

Project Application Form

Under the Recovery and Resilience Facility

1. Project name
Modernization and development of psychiatric care in Bulgaria
2. Description of the project (objectives, main activities)
<p>The national health care system includes the medical establishments under the Medical Establishments Act, the health establishments under the Health Insurance Act and the Medicinal Products under the Human Medicine Act, as well as the state, municipal and public bodies and institutions for organization, management and control of health protection and strengthening activities. Medical establishments shall be established by the order of the Commercial Law or the Law on Cooperatives and may provide social services and integrated health and social services under the conditions and by the order of the Law on Social Services.</p> <p>In 2018, in the country there are 12 State Psychiatric Hospitals (SPH), 12 Mental Health Centres (MHC), 21 psychiatric clinics and wards at multidisciplinary hospitals. The total number of beds is about 4,000, and there are about 1,000 beds for a day hospital, reported separately.</p> <p>The <i>state psychiatric hospitals (SPH)</i> are secondary budget controllers at the Ministry of Health, which perform diagnostic, treatment, rehabilitation and prophylactic activities aimed at controlling clinical symptoms in patients and prevention, as well as forensic psychiatric and labour expertise services. These hospitals serve several areas, as their distribution throughout the country is uneven, which together with their remoteness from large settlements hinder their effective management and funding, as well as complicate the opportunities for consultation and research in the event of somatic diseases or complications of chronic diseases. outside of psychiatric diagnoses.</p> <p><i>Mental Health Centres (MHCs)</i> are medical facilities that provide medical activities, psychosocial rehabilitation, emergency psychiatry, and home care. They ensure the transition from institutional to outpatient treatment of the mentally ill.</p> <p><i>Psychiatric wards / clinics in multidisciplinary hospitals and university multidisciplinary hospitals</i> are located throughout Bulgaria, and their distribution is not always directly related to local needs and is influenced by historical factors.</p> <p>The main problems faced by the psychiatric care system in the country are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdated material and technical base, not in accordance with the specific needs of patients; • Lack of opportunities for complex diagnosis and treatment of patients with mental disorders complicated by somatic problems; • Lack of sufficient staff in the sector; • Lack of a unified information system in healthcare and conditions for integrated care; • Fragmentation of the psychiatric care system. <p>To solve these problems, it is necessary to achieve the following main goals by making targeted investments related to:</p>

- Improving the material base in SPH, MHC and psychiatric clinics and wards in medical institutions;
- Construction of a new building for the needs of SPH-Tsarev Brod and relocation of SPH-Kurilo and MHC-Sofia EOOD in new buildings;
- Carrying out repairs and renovations, replacement of medical facilities, equipment and furniture in SPH, MHC and psychiatric clinics and wards in medical institutions;
- Establishment of a network of services for complex services for people with severe mental illness, close to the place of their residence;

The implementation of the project will strengthen the sustainability of the psychiatric care system, as well as improve its accessibility and capacity to meet the needs of the population of the Republic of Bulgaria.

To achieve these goals, the following activities are envisaged:

Activity 1 "Execution of construction and installation work"

Under Activity 1, interventions will be carried out in the infrastructure of 43 medical establishments for psychiatric care. For this purpose, the activity will be implemented as four separate sub-activities:

Sub-activity 1.1.: "Analysis of the specific needs for repair and renovation of the material base of SPH, MHC and psychiatric clinics and wards in medical institutions"

The main goal of the sub-activity is to prepare an analysis of the needs for repair, relocation or construction of new buildings for the structures of the psychiatric care system in the country. The elaboration of this analysis is of key importance for providing all the conditions for further appropriate implementation of the project and spending of the European funds. In this regard, a working group will be set up in the Ministry of Health to get acquainted with the current situation, to analyse all possible options and to recommend the optimal solution for modernization of the building stock and facilities of state psychiatric hospitals, mental health centres and psychiatric hospitals. wards at multidisciplinary hospitals.

Sub-activity 1.2.: „Development of technical and working projects for construction and installation work“

As a result of the implementation of Sub-activity 1.1 and the prepared materials, the preparation of technical and working projects for new construction and / or construction and installation works will be started. In case of need for additional expert assistance, public procurements will be conducted by the project partners, for selection of consultants to prepare the respective technical and working projects. Within the framework of the sub-activity all the technical documentation will be collected and completed, including the respective coordination procedures with the respective companies, municipalities and other institutions. As a result, after the completion of its implementation, technical files will be created for each of the sites of intervention included in the project.

Sub-activity 1.3.: „Conducting public procurement procedures for selection of contractors for construction activities and construction and author's supervision“

After completion of the implementation of Sub-activity 1.2 public procurement procedures for selection of contractors for construction and implementation of the planned measures for new construction and / or construction and assembly works will be organized and conducted. According to the requirements of the Spatial Development Act, public procurement procedures will be organized and conducted for selection of contractors to ensure construction and author's supervision. The procedures will be organized and conducted by the Ministry of Health under the PPL. As a result of the implementation of Sub-activity 1.3, contracts will be concluded with the selected contractors, and for each site of intervention a contractor of construction and installation works, construction and author's supervision will be provided.

Sub-activity 1.4.: „Execution of new construction and / or construction and assembly works“

After the conclusion of the contracts with the selected contractors under Sub-activity 1.3, the actual implementation of the activities for renovation and modernization of the building stock in the structures of the psychiatric care system in the country will start. The sub-activity will be implemented in parallel in all sites of intervention, as the investor supervision will be carried out by the Ministry of Health for the state psychiatric hospitals, by the municipalities for the psychiatric care centres and for the psychiatric wards opened in municipal medical establishments, as well as by the management, of the respective medical establishments with over 50% state participation in the capital, where there are opened psychiatric wards. The Ministry of Health will monitor and coordinate the whole process of implementation of sub-Activity 4, monitoring the accurate and timely implementation of activities and reporting on progress to the relevant national and European authorities.

As a result of the implementation of Activity 1, the entire material base of the structures of the psychiatric care system in the country will be renewed and modernized. After the completion of the planned activities, the buildings of the medical establishments subject to intervention will meet the European requirements for the provision of psychiatric care and accessibility.

Activity 2 „Providing new medical apparatus, equipment and furniture“

With the implementation of Activity 2 the medical establishments subject to intervention will significantly increase the volume, type and quality of the provided medical care to the population in the country. So far, this healthcare sector has not been supported by either national or international funding, which is why the material and technical base is largely highly depreciated and obsolete. In this respect, the renewal of medical apparatus, equipment and furniture, in addition to benefiting patients, will directly increase the motivation of medical professionals and will be a prerequisite for attracting young doctors and healthcare professionals. For the realization of the activity, it is necessary to perform the following sub-activities:

Sub-activity 2.1. „Preparation of technical specifications and requirements for acquisition of medical apparatus, equipment and furniture“

Determining the types of medical apparatus, equipment and furniture for each individual medical institution is an extremely responsible, important and key activity for achieving the expected results of the project. The specific medical apparatus, equipment and furniture in type and number will be tailored to the individual needs of each structure, taking into account the functions it performs, the availability of medical professionals and discovered structures. Based on these criteria, a detailed list of the necessary medical and non-medical equipment and furniture will be prepared. The next step that will be done with the implementation of Sub-activity 2.1. is aimed at preparing appropriate technical specifications for each device to ensure on the one hand its maximum modernity and ability to provide the necessary medical activities and procedures, and on the other - to ensure sufficient competition between manufacturers without favouring one or restricting other stakeholders. In this regard, during the implementation of Sub-activity 2.1. the Ministry of Health will organize working groups, including leading medical specialists, representatives of medical institutions and experts from the Ministry of Health, who will prepare technical specifications for all medical devices and medical equipment, as well as the complete documentation for public procurement procedures. Prepared materials shall be approved by the Minister of Health.

Sub-activity 2.2. „Conducting public procurement procedures for selection of contractors for the supply of innovative medical apparatus and medical equipment“

As a result of the implementation of Sub-activity 2.1. public procurement procedures will be

announced under the Public Procurement Act for selection of suppliers of medical apparatus, equipment and furniture. The organization and conduct of public procurement will be implemented by the Ministry of Health. As a result of the implementation of Sub-activity 1.3, contracts will be concluded with the selected suppliers.

Sub-activity 2.3. „Delivery of innovative medical apparatus, equipment and furniture“

After the conclusion of the contracts with the selected contractors as a result of the implementation of Activity 2.2. the actual implementation of the activity will start, namely: delivery of medical apparatus, equipment and furniture to each medical institution. It will be the responsibility of the contractors to carry out the assembly, installation, trial tests and commissioning of each device. To work with the new equipment, the contractors will organize trainings for the employees of the medical establishments. During the implementation of the activity, acceptance commissions will be established, including on the one hand representatives of the Ministry of Health and the specific medical establishments where the assets are delivered, and on the other hand, representatives of the contractors. At each stage of the implementation of the contracts (delivery; installation, installation-and-trial tests; commissioning; training), acceptance and transfer protocols will be signed, thus providing the necessary audit trail to monitor the implementation of the obligations of the parties. contracts. With the completion of the implementation of Sub-activity 2.3. the medical establishments subject to intervention will be able to provide new, modern and highly specialized health services to patients with psychiatric diseases.

Activity 3 „Project management and implementation“

The implementation of the project will be a key task for the Ministry of Health in terms of modernization and development of the psychiatric care system in the country. Due to its large volume, a team of experts will be created in the Ministry of Health, possessing the necessary knowledge and skills in the field of construction, medical equipment, finance and law, public procurement procedures and others. The team of the Ministry of Health will be supported by similar, albeit smaller in number and expertise teams, created by the project partners. The necessary communication channels between them will be provided and built, periodic working meetings will be organized. Periodic reports will be prepared and reviewed in the individual sites of intervention to monitor the progress in the implementation of the project. The management team of the Ministry of Health, together with its partners will provide and implement the necessary information and communication measures. As a result of all this, a financial and technical dossier of the project will be created and maintained. The implementation of the activity will ensure quality, accurate and secure management, ensuring the appropriate and lawful spending of European funds.

3. Beneficiary

Ministry of Health, partners - municipalities, on the territory of which there are structures of the psychiatric care system

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

Total time for project implementation - 36 months.

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.

Activity:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	
Activity 1 Execution of construction and installation work																																					
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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?
99 %
7.2. If a procedure under the Public Procurement Act is required, what is the indicative schedule for its implementation?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carrying out the procedures under the Public Procurement Act for selection of a contractor for new construction and / or construction and assembly works, implementation of construction and author's supervision - 12 m. - Carrying out the procedures under the Public Procurement Act for selection of a contractor for delivery of medical apparatus, equipment and furniture - 10 m.
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.
No such projects have been implemented
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.
<p>The efforts of the Ministry of Health to support pre-hospital care will continue in the upcoming new programming period - 2021 - 2027, in which the main priorities on which project proposals will be prepared are aimed at supporting the development of services provided by GPs and group practices (under the Operational Program "Regional Development" 2021 - 2027 and to the implementation of measures to improve promotion and prevention (under the Operational Program "Human Resources Development" 2021 - 2027). In this way early diagnosis of people with mental illness and pre-hospital care will be supported in efforts to track patients and reduce the number of cases in which they need to be hospitalized in specialized psychiatric health institutions.</p>
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.
<p>With regard to the Council's recommendations addressed to Bulgaria in the framework of the European Semester in the period 2017-2020 for the health sector, it is stated to provide the necessary conditions for strengthening the sustainability, accessibility and capacity of the health system.</p> <p>The material and technical base in the field of psychiatric care is in a very bad and depreciated condition. This is a significant obstacle to the provision of quality health services, providing modern opportunities for treatment and rehabilitation of patients, as well as for the development of opportunities for their inclusion in society. All this leads to restriction of access to psychiatric care for the population of the country.</p> <p>In this regard, the current project aims to strengthen the capacity of psychiatric care facilities by increasing their accessibility and capacity. With the envisaged measures for modernization and renewal of the material and technical base, significant savings of funds from the increased energy efficiency, the reduced costs for maintenance of the facilities and the equipment will be achieved. This</p>

will lead to optimization of costs in the psychiatric care system and their redistribution to strengthen the sustainability of psychiatric care in the country.
10. Does the project contribute to the implementation of a reform in a given sector? Please describe how.
The project contributes to the reform of the health sector, and in particular to the psychiatric care system in the country. The implementation of the project activities will achieve consolidation, modernization and strengthening of the capacity of the psychiatric units in the country. The implementation of the planned investments will be the first with such a scale and expected result in the last 30 years in terms of psychiatric care. As a result, in addition to purely material and technical renewal and improvement, an indirect effect will be achieved with regard to medical and non-medical staff, increasing their motivation and the interest of young doctors to specialize and start working in these units. The conditions and possibilities for treatment of patients with psychiatric diseases will be significantly improved, as the European standards for their service and care will be achieved. As a result, a complete restructuring of the psychiatric care system will be achieved.
11. Does the project contribute to the development of any aspect of sustainable economic development? Please describe how.
The mental health of the population plays a key role in the sustainable economic development of the country. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines health as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, with mental health being understood as psychological well-being (i.e., feeling, sense of well-being) and / or adequate adaptability in accordance with socially accepted standards. of human relations. Subjective well-being is determined by individual and social factors. Regarding social factors, according to Western studies, a higher level of subjective well-being is associated with a high gross domestic product, individualistic culture, freedom and democracy in the country. In this sense, by improving the conditions and opportunities for treatment of mental illness, the country's population will be able to achieve a higher standard of living related to both economic and cultural, social and societal development.
12. Does the project contribute to the implementation of the objectives of the National Development Program BULGARIA 2030? Please describe how.
The project contributes to the optimization of costs in the health care system by acting to provide modern diagnostics and effective treatment for patients with mental illness. At the same time, the project activities will complement the efforts to create a motivating environment for the medical staff engaged in mental health care and their detention in Bulgaria.
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.
With the realization of the planned investments in the material base and renovation and modernization of the medical equipment and furniture in the structures of the psychiatric care, energy efficiency measures related to thermal insulation, replacement of joinery, renovation of electrical installations and HVAC installations will be implemented. The purchase of new, modern medical apparatus and equipment will reduce the consumption of electricity. All this will lead to a reduction in the carbon footprint of the activity of SPH, MHC and psychiatric clinics and wards in medical institutions.

