

Application form for a project under the Recovery and Resilience Facility

1. Title of the project.

Transformation of the existing information and communication infrastructure (ICI) in the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria into a new type - fault-tolerant, reserved, productive and protected.

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

This project is aimed at identified and posed to the Republic of Bulgaria structural challenges related to improving the business environment and the introduction of e-justice. These two structural challenges are to some extent related, as the quality of the judiciary and related processes have a direct impact on the quality and competitiveness of the business environment. The quality of the judiciary is one of the key indicators that the World Bank uses for the „Ease of Doing Business Scores index”. At the national level, institutional shortcomings have been identified and continue to be among the main barriers to investment, with a negative impact on growth prospects. The current ranking in the „Ease of Doing Business Scores index” (61st compared to 50th in the 2017 index) is due to the slow pace of improvement in several areas, including the judiciary and e-Justice. Despite the reported improvement in the efficiency of the judiciary, there are significant challenges, including the effectiveness of criminal investigations, the efficiency and accessibility of the judiciary through e-justice tools and the low public confidence in anti-corruption institutions. A significant systemic challenge is also related to digitalization.

The report for Bulgaria for 2020 in the framework of the European Semester reports on the steps taken regarding the digital transformation of the country.

A serious obstacle to the economic and social potential of the country are the identified shortcomings in the functioning of the institutions. There is a horizontal lag in the field of e-government. Special attention should be paid to issues related to cybersecurity and critical infrastructure security.

Corruption is another component that negatively affects investment. The Commission's 2019 report on Bulgaria's progress under the Co-operation and Verification Mechanism found that the effect of the reforms would be felt at a later stage, and that Bulgaria had yet to achieve concrete results in investigating and prosecuting corruption. More generally, it is noted that anti-corruption institutions need to build public confidence and gain a reputation as institutions operating with independence and professionalism. A number of key challenges need to be addressed, including the effectiveness of criminal investigations, low public confidence in anti-corruption institutions and, despite some improvements, the efficiency and accessibility of the judiciary through electronic means.

The Rule of Law Report for 2020 for the Republic of Bulgaria also identifies challenges regarding the quality of the judiciary in the country. One of the findings is the need to improve access to justice, including improving the digitization of the judiciary. The report clearly identifies the COVID-19 pandemic as an indicator of the shortcomings of the e-Justice judiciary..

Pursuant to Article 6a, paragraph 3 and Article 7, paragraph 1 of the Law on Measures and Actions during the State of Emergency, declared by a decision of the National Assembly of

13 March 2020 and to overcome the consequences, during an epidemic situation the administrative heads of the relevant body in the judiciary takes measures to protect magistrates and its employees and, depending on the specific nature of the work performed, may assign them remote work (from the place of residence) and remote work (when performing procedural and investigative actions at a crime scene) . This way of working is related to the removal of jobs outside the information and communication infrastructure (ICI), which must operate under adequate conditions in terms of cyber security. This requires a flexible, dynamically configurable, fault-tolerant, redundant, productive and secure information and communication infrastructure (ICI) to ensure normal operation and security in terms of leakage of sensitive and personal data and compromising the operation of systems.

The Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria occupies a key place in the judicial system of the country and the activities and measures related to the introduction of e-government, e-justice, digitalization and digital transformation will be inconsistent when the institution is omitted.

In connection with the forthcoming completion of the reform of the optimization of the court map and in the context of the pandemic caused by COVID-19, a detailed analysis of the computer and information support of the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria was concluded and concluded that there is a need to build of a new fault-tolerant, reserved, productive and protected information and communication infrastructure in the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Achieving the main goal of the project will result in increased efficiency of corruption crime investigations. Next, the computer skills of prosecutors and investigators will be raised.

These results will be achieved through the implementation of the specific objectives of the project to achieve high resilience, protection and redundancy of internal electronic exchange of documents between units in the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria, technical implementation of policies for protection of personal and sensitive data in electronic its arrays and electronic identification of the users of the electronic systems in the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria and the level of direct communication with operational bodies and inspectors in the ministries.

The implementation of the project will create preconditions for automatic electronic exchange of information between the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria and other anti-corruption bodies in Bulgaria, such as the Commission for Combating Corruption and Confiscation of Illegally Acquired Property, Ministry of Interior, State Agency for National Security, etc.

The data from these databases will be available and provided automatically through secure electronic channels, through electronic exchange between the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Commission for Combating Corruption and Confiscation of Illegally Acquired Property, Ministry of Interior, State Agency for National Security and others without danger of leakage of information and compromise of the systems, from the source - information and communication infrastructure (ICI) of the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria to the recipient.

The possibility of providing such information is in accordance with measure 1, Section № II "Legal framework for combating corruption" of the Annex to item 1 to the Decision of the Council of Ministers № 806 of 6 November 2020 approving the Implementation Plan in response to the recommendations and challenges set out in the European Commission's Report of 30 September 2020 on the Rule of Law for 2020, Situation of the Rule of Law in Bulgaria.

All databases in the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria are fully centralized in terms of their maintenance and archiving and access to them will be carried out by:

✓ internal workplaces included in the information and communication infrastructure (ICI) of the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria, used by employees responsible for

performing the relevant activities for analysis, monitoring, registration, processing and reference data retrieval;

✓ from outsourced jobs from the information and communication infrastructure (ICI) of the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria, used for remote work (in conducting investigations, searches and seizures, accidents, work from home, etc.) by prosecutors, investigators and employees. This will reduce the time resource for the performance of the duties of magistrates and employees, will provide remote access through a secure channel to the information needed for an investigation, and will be able to communicate directly with operational authorities during the investigation.

This possibility is in line with measure 2 of the Annex to item 1 - Decision of the Council of Ministers № 806 of 6 November 2020 approving the Plan for implementation of measures in response to the recommendations and the indicated challenges contained in the Report of the European Commission from September 30, 2020 on the rule of law for 2020, the situation in the field of the rule of law in Bulgaria, and is a real prerequisite for reducing the time resource for the proceedings in the pre-trial phase, for accelerated and facilitated access to information that is contained in the information files of the databases of the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria and which is necessary for fast and quality investigation.

Achieving the above results addresses most of the measures set out in the Action Plan in response to the recommendations and challenges identified in the European Commission's report of 30 September 2020 on the rule of law for 2020, the situation in the field of the rule of law in Bulgaria.

These results as a whole will lead to an increase in the quality of the investigation and prosecution and, accordingly, to a higher number of convictions.

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As a result, the achieved goals will be conducive to increasing economic activity, accelerating economic growth and a sustainable business environment.

The specific objectives of the project are related to providing capacity for management of the built new information and communication infrastructure, as well as increasing the level of network and information security of the data centers of the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria, incl. its structures across the country and client workstations.

In connection with the above arguments, as well as in view of the national goals and priorities and the structural challenges defined before the Republic of Bulgaria, described above, it is necessary to implement activities for transformation of the existing information and communication infrastructure (ICI) into a new one type of fault-tolerant, reserved, productive and protected information and communication infrastructure in the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria.

The specific objectives of the project are related to the supply and implementation of hardware equipment and installation of system software and increase the level of network and information security of the data centers of the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria, incl. its structures across the country and client workstations.

The implementation of the project will increase the efficiency of the judiciary by creating and implementing the basic information and communication infrastructure, which will enable the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria to successfully take its place in the ecosystem of e-government and e-justice. The results of the project are a necessary prerequisite

for the successful subsequent implementation and sustainability of investments related to other applied information systems, registers and databases, including for the purposes of integration of information resources not only in the Prosecutor's Office of Bulgaria but also in the judiciary. In view of this, the project is necessary and structuring, as it addresses basic infrastructure needs, which are the basis of digitalization and digital transformation.

The implementation of the project will contribute to improving the quality of the judiciary by providing one of the key institutions in it adequately in relation to cybersecurity and opportunities for the development of e-justice. Needs regarding the efficiency and accessibility of the judiciary are directly addressed through e-justice tools and low public trust in the institutions.

The digital transformation is impossible to implement without a reliable and cybersecurity information and communication infrastructure, in view of which the project also contributes to the efforts to make a digital transition.

The digitalization of the existing processes in the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria and their course in fault-tolerant, reserved, productive and protected information and communication infrastructure (ICI) is a prerequisite for switching to fully electronic document management, which will inevitably lead to their reorganization and simplification.

Currently, the processes are running in parallel - electronically and on paper with the idea of information prevention, given the lack of one hundred percent security and lack of vulnerabilities in terms of information and communication infrastructure (ICI). After achieving the main goal of the project - transformation of the existing information and communication infrastructure (ICI) into a new type - (fault-tolerant, redundant, productive and protected information and communication infrastructure (ICI)) will increase the reliability in terms of security of processing and storage of the information in the information files and systems of the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria, which will be a prerequisite for the elimination of the paper medium and the transition to work with fully electronic document management.

The identified cybersecurity challenges are adequately addressed within the project activities.

Achieving these results will affect not only the judiciary, but also the quality of the business environment in the country, in the direction of its improvement, including through the implementation of activities that contribute to improving the quality of the judiciary.

The project activities are as follows:

Activity 1. Delivery and installation of central processing units for information processing, software packages and operating systems for virtualization and clocks for accurate time.

Activity 2. Delivery and installation of disk data arrays, hardware devices and software packages for backup and data recovery.

Activity 3. Delivery and installation of a technical vulnerability management system.

Activity 4. Delivery and installation of server cabinets, accessories and infrastructure components.

Activity 5. Delivery and installation of a software-defined data transmission network.

Activity 6. Delivery and installation of 4000 pcs. stationary workstations.

Activity 7. Delivery and installation of hardware devices and software packages for event management platform and information security.

Activity 8. Delivery and installation of hardware devices and software packages for a platform for protection against existing and newly discovered cyber threats.

Activity 9. Delivery and installation of a system for protection against leakage / loss of data from the endpoints and from the network.

Activity 10. Delivery and installation of a system for management and control of the

electronic identity and access to the information.

Activity 11. Delivery and installation of a system for identification, classification and protection of sensitive data.

Activity 12. Delivery and installation of software packages and hardware devices for defining a backbone network, network equipment for access to data sets, firewalls for Internet traffic and border layer, e-mail and for the local network.

Warranty maintenance of the delivered equipment will be provided in the amount of 60 (sixty) months, except for workstations for which the warranty is for 36 (thirty-six) months.

Ancillary activities for organization and management of the project will be implemented.

The physical topology of the communication infrastructure will follow the geographical organization of the regions in the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria on a national scale - Activities 4, 6 and 12.

The logical topology will follow the principles of the organization of a software-defined data transmission network - Activity 5.

Activities 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 of the project will be fully centralized in terms of their construction, management and monitoring.

Once the e-identity management and control system (Activity 10) is put into operation, it will be possible to connect and electronically transfer data from the prosecution's record keeping system to the Single e-Justice Portal, to which the court record system is connected. This connection will allow to send documents prepared by magistrates (prosecutors and investigators) concerning the court proceedings to Single e-Justice Portal, respectively to the court system, which is in line with the new changes in the Penal Procedure Code - Article 247, paragraph 2, which enters into force on June 30, 2021.

The project activities include the following stages:

Stage 1 - "Preparation and implementation of procedure / procedures for selection of contractors for delivery and installation of hardware and software".

Within the framework of Stage 1, the steps and procedures for preparation, organization and implementation of the procedure / procedures for selection of contractors will be carried out in the regulations for public procurement.

Stage 2 - "Delivery and installation of hardware and software, construction of fault-tolerant, redundant, productive and protected information and communication infrastructure in the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria"

Within Stage 2, the actual construction of a fault-tolerant, reserved, productive and protected information and communication infrastructure in the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria will take place.

With this project the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria undertakes activities for its digital transformation. A key requirement for its success is the availability of an adequate information and communication infrastructure on which to develop subsequent targeted interventions for the transition from an organization based on paper documents and procedures to an electronic one. The availability of fault-tolerant, reserved, productive and protected information and communication infrastructure will provide the technological basis for the subsequent organizational and methodological support of the processes of gradual transition in the practice of the prosecution from paper to electronic exchange in implementation of the e-justice strategy, also referring to the document flow generated in the course of the law enforcement activity carried out by the bodies of the pre-trial proceedings in the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria.

In order to regulate the work with electronic documents, the exchange of electronic documents, as well as in connection with the implementation of electronic services in the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria approved Rules for pilot introduction of electronic document

management and implementation of electronic services provided an opportunity to provide open data and electronic services on the principle of complex administrative services to citizens and intuitions.

The timely construction of a fault-tolerant, reserved, productive and protected information and communication infrastructure is necessary to ensure a synergistic effect with the other activities of the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria related to the digital transformation of the institution.

The project does not include the construction or upgrade of information systems, registers or databases, as well as the provision of new or upgrading of existing electronic services for citizens or businesses.

3. Beneficiary.

Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria

4. Timetable for project implementation, including activities, stages¹.

It is expected that the project will be implemented over a period of 24 (twenty four) months.

	Activities/Months	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
We plan these four activities to be in one public procurement	Activity 1.	Formation of teams for project management and implementation and preparation of terms of reference and public procurement documentation		Opening of the public procurements in the implementation of the project and term for submission of the offers by the potential participants		Appointment of commissions for review, evaluation and ranking of the submitted bids by the participants		Conclusion of public procurement contracts		Execution of delivery, testing and commissioning of the delivered equipment															
	Activity 2.																								
	Activity 3.																								
	Activity 4.																								
We plan these two activities to be in one public procurement	Activity 5.																								
	Activity 6.																								
We plan these six activities to be in one public procurement	Activity 7.																								
	Activity 8.																								
	Activity 9.																								
	Activity 10.																								
	Activity 11.																								
	Activity 12.																								

¹ The timetable will be relevant to the setting of intermediate targets within the Recovery and Resilience Plan and is directly related to the release of financial support tranches from the Recovery and Resilience Fund.

4.1. When can the implementation of the project start at the earliest after its approval?

After its approval, the implementation of the project may begin in the period September - December 2021, ending respectively in the period September-December 2023, with a total duration of implementation of 24 (twenty four) months.

The deliveries and the installation will be made after signing contracts with selected contractors, within 14 months.

5. Indicative financial resource by activities, including sources of funding (SB, European funding, private funding, IFIs)

Source of funding - European funding. The indicative financial resource for the described activities and achievement of the objectives amounts to BGN 36 million with VAT (€ 18,406,507.72 with VAT).

✓ The indicative financial resource for hardware (physical capital) and software (technologies), amounting to BGN 35,640,000.00 with VAT includes:

1. Delivery and installation of central processing units for information processing, software packages and operating systems for virtualization and clocks for exact time - BGN 1,900,800 with VAT.
2. Delivery and installation of disk arrays for data, hardware devices and software packages for the creation of backup copies and data recovery - BGN 2,138,400 with VAT.
3. Delivery and installation of a technical vulnerability management system - BGN 237,600 with VAT.
4. Delivery and installation of server cabinets, accessories and infrastructure components - BGN 178,200 with VAT.
5. Delivery and installation of a software-defined data transmission network - BGN 4,039,200 with VAT.
6. Delivery and installation of 4000 pcs. stationary workstations - BGN 4,752,000 with VAT.
7. Delivery and installation of hardware devices and software packages for event management platform and information security - BGN 1,782,000 with VAT.
8. Delivery and installation of hardware devices and software packages for a platform for protection against existing and newly discovered cyber threats - BGN 7,068,600 with VAT.
9. Delivery and installation of a system for protection against leakage / loss of data from the end points and from the network - BGN 1,663,200 with VAT.
10. Delivery and installation of a system for management and control of the electronic identity and access to the information - BGN 1,603,800 with VAT.
11. Delivery and installation of a system for identification, classification and protection of sensitive data - BGN 1,366,200 with VAT.
12. Delivery and installation of software packages and hardware devices for defining a backbone network, network equipment for access to data sets, firewalls for Internet traffic and border layer, e-mail and for the local network - BGN 8,910,000 with VAT.

✓ The indicative financial resource for labor (expenses for salaries, consulting services, etc.), in the amount of up to BGN 360,000 with VAT includes:

Expenses for labor and equated to labor remunerations, including the due social security contributions of the employee and the employer, expenses under contracts for organization and management of the project, expenses for external services, including for development of technical specifications and documentation under the Public Procurement Act, as well as and all other labor costs that may ensure the successful and lawful implementation of the project.

The budget for the supply of hardware and software is calculated on the basis of identical projects / activities implemented in the last 12 months. An identical project is being implemented by the National Revenue Agency, where a public procurement announced by the National System Integrator of the Executive Power in accordance with the Electronic Government Act - Information Services AD has been completed. The order is available on the Buyer's Profile of Information Services AD - <https://www.is-bg.net/bg/zop/9>.

Two other public procurements, also conducted by Information Services AD, are the basis for the formation of the project budget and are available in the Public Procurement Portal at the following addresses - <https://app.eop.bg/today/79528> и <https://app.eop.bg/today/85164>.

The budget for the trainings is calculated on the basis of a survey on the Internet from the following public sites:

1. Virtualization training:

<https://www.itce.com/bg/courses-catalogue/vmware-vsphere-install-configure-manage-v6-7-2/#register>

2. Windows Server administration training:

<https://www.itce.com/bg/courses-catalogue/windows-server-2019-administration-2/>

3. Training related to Linux operating system and security:

<https://www.it-training.pro/courses/lfs416-linux-foundation-linux-security/>

4. Training related to network threats and vulnerabilities, data protection applications and hosts, identification and implementation of measures and control:

<https://www.it-training.pro/courses/comptia-security-sy0-601-nov-2020>

5. Training related to network virtualization and software-defined networks (SDN):

<https://softuni.bg/trainings/3058/computer-networking-advanced-october-2020>

6. Training related to event management and monitoring and security:

<https://www.nobleprog.bg/cc/qradarsiem>

7. Training related to the operation of platforms for protection against existing and newly discovered cyber threats:

<https://www.it-training.pro/courses/it22-information-security-course/>

5.1. Indicatively allocate the financial resource according to the type of expenditure:

- Construction/rehabilitation of infrastructure (CIW) – 0 %
- Physical capital (purchase of machinery and equipment) – 58 %
- Human capital (skills development, retraining ...) – 1 %
- Labour (wage and salary costs, consultancy services ...) – 1 %
- Technology (costs for acquisition of intangible fixed assets - patents, software...) – 40 %

6. Indicators

6.1. Result indicator (s)

1. Center for Security Management of Information and Communication Systems in the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria - 1;

Result indicator: 1 pc. established Center for Security Management of Information and Communication Systems in the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Initial value - 0 [December 31, 2021]

Final value - 1 [December 31, 2023]

Source of information: Centralized automated information system "Electronic Public Procurement" and the project implementation report.

2. Established and functioning unified secure communication system for secure data exchange - 1 piece;

Result indicator: 1 pc. established and functioning unified secure communication system for secure data exchange.

Initial value - 0 [December 31, 2021]

Final value - 1 [December 31, 2023]

Source of information: Centralized automated information system "Electronic Public Procurement" and the project implementation report.

3. Built security systems - 6 pieces;

Result indicator: 6 pcs. built security systems.

Initial value - 0 [December 31, 2021]

Final value - 6 [December 31, 2023]

Source of information: Centralized automated information system "Electronic Public Procurement" and the project implementation report.

4. Built data centers - 2 pieces;

Result indicator: 2 pcs. built data center.

Initial value - 0 [December 31, 2021]

Final value - 2 [December 31, 2023]

Source of information: Centralized automated information system "Electronic Public Procurement" and the project implementation report.

5. Delivered and installed disk systems - 2 pieces;

Result indicator: 2 pcs. delivered and installed disk systems.

Initial value - 0 [December 31, 2021]

Final value - 2 [December 31, 2023]

Source of information: Centralized automated information system "Electronic Public Procurement" and the project implementation report.

6. Delivered and installed server systems - 4 pieces;

Result indicator: 4 pcs. delivered and installed server systems.

Initial value - 0 [December 31, 2021]

Final value - 4 [December 31, 2023]

Source of information: Centralized automated information system "Electronic Public Procurement" and the project implementation report.

- 7. Delivered computer configurations - 4000 pieces;**
Result indicator: 4000 pcs. supplied computer configurations.
Initial value - 0 [December 31, 2021]
Final value - 4000 [December 31, 2023]
Source of information: Centralized automated information system "Electronic Public Procurement" and the project implementation report.
- 8. Trained court employees to work with virtualization systems - 9 employees**
Result indicator: 9 pcs. trained employees.
Initial value - 0 [December 31, 2021]
Final value - 9 [December 31, 2023]
Source of information: Centralized automated information system "Electronic Public Procurement" and the project implementation report.
- 9. Trained court employees to administer Windows Server - 100 employees**
Result indicator: 100 pcs. trained employees.
Initial value - 0 [December 31, 2021]
Final value - 100 [December 31, 2023]
Source of information: Centralized automated information system "Electronic Public Procurement" and the project implementation report.
- 10. Trained court clerks for administration and security configuration of servers with Linux operating systems - 10 clerks**
Result indicator: 10 pcs. trained employees.
Initial value - 0 [December 31, 2021]
Final value - 10 [December 31, 2023]
Source of information: Centralized automated information system "Electronic Public Procurement" and the project implementation report.
- 11. Trained court staff for activities related to network threats and vulnerabilities, data protection, applications and hosts, identification and implementation of measures and control - 40 employees**
Result indicator: 40 pcs. trained employees.
Initial value - 0 [December 31, 2021]
Final value - 40 [December 31, 2023]
Source of information: Centralized automated information system "Electronic Public Procurement" and the project implementation report.
- 12. Trained court employees for work with network virtualization and software-defined networks (SDN) - 101 employees**
Result indicator: 101 pcs. trained employees.
Initial value - 0 [December 31, 2021]
Final value - 101 [December 31, 2023]
Source of information: Centralized automated information system "Electronic Public Procurement" and the project implementation report.
- 13. Trained court employees for event management and monitoring and security - 10 employees**
Result indicator: 10 pcs. trained employees.
Initial value - 0 [December 31, 2021]

<p>Final value - 10 [December 31, 2023] Source of information: Centralized automated information system "Electronic Public Procurement" and the project implementation report.</p> <p>14. Trained court employees for operation of platforms for protection against existing and newly discovered cyber threats - 20 employees Result indicator: 20 pcs. trained employees. Initial value - 0 [December 31, 2021] Final value - 20 [December 31, 2023] Source of information: Centralized automated information system "Electronic Public Procurement" and the project implementation report.</p>
<p>Initial value – 0% [December 31, 2021] Intermediate value 0 % [June, 30, 2022] Intermediate value – 0 % [December 31, 2022] Intermediate value - 0% [June, 30, 2023] Final value – 100 % [December 31, 2023]</p>
a. Effect indicator(s)
-
-
13. Is there a requirement to conduct a procedure under the Public Procurement Act in order to implement the project?
Yes, the implementation of the project envisages conducting a procedures under the Public Procurement Act.
a. If a procedure under the Public Procurement Act is to be conducted, what portion of the activities and financial resources will be covered by the public procurement order?
Given the nature of the activities envisaged under the project, all activities, except those for project management, will be subject to public procurement.
b. If a procedure under the Public Procurement Act is to be conducted, what is the indicative timetable for its implementation?
<p>The indicative schedule for the implementation of the procedures under the Public Procurement Act is 9 (nine) months - for preparation of documentation, conducting procedures and awarding of public procurements - Stage 1.</p> <p>There is a term of 15 (fifteen) months for delivery and installation after signing public procurement contracts, and the last month is provided for the final reporting of the project.</p>
14. Delimitation and complementarity.
c. If comparable projects have been implemented previously (regardless of the source of funding), describe how this project will build on / complement what has been achieved with previous projects.

To date, no comparable projects regardless of the source of funding, addressing the overall information and communication infrastructure of the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria, have been implemented. Currently, within the scope of annual budgets, the most pressing specific needs are met. **A complete robust, reserved, productive and secure information and communication infrastructure in the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria is being developed for the first time.**

In the period 2017-2018, the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria implemented the project "Introduction of e-justice in the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria through electronic processing of affairs, provision of open data and electronic services for comprehensive administrative services to citizens and institutions" under the Operational Program "Good Governance" 2014-2020. The project is aimed at upgrading the Single Information System for Combating Crime (SISCC) and redesigning the Unified Information System (UIS). The development, maintenance, use and elaboration of the core of SISCC is carried out by the Prosecutor's Office in the Republic of Bulgaria (Art. 379, para 1 of the Judiciary Act). A portal has been developed as part of the project via which citizens and institutions register and apply for provision of electronic services. The portal for implementation of electronic services is part of the website of the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria. An open data portal has been developed, integrated with the portal of the Council of Ministers. As part of the project, normal and robust operation of the SISCC has been secured in accordance with the adopted rules for information security, by updating and optimizing the technological and architectural solutions at the main and recovery centers (the two centers that make up the core of the SISCC), in order to increase the system's efficiency and resilience, minimize the downtime for the SISCC core in case of disasters, accidents and technological activities, requiring the suspension of the operation of the main center and the activation of the recovery center, preserving in full the consistency of the information and the functionality of the entire system. As part of the project, hardware and communication equipment in the amount of approximately BGN 180,000 excluding VAT will be provided. The implementation of the activities under this project will be consistent with ensuring the sustainability of the investment described in the previous paragraph.

d. If comparable projects have been envisaged for implementation under the Partnership agreement programs, centrally managed EU instruments or the Fair Transition Fund, outline the scope and delimitation of the current project.

No such projects are envisaged.

15. Does the project contribute directly to the implementation of any of the specific recommendations of the Council addressed to Bulgaria in the framework of the European Semester in the period 2017-2020? Please describe in what way.

In the Commission's Report to the European Parliament and the Council on Bulgaria's progress under the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism (Strasbourg, 13.11.2018, COM (2018) 850 final) and the Technical Report accompanying the Report (Strasbourg, 13.11.2018, SWD (2018) 550 final) it is stated that, in the longer term, more structural reforms will be required to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the judiciary, including the development of e-Justice solutions.

The Recommendation for a Council Recommendation with regard to Bulgaria's National Reform Program for 2020, containing a Council Opinion on Bulgaria's Convergence Program for 2020 (ST 8173/20 - COM (2020) 502 final) states that the Covid-19-related crisis highlights the strategic importance of efficient public administration and the proper functioning of digital

governance.

By introducing innovative technologies to increase the information security of information and communication infrastructure in the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria, used by officials and magistrates in the digital national ecosystem, the project will improve access to teleworking and promote digital skills of staff. is an important condition for maintaining the viability of the economy in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and other emergencies.

In order to stimulate economic recovery, priority is given to ready-to-implement public investment projects.

It is also stated that Bulgaria's economy has the most intensive use of resources and energy and the highest greenhouse gas emissions in the Union. Transformation measures aimed at overcoming the high energy intensity and inefficient use of energy and resources in Bulgaria are at a very early stage, which prioritizes investments in the field of environmental and digital transition.

The implementation of the project creates the basic conditions for comprehensive and sustainable implementation of innovative technologies in the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria and consistent and calculated development of e-government and e-justice. The project will create a modern, adequate and secure base and conditions for the use of information and communication technologies and increase the information security of information files and applications used by officials and magistrates in the digital national ecosystem.

The implementation of the project will increase the efficiency of the judiciary by creating and implementing the basic information and communication infrastructure, which will enable the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria to successfully take its place in the ecosystem of e-government and e-justice. The results of the project are the necessary prerequisite for the successful subsequent implementation and sustainability of investments related to other applied information systems, registers and databases, including for the integration of information resources not only in the Prosecutor's Office of Bulgaria but also in the judiciary. In view of this, the project is necessary and structural, as it affects basic infrastructure needs, which are the basis of digitalization and digital transformation.

The implementation of the project will contribute to improving the quality of the judiciary by providing one of the key institutions in it adequately in relation to cybersecurity and opportunities for the development of e-justice. Needs regarding the efficiency and accessibility of the judiciary are directly addressed through e-justice tools and low public trust in institutions.

The construction and management of a new fault-tolerant, reserved, productive and protected information and communication infrastructure in the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria will ensure a qualitatively new level of infrastructure continuity and ensure the protection of information files and systems maintained and developed in the Prosecutor's Office.

The project will have a significant impact and effect on all economic and social groups using data from the systems - administrative structures and bodies performing public functions, the judiciary, and increase public confidence in the institution. A secure information and communication infrastructure drives the demand and use of ICT-based products and services and is a key factor for successful digital transformation.

The project contributes directly to the implementation of the recommendations related to the digitization of services, including those provided by the public administration and the development of e-justice - part of the Council Specific Recommendations addressed to Bulgaria

in the framework of the European Semester in the period 2017-2020, including the recommendations made in the Progress Reports of the Republic of Bulgaria in the last two years - 2019 and 2020 (the "Reports").

Without a robust, reserved, productive and secure information and communication infrastructure, the success and results of all other activities would only be partial, and digital transformation would not be possible.

The project directly contributes to the implementation of the recommendations related to the digitalization of services and the implementation of secure protection in connection with growing threats in the field of cybersecurity - part of the Council Specific Recommendations addressed to Bulgaria in the European Semester in 2017-2020, including the recommendations made in the Progress Reports of the Republic of Bulgaria in the last two years - 2019 and 2020 (the "Reports").

Cybersecurity and critical infrastructure security issues also need to be fully addressed.

Ensuring effective cyber protection of the information systems maintained and developed in the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria

will increase the level of their continuity, which will reflect on all economic and social groups consuming data from them - administrative structures and bodies providing public functions. Public confidence in the institution will also increase while ensuring prevention and protection from large-scale cyber threats and attacks. Secure cyberspace and trust are drivers of demand and use of ICT-based products and services and are key factors for successful digitization..

16. Does the project support reform in a particular sector? Please describe in what way.

The project contributes to the implementation of the reform in the Justice sector, in line with the Updated Strategy for Continuing Judicial Reform. The strategy points out that the reform of the Bulgarian judiciary takes place at a time when the revolution in computer and information technology completely transforms institutional models. At global level, significant know-how is available in the field of e-justice, which effectively transforms methods of work and administration of judicial institutions and allows for a significant increase in their transparency, efficiency and security. Therefore, a fundamental goal of the strategy is to ensure a technological leap in the administration of the judiciary. The completion of the delayed technological upgrade represents a complete transformation of the administrative processes within its institutions, regarded as cybernetic units.

The Strategy thus proposes action for the introduction of computer and information technologies with adequate safeguards as the "backbone" of the modernization of the judiciary. It envisages a qualitative step forward in efficiency on the basis of technological modernization.

To this end, Specific Objective 5 "E-Justice" has been formulated, within the Strategic Objective 3 "Effective administration of the judiciary", according to which operational capacity needs to be developed to guarantee the processes of gradual introduction and implementation of e-justice in the Justice sector and the reliable and secure e-communication among the judiciary and executive authorities, citizens and business. The system envisages handling of electronic content by officers and magistrates by switching from use and maintenance of paper documents and files to electronic ones and normative securing of their use in accordance with the adopted strategic rules for the sector, whereas access and information exchange between the registers will only take place electronically when comprehensive administrative services are provided to

citizens and businesses.

As can be seen from the general and specific objectives of the project, as well as the description and scope of activities, the results of its implementation are at the base of the entire e-justice ecosystem in the Prosecutor's Office of Bulgaria. In this way, the project contributes to the implementation of the specific objectives set out in the strategy for continuing reform of the judiciary.

17. Does the project contribute to the development of any of the aspects of the sustainable economic development? Please, describe how.

The building and management of a new fail-safe, reserved, productive and protected information and communication infrastructure will ensure the effectiveness of the judicial system and in particular of the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria, and will also strengthen the rule of law in the Republic of Bulgaria, which are in turn key elements of the general strategy for flexible conduction of reforms and investments, including by the private sector, will increase the level of usability and information security of the information databases and applications, and will also improve the exchange of information between the state, business and society.

A significant share of total electricity consumption is due to hardware equipment. The different models available on the European Community market are characterized by different levels of energy consumption with similar functions, and there is significant potential for optimizing their energy efficiency.

The hardware that will be delivered, installed and used for the implementation of the project (for the devices for which it is applicable) will comply with the specification of the relevant European standards for energy efficiency and eco-design (Ecodesign Regulation (EU)).

18. Does the project contribute to the accomplishment of the objectives of the National Development Programme BULGARIA 2030? Please, describe how.

The project implementation contributes directly to the achievement of the objectives of the National Development Programme Bulgaria 2030 directly related to the main development axes, respectively the priorities and the goals related to them. The project contributes to the implementation of Development Axis 3 "Connected and Integrated Bulgaria" and the objective "Digital connectivity" and Development Axis 4 "Responsive and Just Bulgaria" of the National Development Programme BULGARIA 2030, which are directed towards the construction of a modern and secure digital infrastructure, as a basis of the provision of more services through digital government and cooperation and the building of effective and responsible public institutions that are sensitive to the needs of business and the needs of the citizens.

Digital connectivity is the core of the digital transformation, as it is intended to ensure the necessary digital infrastructure for the ICT development. The main focus of the improvement of the institutional framework and the strengthening of the independence of the judicial system will be the decrease of the administrative burden and the improvement of the quality of the provided services. In order to increase the trust in the judicial system, it is necessary to continue the efforts for the building of e-government by the completion of the required infrastructure.

In view of the above, the building of a new fail-safe, reserved, productive and protected information and communication infrastructure, which will turn into the infrastructural basis of the entire subsequent digital transformation of the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria is entirely in accordance with the strategic goals that are set. In the absence of such

infrastructure, all other interventions would be fragmented and partial in their scope, without implementation of an all-round integrated approach. This infrastructural basis is a prerequisite for the ensuing of the availability and security of the information databases, improvement of their management, the integration of the databases and systems with the systems from the executive branch and the judicial branch by the application of a modern and secure digital infrastructure, as a basis for the offering of more services through digital government and cooperation.

The project is addressed to an increase in the institutions effectiveness through continuing reforms in the judiciary and in particular of the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria, taking further action for the strengthening of its independent and optimisation of its structure.

As a result, the integrity and authority of the judiciary will be improved, which may be implemented by high-quality and timely judicial acts.

The project implementation will also contribute to the ensuring of high levels of network and information security, as well as manageability of the infrastructure, guaranteeing its usability, high availability and protection.

The implementation of an all-round information and communication infrastructure will contribute to the inclusion of the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria in the overall ecosystem of the e-government, including in accordance with the Architecture of the e-government of the Republic of Bulgaria and an integration of the information databases with the ones of the executive branch and the judicial branch, which will contribute to the development and use of the e-government and e-justice services. An integration of the systems in the judiciary and ensuring of an electronic document flow is a prerequisite for the application of the rule of law in the Republic of Bulgaria.

19. Does the project contribute to the achievement of the objectives and priorities determined in the Integrated National Plan "Energy and Climate"? If the answer is "yes", please, describe how.

The building and management of a new fail-safe, reserved, production and protected information and communication infrastructure will lead to replacement of old and energy inefficient equipment with new equipment that satisfies the contemporary requirements for energy efficiency and high performance. The optimisation of the all-round infrastructure will bring about the use of the state-of-art technologies for the achievement of maximal efficiency of the equipment.

The project implementation will create the basis for a digital transformation of the activity of the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria, including the prerequisites for increasing the use of digital technologies and will directly decrease the paper document flow, which in turn decreases the generated carbon emissions.

This is also a contribution to the effective overcoming of the challenges faced by the ecological and digital transition.