorization;

- Resumption of a suspended authorization;
- Extension of validity.

Activity 2 – design, supervision and construction - sites under § 5, para 39 of the Spatial Development Act for centralized issuance of BPDs, incl. the interior equipment and the physical security system, the building deviations for connecting the constructions with the technical infrastructure grids and facilities, and with the adjacent street network and the vertical planning. The activity includes design of one or more buildings for CSBPDP Personalization Center and one building for an Office for Administrative Services for Citizens, as well as design of a vertical planning and other sites ensuring the CSBPDP operations and project construction realization.

Activity 3 – Development of a Centralized System for Bulgarian Personal Documents Personalization. The CSBPDP should be a set of applied software to manage, control and provide all activities related to the personalization process, technical and programming tools ensuring the operation of the application software, as well a sensitive equipment and software for personalization. The system should ensure binding of the received requests for BPD issuance with a specific type and identification number of the form, personalization of BPD and verification for a valid BPD. The activity includes the implementation of services for: preparation of a draft project of CSBPDP, development and implementation of application software and testing of CSBPDP, CSBPDP commissioning, as well delivery and installation of technical and software tools ensuring the operation of application software, sensitive equipment and programming tools for personalization of documents type “passport” and “ID card”, trainings.

Activity 4 – Supply and installation of technical and system software for the development of the existing NAIF NRBID.

The activity includes mainly supplies:

Sub-activity 4.1 – supplies for the Ministry of Interior data transmission network for the needs of NAIF NRBID and CeIDS.

Sub-activity 4.2 –technical and software tools supplies for information environment development, as well as migration of the existing information array data into the new deployed information environment.

Sub-activity 4.3 – terminal workstations supplies, including biometric stations and biometric data collection and management software for BPDs verification workstations.

Activity 5 - supply and installation of technical and software tools for updating the Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) for maintaining the process of BPD issuing and their verification. The activity includes the following services and supplies: preparation of a draft technical solution for PKI technical and software tools updating and modernization, supply and installation of the necessary technical and software tools for PKI implementation, database migration, PKI integration with the System for personalization and the established National Directory of Public Keys and the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) and putting into regular operation of the PKI for ensuring the process of BDS issuing with electronic media as well as the necessary trainings.

Activity 6 – costs for remuneration of the managing and expert team of the beneficiary.

Activity 7 – costs for consulting services from an external contractor in the process of project implementation, including changes in the legislation at national and international level and their respective technical application; unforeseen technical requirements to the

national eID scheme arising in the period from 2021 until the end of the project implementation, etc.

At present, an interdepartmental working group under the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic and Demographic Policy discusses a draft law amending the Electronic Identification Act. Proposals for amendments to Regulation № 910/2014 concerning the development of common European technical “standards” on the basis of which to recognize E-identification schemes are being considered at EU level. The expected changes may lead to a change in the scope of the project in the course of its implementation. Additional technological requirements could arise for the extension of the national electronic identification scheme as well as for the adjustment of the business processes in it and the ways of its use. The dynamic changes and requirements for the way of protection on the carriers of electronic identification will similarly require the need to upgrade the components providing information security for the future periods after 2023.

3. Beneficiary

Ministry of Interior, Republic of Bulgaria

4. Time schedule for project Implementation, including activities, stages¹

It is envisaged that the project will be implemented in a two-years period, after which a minimum of three years of warranty support will be provided.

The project timeline is as follows:

Activity	Month																							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Activity 1 – Centralized Electronic Identification System development, including terminals for eIDC recording	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Activity 2 – Design, supervision and construction	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X								
Activity 3 – Centralized System for Bulgarian Personal Documents Personalization development	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Activity 4 – Supply and installation of technical and system software for the development of the existing NAIF NRBID	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																	
Sub-activity 4.1 – supplies for the Ministry of Interior data transmission network for the needs of NAIF NRBID and CeIDS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																	
Sub-activity 4.2 –technical and software tools supplies for information environment development, as well as	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X											

¹ The time schedule shall be relevant for determining interim targets within the framework of the Recovery and Resilience Plan and is directly related to the disbursement of grant instalments from the Recovery and Resilience Fund.

[illegible]

- **European funding: 122 465 585 BGN (63,78%)**
- **National co-financing: 69 534 415 BGN (36,22%)** – in accordance with Minutes № 39 of a meeting of the Council of Ministers on 13.09.2017 with a decision approving a model for centralised personalisation of Bulgarian personal documents with decentralised administrative services to citizens and a financial justification approved by the Minister of Finance Vladislav Goranov
- ✓ **Activity 1: 89 748 228 BGN with VAT**
- ✓ **Activity 2: 18 805 239 BGN with VAT**
- ✓ **Activity 3: 20 630 821 BGN with VAT**
- Activity 4: 50 957 119 BGN with VAT:**
 - Sub-activity 1 – 23 580 677 BGN with VAT;
 - Sub-activity 2 – 12 937 819 BGN with VAT;
 - Sub-activity 3 – 14 438 623 BGN with VAT;
- ✓ **Activity 5: 4 610 641 BGN with VAT**
- ✓ **Activity 6: 6 636 209 BGN with VAT**
- ✓ **Activity 7: 611 743 BGN with VAT**

The values are formed on the basis of a public procurement: 18-08-2018-022-MP-22 “Design, construction and management of a system for issuing Bulgarian personal documents generation 2019”²

5.1. Indicative allocation of the financial resource, depending on the type of expense

- New sites building (Construction and Installation Works) – 9.79%
- Physical assets (purchase of machinery and equipment) – 39.69%
- Human capital (skills development, requalification) – 0%
- Labor (labor costs, consulting services, other unplanned costs) – 3.77%
- Technology (Intangible fixed assets acquisition costs - patents, software) – 46.74%

6. Indicators

6.1. Result indicator/s

- 1. Number of contracts concluded**

² The documentation of the public procedure can be found on the following web link:
<https://www.mvr.bg/dussd/%D0%BD%D0%B0%D1%87%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%BE/%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B3%D0%BB%D0%B5%D0%B4/%D0%BE%D0%B1%D1%89%D0%B5%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B2%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B8-%D0%BF%D0%BE%D1%80%D1%8A%D1%87%D0%BA%D0%B8-%D0%BE%D1%82%D0%BA%D1%80%D0%B8%D1%82%D0%B8-%D1%81%D0%BB%D0%B5%D0%B4-01.10.2014-%D0%B3/proektirane-izgrajdane-upravlienie-sistema-balgarski-lichni-dokumenti-2019>

Baseline value – 0 – April 2021
Target value – 1 – 2nd quarter of 2021

2. A new system for Centralized Electronic Identification System developed – 1pc.
Baseline value – 0 – 2nd quarter of 2021³
Target value – 1pc. - 2nd quarter of 2023
3. Number of developed / upgraded registers - min 5 pcs.
Baseline value – 1 pc. – April 2021
Milestone value - 1 pc. – December 2022
Target value – 5 pc. – 2nd quarter of 2023
4. Number of electronic services for their provision in transactional mode – 20 pcs.
Baseline value – 0 pc. – April 2021
Target value – 20 pc. – 2nd quarter of 2023
5. Built a modern protected “Personalization Centre” – 1 pc.
Baseline value – 0 – April 2021
Target value – 1 – 2nd quarter of 2023
6. A Centralized System for Bulgarian Personal Documents Personalization (CSBPDP) developed – 1 pc.
Baseline value – 0 - first year 2021
Target value – 1 pc. – 2nd quarter of 2023
7. A network for Ministry of Interior data transmission for the needs of NAIF NRBID developed
Baseline value – 0- first year 2021
Target value – 1 pc. - II-nd half of 2021
8. Terminal workstations built, including biometric stations and biometric data collection and management software for BPDs verification workstations - up to 400 sites of the Ministry of Interior
Baseline value – 0 - first year 2021
Target value – 400 pcs. – 2nd quarter of 2023
9. Public Key Infrastructure built
Baseline value – 0 - first year 2021
Target value – 1 pc. - 2nd quarter of 2023

6.2. Effect indicator/s

Number of issued Bulgarian personal documents with electronic identification:

- Baseline value - 0 [2021]
- Milestone value - 300 000 pc. [2023]
- Milestone value - 400 000 pc. [2024]

³ The period for achieving the target values is calculated if the project implementation starts from April 2021.

- Milestone value - 350 000 pc. [2025]
- Target value – 1 050 000 pc. In the period 2023 – 2025

Number of public administrative electronic services accessible through high-security electronic identification in accordance with Regulation 910/2014:

- Baseline value - 0 [2021]
- Target value – 500 pc. – 2nd half of 2023 r.

7. Does the project require the opening of a procedure pursuant to the Public Procurement Act (PPA)?

Yes

7.1. If a procedure under the Public Procurement Act is required, what part of the activities and financial resources will be subject of the public procurement?

97 % of the activities and financial resources will be a subject of public procurement. The preparation of the technical specifications and the required documentation for the public procurements will be prepared by employees of the Ministry of Interior.

7.2. If a procedure under the Public Procurement Act is required, what is the indicative schedule for its implementation?

The indicative schedule for implementation of procedures under the Public Procurement Act is:

- 1 months for signing a contract with the selected contractor
- 23 months for implementation of Public Procurement Contracts
- 36 months warranty support

The contracting authority of the public procurements / procedures under the Public Procurement Act is the Ministry of Interior.

8. Demarcation and complementarity

8.1. If similar projects have been implemented (regardless of their source of funding), describe how this project builds on/complements what has been achieved with previous projects.

In 1998, a contract was executed for the issuance of identity documents, meeting international and European standards in accordance with the stage of development of information technology for the BPD issuance at that time.

An automated information system (AIS) Bulgarian Identity Documents (BID) has been set up in order to automate the process of issuing and replacing Bulgarian personal documents, including their personalization. Software is used to enter and store images of the signature and photograph of the person to whom the identity document is issued.

The system provides a number of technological reports, control and statistical processing of

the documents blanks of the issued documents and logs the activities of the operators.

A centralized relational database (DB) has been built, which exchanges data with regional databases through replication.

Automated transfer of personal data from the National Population Database (NPD) has been implemented.

Automation of the processes are implemented for:

- Entering of the applications;
- Input of graphic images by scanning;
- Personalization of documents on technological lines. A central database of materials has been created under a strict report and applied software has been implemented for control and reporting of the used forms at central and regional level.

In the system are implemented automated inspections in AIS imposed measures for administrative coercion (NMAP) - of Bulgarian citizens and foreigners.

As a result of the built system the following has been achieved:

- the Bulgarian identity documents issued since 1999 are in accordance with the new international and national requirements;
- ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) recommendations for machine-readable passports, ISO standards, European Union decisions on uniform passport models, new national symbols have been complied with;
- In the short time of two years, the civil (green) passports have been replaced with ID cards, and the introduction of the new passports has enabled Bulgarian citizens to travel without a visa to the EU long before the accession of the Republic of Bulgaria to it.

In 2009, a contract was executed with the subject "Construction of a centralized automated system with decentralized personalization of Bulgarian identity documents for residence and for motor vehicles".

The project supported the building of a centralized automated system with decentralized personalization, including a personalization management system with 30 personalization centers, a digital signature system and cryptographic mechanisms for data protection in electronic documents. The equipment in the design and prepress center has been replaced. The technical and software tools of the infrastructure of the automated information system "Bulgarian identity documents" at the central level (servers, communication equipment and software for their management) at the final workplaces have been replaced. The replacement includes workstations and software for capturing biometric data for issuing documents. With the system implemented in 2010, the issuance of the first electronic travel documents and residence permits for third-country nationals began. The servers and databases used are centralized. The document personalization process is largely automated. Additional inquiries were made regarding the control of the used forms and issued documents. The flow of applications for issuance of BPDs is managed automatically at both regional and central level. In the personalization centers the access control is realized through personal smart cards. Additional opportunities for reference and statistical activities have been implemented; the processes and actions of the operators have been logged.

As a result of the project the following was achieved:

The built-in electronic data carrier in the BPDs fulfills the recommendations of ICAO DOC 9303 as well as Council Regulation 2252, supplemented by Regulation 444 of 28 May 2009 on standards for security features and biometrics in travel documents issued by Member States. Passports and travel documents have a built-in electronic data carrier, which contains a recording of a portrait photo and two fingerprints of the holder. For the purposes of this Regulation, biometric data in travel documents shall be used only to verify the authenticity of the document and the identity of the holder by directly comparing his data with those recorded in the document.

The built-in electronic data carrier also implements Council Regulation 1030 of 13 June 2002, supplemented by Regulation 380 of 18 April 2008 on a uniform format for residence permits for third-country nationals.

The graphic design of the documents has been completely renewed; the security characteristics of the issued BPDs have been improved with the introduction of new security elements, both in the printing of the BPD blanks and in the process of their personalization.

No similar projects have been implemented similar to the project proposal activities for electronic identification. The implementation of this project will lay the foundation of technology for issuing an ID card with built-in electronic media containing biometric data, electronic identity and electronic signature certificate and ensuring a complete cycle of centralized personalization of BPDs.

A register for eID users has been implemented in 2013, part of the project "Customers administrative services improvement by upgrading the e-Government central systems", with the financial support of the Operational Program "Administrative Capacity", co-financed by the European Union, European Social Fund. As a result of the project, a pilot system for eID has been developed.

The main challenges for the project not to be put into real operation are the lack of adopted and effective legislation and the lack of adequate technical infrastructure to ensure the working processes of the system.

The Regulation (EU) N°910/2014 on eID and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market (eIDAS Regulation) adopted on 23 July 2014 and the Electronic Identification Act, notified a National Electronic Identification Scheme for individuals, which was adopted by the Bulgarian Parliament on the 11th May 2016, gave rise to the need to launch a project for eID system implementation in real mode.

In 2017, the project "Development of a Centralized Electronic Identification System including terminals for unified electronic signature and a unified qualified electronic signature recording", under Operational Program "Good Governance" was started. Within the project framework, a public procurement "Implementation of a national scheme for electronic identification and implementation in productive mode" is being notified. The procedure was been terminated due to the technical and factual gaps in the public procedure documentation, which cannot be corrected without a change in the procedure terms.

A model for centralized personalization of Bulgarian personal documents with decentralized administrative services to citizens is approved by the Council of Ministers decision on 13/09/2017.

According to this model, the project "Development of a Centralized Electronic Identification System" is incorporated as a separate activity of a big project "Design, construction and management of a Bulgarian personal documents issuing system, generation 2019"⁴. The reason for this is that the Bulgarian Personal Documents Act defines that the identity card may serve as a media of an electronic identity certificates. This provision requires the integration of the National Automated Information Fund "National Register of Bulgarian Identity Documents" with the Centralized Electronic Identification System.

Following a procedure under the Public Procurement Act, the decision for contractor selection was appealed to the Commission for Protection of Competition and the Supreme Administrative Court. Due to the impossibility to meet the deadlines for project implementation financed under the OP "Good Governance" a decision to finance the project from the state budget was made.

8.2. If similar projects are envisaged to be implemented under the Partnership Agreement programs, the centrally managed facilities of EU or the Just Transition Fund, outline the demarcation with this project.

Similar projects implementation is not envisaged under the Partnership Agreement programs, the centrally managed facilities of EU or the Just Transition Fund.
The project proposal complies with Policy Objective 1 of the Partnership Agreement in the framework of which measures are planned to be implemented in the field of digitalization of public services for the benefit of the citizens and business and with Policy Objective 3 in the framework of which measures are planned in the field of the digital connectivity.

9. Does the project directly contribute to the implementation of any of the Council's Specific Recommendations addressed to Bulgaria in the framework of the European Semester in the period 2017-2020? Please describe how.

The project is directly related to the Council's recommendations on the National Reform Program of Bulgaria for 2020 in terms of improving the efficiency of public administration and strengthening e-government.

As a whole, the COVID-19 crisis has accelerated the digitalization of society. The emerging health crisis has necessitated a sharp increase in the use of digital services by the state and the private sector. The speed of service, distance services, cost savings have caused growing interest among consumers. In the context of the challenges associated with COVID-19, a number of banks are already providing more and more advanced digital services with the help of innovative remote electronic identification solutions.

The planned activities are based on the conclusion of the EC on the future growth of Bulgaria, for which it is important to improve the quality of institutions.

The project activities are also developed in accordance with the recommendations for "investment in digitalization" as part of the global approach to regional development, in line with EU priorities.

This project reflects also the consideration under point 24 of the draft Recommendation for a Council Recommendation on the 2020 National Reform Programme of Bulgaria and delivering a Council opinion on the 2020 Convergence Programme of Bulgaria, according to which

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<https://www.mvr.bg/dussd/%D0%BD%D0%B0%D1%87%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%BE/%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B3%D0%BB%D0%B5%D0%B4/%D0%BE%D0%B1%D1%89%D0%B5%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B2%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B8-%D0%BF%D0%BE%D1%80%D1%8A%D1%87%D0%BA%D0%B8-%D0%BE%D1%82%D0%BA%D1%80%D0%B8%D1%82%D0%B8-%D1%81%D0%BB%D0%B5%D0%B4-01.10.2014-%D0%B3/proektirane-izgrajdane-upravljenje-sistema-balgarski-lichni-dokumenti-2019>

Bulgaria lags behind in the provision of electronic services and their uptake by citizens and businesses should be encouraged. Point 4 of the recommendations in the same document indicates the need Bulgaria to take action in 2020 and 2021 to improve the effectiveness of public administration and reinforce digital government.

By establishing a national scheme for electronic identification and personalization in Bulgarian personal documents, public trust in institutions will be increased and the rights of citizens in the electronic world will be guaranteed.

10. Does the project contribute to the implementation of a reform in a given sector? Please describe how.

The project directly contributes to the implementation of the Updated Strategy for Development of e-Government in the Republic of Bulgaria 2019 - 2023 and the Roadmap to it. In this way, Bulgarian citizens and businesses will be guaranteed access to electronic administrative services through nationwide connectivity, security and resilience of infrastructure and systems. Building: effective business models in the work of the administration; digital administration; mechanism for coordinated planning and implementation of all initiatives for development of e-government; provision of administrative services through the single e-government portal at any time, from any place and through various devices.

EID implementation also contributes to the achievement of the National Development Program: Bulgaria 2030 main goal 1, related to the economy technological transformation, increasing resource efficiency and catching up with its digitalization. The introduction of modern technologies in a number of sectors will provide a greater number of high quality services for society.

National Program "Digital Bulgaria 2025"; Priority area "Providing efficient and high quality public e-services for business, citizens and public administration". The increased need to use electronic public services in turn leads to an increase in the need for electronic identification for citizens and businesses. In addition, there is a need to achieve data security in electronic identification. In this direction, the project is also related to the National Cyber Security Strategy.

This project addresses directly the implementation of the envisaged measures for increasing citizens' use of electronic services and for applying the European legislation requirements on electronic identification.

The use of the identity document as a means of electronic identification will create preconditions for the rapid development of digital technologies, for the elaboration of a large number of administrative and social services. It will change the way citizens think as consumers and will stimulate their desire to improve their knowledge and skills.

The development and dissemination of the national eID scheme and its personalization in Bulgarian personal documents is a major "driving factor" for achieving the objectives of Priority Axis 2 of the Program "Research, Innovation and Digitalisation for Smart Transformation 2021-2027". The lack of such a national scheme is currently one of the main obstacles to the widespread use of electronic administrative services. Its implementation will allow ensuring accessibility and easy use by users of proactive end-to-end services, which will be created on the basis of the developed data models. It is important for the implementation of key services such as "episodes of life/business". The success of the new models of interaction and data sharing between citizens, businesses and

administration in the digital environment, which will be built under the program, largely depends on the availability of secure, convenient and easy electronic identification. The notification of the national scheme, in turn, will allow the widespread use and promotion of cross-border services to facilitate the cross-border use of data.

On the other hand, the research, development and realization of advanced innovative technologies in the digitalisation process are a key approach in creating a system for the elaboration of personal documents with a built-in electronic identifier as a proof of identity, as well as the ability to use a smartphone or other device for storing electronic identity certificates for achieving a higher degree of convenience compared to the ID card.

The National Electronic Identification Scheme directly contributes to the implementation of cross-border interoperability through the implementation of electronic services working for all citizens of the European Union, including the possibility for Bulgarian citizens to use electronic services in other Member States. Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1501) requires compatibility between electronic identifiers issued in different countries. Cross-border interoperability, this is the so-called eIDAS node.

The project proposal complies with one of the main initiatives defined by the European Commission in the 2021 Annual Strategy for Sustainable Growth – Modernising — EU-ID and key digital public services are to be modernized and accessible for everyone. In the stated document, it is mentioned that the secure and comprising the whole EU electronic identification and electronic certification for the governments and private entities and the access to their services will provide the citizens with control over their identity and data as well as access to online digital services. The Member States are encouraged to include in their Recovery and Resilience Plans investments and reforms in the framework of this leading initiative in view of guaranteeing the issuing of European digital identity (e-ID) up to 2025.

11. Does the project contribute to the development of any aspect of sustainable economic development? Please describe how.

Regulation (EU) № 910/2014 stipulates that all Member States of the Union from 29 September 2018 must apply electronic identification means developed in accordance with an approved scheme and meeting certain security standards. Electronic identification is key to the development of e-government, business and the sustainable development of a country's economy and the European single market. The digital global market stimulates the economy and improves the quality of life through e-commerce and e-government. The widespread use of electronic services and a secure digital identity have the potential to save a significant resource from each country's budget. The share of the digital economy (e-GDP) varies from 4.5 to 15.5% of world GDP. This share is expected to increase⁵.

Cross-border interoperability through the implementation of electronic services and the harmonization of European requirements is a prerequisite for removing major barriers and obstacles (lack of interoperability, growing cybercrime and risk of mistrust in networks) when using cross-border services. The specific benefits of using electronic identification are:

⁵ DIGITAL ECONOMY REPORT 2019, United Nations

- Accessibility and convenience in the use of Electronic administrative services, through a single point, regardless of location: in the field of healthcare (e-Healthcare); the field of education (e-Education); the field of justice (e-Justice); economic sphere (e-taxes)
- Electronic services offered by business (e-business);
- Electronic services offered by organizations providing public services (utilities);
- Cross-border European identification (European Citizen Card);
- Access to the services of the European digital market (Digital Single Market);
- Machine Readable Travel Document;
- European Travel Insurance Card;
- Free movement of students within the EU (European Student Mobility).

The digitalization of public services in Bulgaria aims to reduce the administrative burden on citizens and businesses and thus contribute to a significant economic effect (savings from government fees, human resources and time spent).

The digital single market is based on the concept of the common market, which aims to remove barriers to trade between Member States in order to increase economic prosperity and contribute to building "an ever closer union between the peoples of Europe" and has been further developed in the form of the concept of the internal market, defined as "an area without internal frontiers in which the free movement of goods, people, services and capital is ensured".⁶

12. Does the project contribute to the implementation of the objectives of the National Development Program BULGARIA 2030? Please describe how.

The implementation of the project directly contributes to achieving the goals of the National Development Program "BULGARIA 2030". Implementation of electronic identification also contributes to the achievement of main goal 1 of the Program, related to technological transformation of the economy, increasing resource efficiency and catching up with its digitalization. The project will help stimulate the adoption of measures for the use of digital technologies and secure electronic identification by citizens, businesses and public administration, in order to increase the competitiveness of Bulgarian enterprises and improve the efficiency of business processes. The project activity corresponds to the main focus of the policy for building a modern and secure digital infrastructure, as a basis for offering more services through digital management and cooperation under Priority 8 "Digital Connectivity".

The project is relevant to development axis 3 "Connected and integrated Bulgaria" and thus will contribute to the implementation of Priority 10 "Institutional framework", which determines the key importance of the introduction of the national electronic identification scheme to expand the use of electronic administrative services. In this regard, the Program envisages the introduction of market incentives for increasing the use of electronic identification by businesses, as well as the introduction of electronic signatures in the identity documents of all citizens.

⁶ Digital common market, <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/>

13. Does the project contribute to the implementation of the objectives and priorities set out in the National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan? If yes, please describe how.

Not applicable.