

# Project Application Form

## Under the Recovery and Resilience Facility

<b>1. Project name</b>
Establishment of a training and development centre for the Centre for Interventional Neuroradiology in Bulgaria
<b>2. Description of the project (objectives, main activities)</b>
<p>About 55,000 cerebrovascular accidents (strokes) are registered in Bulgaria annually. Stroke is a socially significant disease. The severe cases that cause death or disability are about 35,000 per year. Patients eligible for endovascular treatment caught in the therapeutic time window are about 10% - 12% of all severe cases. These data show how much the conditions and technological level of medical equipment and the qualifications of medical professionals can be much further improved. Increasing the knowledge, skills, and qualifications of physicians to apply the latest techniques and achievements in the treatment of neurological, cardiovascular, and oncological diseases, would reduce mortality and permanent disability of the population in the country. This objective is set with the current project proposal - the establishment of a Center for Interventional Neuroradiology (CIN) in Bulgaria on the premises of the University Hospital (UMBAL) St. Ivan Rilski EAD. The training center will occupy two primary rooms, a practical training room with two simulators installed, a lecture room and auxiliary rooms. The center will be located in the west wing of the main building, next to the Biplane angiograph and the Radiation Clinic. <b>Computed Tomography scanner</b> located next to the Training Center, as well as <b>Magnetic Resonance Imaging scanner</b> - 1.5 Tesla - installed in the imaging department.</p> <p>The activity of CIN will be related to the training of staff for the implementation of endovascular therapy on all cerebrovascular diseases - treatment of cerebral aneurysms, cerebral arterial-venous malformations, arterial-venous fistulas, as well as therapy for acute stroke. The center will be able to train students specializing in radiology, as well as specialist doctors in (radiology, neurology and neurosurgery) to perform endovascular therapy in acute cerebrovascular accident (stroke). According to statistics, this is the most serious social disease in the country - the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest cause of mortality and the highest cause of disability.</p> <p>The centre will also train resident doctors in radiology to perform therapy on peripheral vascular pathology, as well as treatment of malignant diseases of the liver, kidneys, uterus, prostate and others. The project proposal is especially relevant due to the fact that Interventional Radiology is an extremely modern specialty in the world, dealing with minimally invasive and minimally traumatic procedures in the treatment of a number of diseases from all medical aspects.</p> <p>The purchased equipment will be used in the diagnostic and treatment process of patients with cerebrovascular diseases treated at the University Hospital St. Ivan Rilski EAD. This mainly includes patients with diseases of the brain and spinal cord, as well as pathology related to the therapeutic field that is treated with Interventional Radiology.</p> <p>For the construction of the Center, high-tech medical equipment will be purchased, as well as a special room will be built, meeting all modern standards and good practices. The premises are in the displaced Hemodialysis Unit. The construction activities cover the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Modification of HVAC installation</li> <li>- Modification of electrical installation</li> <li>- Water supply modification</li> <li>- Modification of the sewage system</li> <li>- Dismantling work</li> <li>- Constructions</li> <li>- Architectural work</li> <li>- Water and Sanitation</li> </ul>

- Electrical work - power installation
- Electrical work – low voltage currents
- HVAC
- Radiation protection
- IMG

To achieve this goal, the following logically related activities will be implemented:

1. Selection of a project management team
2. Purchase of modern medical equipment by conducting an open procedure in accordance with the Public Procurement Act (PPA);
  - 2.1. Purchase of two training simulators for interventional endovascular procedures in the field of angiography;
  - 2.2. Purchase of Magnetic Resonance Imaging scanner 1.5 Tesla;
  - 2.3. Purchase of Computed Tomography scanner 64 line/128 sections for neurological examinations;
3. Selection of contractor/s in accordance with the Public Procurement Act for construction and installation work for construction of the Centre;
  - 3.1. Construction and installation work on the premises where the simulators will be set up, as well as training rooms.
  - 3.2. Construction and installation work of the room where the Magnetic Resonance Imaging scanner 1.5 Tesla will be set up;
  - 3.3. Construction and installation work of the room where the Computed Tomography scanner 64 line / 128 sections for neurological examinations will be set up.
4. Conducting pilot trainings within the project implementation.

Increasing the capacity of medical specialists and resuming their work in the medical treatment centres where they work will improve regional access to treatment, as well as reduce mortality and disability of the population.

### 3. Beneficiary

University Hospital (UMBAL) St. Ivan Rilski EAD, Sofia

### 4. Time schedule for project Implementation, including activities, stages<sup>1</sup>

1. Selection of a project management team (24 months)
2. Preparation of technical specifications and complete documentation for conducting a public procurement under the Public Procurement Act for the purchase of medical equipment (9 months);
3. Preparation of an investment project for construction of the Centre and preparation of complete documentation for conducting a public procurement under the Public Procurement Act and selection of a contractor to perform the necessary construction and installation works (12 months). After selecting a supplier for the equipment, the supplier must submit the specific requirements regarding the premises according to the model and brand of the equipment;
4. Conducting pilot trainings for medical specialists (9 months after the start of the Centre's operation)

Total time for project implementation - 24 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
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<sup>1</sup> 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.





<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Initial value - 0 [2021]</li> <li>- End value - 600 [2023]</li> </ul>
<p><b>Number of studies performed with a multidetector scanner on the brain and spinal cord of patients, as well as pathology related to the therapeutic field treated by Interventional Radiology.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Initial value - 0 [2021]</li> <li>- End value - 1800 [2023]</li> </ul>
<p><b>Number of Magnetic Resonance Imaging Tests 1.5 T performed on the brain and spinal cord in patients, as well as pathology related to the therapeutic field that is treated with Interventional Radiology.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Initial value - 0 [2021]</li> <li>- End value - 1500 [2023]</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Does the project require the opening of a procedure pursuant to the Public Procurement Act (PPA)?</b></p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Purchase of two simulators in accordance with the Public Procurement Act - BGN 1,800,000.</li> <li>2. Purchase of Magnetic Resonance Imaging scanner - BGN 3,140,000.</li> <li>3. Purchase of a Multi-Detector Scanner - BGN 1,000,000.</li> <li>4. Selection of a contractor for construction and installation works - BGN 256,250.</li> <li>5. Selection of a project management team - BGN 127,500.</li> </ol>
<p><b>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?</b></p>
<p>99.2% of the activities require a procedure under the Public Procurement Act. About 0.8% on a historical basis.</p>
<p><b>7.2. If a procedure under the Public Procurement Act is required, what is the indicative schedule for its implementation?</b></p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Preparation of technical specifications and complete documentation for conducting a public procurement under the Public Procurement Act for the purchase of medical equipment (3 months from the start of the project);</li> <li>2. Conducting the public procurement and signing a contract with the selected contractor (s) (9 months after its announcement);</li> <li>3. Preparation of an investment project for construction of the Centre and preparation of complete documentation for conducting a public procurement under the Public Procurement Act for selection of a contractor to perform the necessary construction and installation work (4 months from the start of the project);</li> <li>4. Conducting a public procurement and signing a contract with the selected contractor (8 months after its announcement).</li> </ol>
<p><b>8. Demarcation and complementarity</b></p>
<p><b>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.</b></p>
<p>No similar projects have been implemented</p>
<p><b>8.2. If similar projects are envisaged to be implemented under the Partnership</b></p>

<p align="center"><b>Agreement programs, the centrally managed facilities of EU or the Just Transition Fund, outline the demarcation with this project.</b></p>
<p>No similar projects are envisaged under the Partnership Agreement programs, the EU's centrally managed instruments or the Fair Transition Fund.</p>
<p><b>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.</b></p>
<p>Regarding the Council's recommendations to Bulgaria in the framework of the European Semester in the period 2017-2020 for the health sector, only the following is stated: "To mobilize sufficient financial resources to strengthen the sustainability, accessibility and capacity of the health system and to ensure a balanced regional distribution of health workers to meet the needs of the population."</p> <p>In this regard, the current project is aimed at increasing the capacity, knowledge, and skills of medical professionals in hospitals. With the implementation of the envisaged measures for raising the qualification of the medical specialists the quality and the accessibility of the provided medical services for the citizens from all over the country will increase. This will reduce mortality and permanent disability of the population. The implementation of the project in the Republic of Bulgaria will result in the creation of conditions for permanent and supportive training of medical professionals. Increasing the knowledge and raising the skills of specialists from different regions of Bulgaria will lead to the implementation of the specific recommendations of the Council in the part - capacity building (human resources), accessibility (treatment of this pathology) and regional distribution of medical specialists ( trained specialists from various medical institutions).</p>
<p><b>10. Does the project contribute to the implementation of a reform in a given sector? Please describe how.</b></p>
<p>The project has been prepared and is in support of the reform in the Healthcare Sector, fully complying with the measures and tasks set in the National Health Strategy regarding the implementation of Policy 2.7. "Development of human capital in the health system". Its implementation will contribute to limiting the migration process of medical professionals. Also, the project directly corresponds to the goal set in the National Health Strategy - investment in the professional qualification of medical professionals, which provide the acquisition of professional knowledge, skills and competencies related to the exercise of the medical profession or area of specialty.</p> <p>The project also supports the implementation of Policy 2.8. "Ensuring the quality and safety of health care" of the National Health Strategy 2020. The provision of quality health care, in addition to accessibility, timeliness and quality, includes efficiency, which is best achieved through the use of the latest good practices and world standards in the diagnosis and treatment of socially significant diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, neurological diseases, and oncological diseases. The implementation of the project activities will significantly increase the efficiency and timeliness of the services offered at the medical treatment centres.</p>
<p><b>11. Does the project contribute to the development of any aspect of sustainable economic development? Please describe how.</b></p>

The project activities are aimed at modernization and introduction of innovative technologies in hospitals by raising the qualification and knowledge of medical specialists. The implementation of the envisaged measures will increase the opportunities for diagnosis and treatment, as well as the types of health services that hospitals offer. In turn, this will allow the generation of a larger volume of funds from the activity, which will expand the opportunities for further development of individual medical institutions. By increasing the health status of the population, the time span for temporary work disability of the fit-to-work population will be reduced, because of which the labour productivity and the gross domestic product of the country will increase.

The connection, which is discussed here between the realization of the planned investments and the expected results from them, will guarantee the achievement of sustainable economic 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 Priority 12 - Health and Sports of the National Development Program BULGARIA 2030 and in particular in terms of reducing premature and preventable mortality by increasing the knowledge and raising the skills of health professionals. In addition, the project contributes to another goal - namely overcoming the unfavourable outlook associated with the increased migration of medical professionals and the small number of nurses, by increasing the satisfaction of employees in terms of opportunities for acquisition and implementation of the latest world achievements in healthcare in Bulgaria. The project is in line with the goals of sustainable development of the UN goals and specifically Goal 3 - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

**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.**

The project is entirely aimed at implementing activities aimed at providing the most up-to-date medical equipment, because of which the consumption of electricity at the centre will be reduced to a minimum. The implementation of the investment measures will support the implementation of the goals and priorities set out in the Integrated National Plan "Energy and Climate" in terms of ensuring high energy efficiency of CIN.