

Project Application Form

Under the Recovery and Resilience Facility

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| 1. | Project name |
| | <p>Building, development and optimization of the digital TETRA system and microwave network, managed by the Ministry of Interior</p> |
| 2. | Description of the project (objectives, main activities). |
| | <p>Main objectives:</p> <p>In line with the overall objective of the Recovery and Resilience Facility to promote economic, social and territorial cohesion in the Union by enhancing the resilience and adaptation capacity of the Member States, mitigating the social and economic impact of the crisis and supporting environmental and digital transition, thus contributing to the restoration of the growth potential of the Union's economies, promoting the creation of employment after the COVID-19 crisis and promoting sustainable growth, a Recovery and Resilience Plan of the Republic of Bulgaria has been established.</p> <p>Under this plan, the government's intentions are grouped in Pillar 3, CONNECTED BULGARIA in the following key policy areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Digital connectivity - Transport connectivity - Local development. <p>The main goal of the Local Development Policy is to provide preconditions for the increase of the competitiveness and sustainable development of the regions of the country, as well as the promotion of the local development.</p> <p>The digital transformation of the services and processes of the state administration set by the government aims to increase the efficiency of the state administration, effectively deal with the main social challenges and increase the security of the citizens. The digital transformation, as a process of integration of digital technologies, is a prerequisite for complete transformation of the processes and models of functioning of the systems for protection of the population, the systems for protection of sites part of the critical infrastructure, the systems for prevention of domestic crime, the systems for monitoring the residences of a large group of people, the road safety systems. As a rule, the digitalisation of the processes and models for protection of the population is a long process, based on the established basic information - communication infrastructure and continuity in the priorities. The establishment of a national wireless communication network for mobile devices /TETRA of the Ministry of Interior/ is important for the responding units, responsible for the security of the citizens, crime prevention and protection in case of natural disasters and accidents. The system has flexible technical mechanisms for managing the communication groups of the responding bodies, both horizontally and vertically in the process of management and rapid regrouping depending on the specific event.</p> <p>Transforming cities and towns into inclusive, safe, adaptable and sustainable living areas is one of the most important conditions for promoting investment and economic recovery, contributing to the economic and social recovery from the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The restored potential for economic growth ensures resilience to negative external influences. In the long run this will allow the achievement of the strategic goal of the government for the convergence of the economy and the income to the average European levels as well as the successful green and digital transformation of the economy.</p> |

One of the main goals in Priority 8 "Digital Connectivity", Development Axis 3 "Connected and Integrated Bulgaria", indicator Pillar "Connectivity" is Goal 11 "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable". Given that the main efforts in Priority 8 Digital Connectivity are aimed at providing conditions for the complete digitalization and development of ICT with the necessary digital infrastructure as a platform for the provision of various electronic services, the Public Protection and Disaster Relief communications (PPDR) should follow the same trends for providing an adequate, modern digital communication environment to the responding units for early warning, emergency notification and protection of the population in case of disasters and accidents, protection of public order and counteraction to crime. For communication and coordination of the response structures in emergencies, disasters and crises in the countries of the European Union (EU) radio communication systems are built on the TETRA standard. This standard is approved by the "European Institute for Telecommunications Standardization" (ETSI) for Public Protection and Disaster Relief communications (PPDR). Based on the TETRA standard at European and regional level, cross-border cooperation is planned and implemented.

Another focus of the Pillar Connected Bulgaria, priority 9, is the establishment of a strong coordination mechanism with functions for monitoring, control and management of disaster risk, including floods, landslides and fires. Building a TETRA system whose main functional characteristics - voice transmission, short messages and GPS positioning, etc. will serve the responding units for control and management of the risk of disasters and accidents and is the main means for the exchange of vital information. The TETRA system will also provide the connection between the central elements and the end acoustic devices of the NEWDS.

Deployment of a modern digital radio communication environment on the TETRA standard on the territory of the whole country and the additional integration to the NG112 system will significantly help the transformation of cities and human settlements into inclusive, safe, adaptive, and sustainable places to live, by providing the necessary conditions for the state institutions for adequate connectivity and communication in carrying out basic functions for the protection of public order and ensuring the safety and protection of the population.

In the context of the common policy of digitization and the transformation of cities and towns into inclusive, safe, adaptable and sustainable places to live, the following specific objectives are set:

- Building the TETRA communication system of the Ministry of Interior as a unified radiocommunication system for providing a communication environment for management, interaction and coordination of state units, including all elements of the Unified Rescue System /URS/, National system 112, at all levels in the protection of public spaces, crime prevention, notification and protection of the population in case of disasters and accidents related to the Disaster and Accident Protection Act.
- Using the TETRA system as a communication environment for the National Early Warning and Disclosure System (NEWDS) elements management, through a set of technical and organizational measures, aimed the prevention and protection of the population and reducing the possible negative consequences of climate change, through infrastructural measures contributing to to risk management and early warning systems, including technical capacity in disaster risk forecasting and management.
- Tapping the potential of the TETRA system with the introduction of organizational and technical solutions for connecting the TETRA system with such systems used by other state institutions in Bulgaria and those of neighboring countries.

When it is completed, the TETRA system of the Ministry of Interior will be used as a unified radiocommunication system to provide a communication environment for management, interaction, and coordination of the state structures, including ministries, local authorities, and all elements of the Unified Rescue System (URS), in the implementation of joint activities related to notification and protection of the population in case of disasters and accidents, protection of public order, and counteraction to crime. This includes integration with NS 112 and providing a communication environment for managing the elements of the National Early Warning and Disclosure System (NEWDS).

The system will be the latest version of the technological solutions currently available, in compliance with all EU requirements in the field of security communications (Public Protection and Disaster Relief) and good practices. It is envisaged a possibility for the modular upgrade of the system to provide broadband access LTE (or equivalent) for future infrastructure construction in large cities and international transport corridors for broadband access to data for the Unified Rescue System (ESS) and the executive power for fast exchange of information.

To coordinate the response structures in emergencies, disasters, and crises in the countries of the European Union (EU) are used radio communication systems built according to the standard approved by the "European Institute for Telecommunications Standardization" (ETSI) - TETRA. For the realization of this type of radio system internationally, certain frequency assignments have been harmonized, and Bulgaria is no exception in this respect. Based on the TETRA standard at the European and regional level, cross-border interaction is planned and implemented through the radio communication systems of the response teams of neighbouring countries.

Specific objectives:

- Achieving a national coverage of the TETRA system by increasing the number of network elements in the order of 95% on the territory of the country;
- Optimizing the density of coverage in large cities, as well as in sites of national importance;
- Increasing the capacity of the TETRA system in order to create an opportunity to increase the number of users who will interact;
- Gradual replacement of the local radiosystems with the centralized TETRA system on the country territory;
- Service implementation, as a model for maintenance of the TETRA system;
- Timely implementation of new technological and software solutions and client applications in the TETRA system;
- Ensuring a reserved connectivity of the Ministry of Interior support network;
- Expansion and modernization of the existing microwave network for data transmission on the territory of the whole country;
- Preparation for the implementation and future build of LTE (or equivalent) infrastructure in the cities and international transport corridors for high-speed data access of the Unified Rescue System and the executive power bodies for fast exchange of information, as well as integration with similar systems built by the business providing telecommunication services;
- Use of the available and future capacity of the optical and other connectivity, state property, for upgrading the TETRA system support network.

This will lead to an opportunity to upgrade the TETRA system services with high-speed data transmission and access to information systems services of the departmental public administration.

Three-year period activities:

1. Delivery, installation, integration and commissioning of new stationary and portable base stations on the TETRA standard or equivalent and their integration into the existing digital cellular radio system of the Ministry of Interior, including securing systems, video surveillance, design, construction, connection, and integration and other activities for achievement of radiocoverage on the territory of Republic of Bulgaria at least 90%. Network connectivity is intended to be reserved. The radiobase stations will have the option for modular upgrade in the future to provide high speed access LTE (or equivalent);
2. Delivery, installation and commissioning and integration of new digital microwave systems and replacement of existing ones to ensure network connectivity of the new and existing sites with TETRA base stations;
3. Hardware and software renewal of the existing TETRA digital exchanges and training;

4. Replacement and/or renewal of the management systems of TETRA subscribers and communication/workstations/server system – 36 workstations;
5. Upgrade to the latest version of the network management software for existing network elements (TBS), so as to allow the introduction of new broadband services;
6. Replacement and/or renewal of the existing smart application, allowing GSM smart phone to be connected to the TETRA network and delivery of 700 hybrid (smart phone with TETRA) terminals;
7. Replacement and/or renewal of the network management and monitoring system (NMS), delivery of workstations;
8. Providing software for connecting TETRA radio terminals for operation in the system (HLR);
9. Maintenance of the existing elements of the TETRA network and the microwave system of the Ministry of Interior for a period of 3 years;
10. Delivery of a server system for virtualization environment for applications and integration solutions for the TETRA system of the Ministry of Interior;
11. Server architecture, providing integration with systems of the Ministry of Interior, related to the functioning of the terminal devices;
12. Delivery of terminal devices and the necessary accessories for them.
- 13.

3. Beneficiary

Communication and Information Systems Directorate, Ministry of Interior

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

| Activity | Months | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| | 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 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Staff costs | x | x | x | | x | x | x | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2. Delivery, installation, integration and commissioning of new stationary and portable base stations on the TETRA standard or equivalent and their integration into the existing digital cellular radio system of the Ministry of Interior, including securing systems, video surveillance, design, construction, connection, and integration and other activities | | | | | | | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | 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]

[illegible]

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

It is envisaged that the project will be implemented in several stages with defined result indicators for each stage according to the intermediate values indicated in item 6.

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

One month

5. Indicative financial resource by activity, including sources of financing (national budget, European funding, private funding, IFIs)

European funding
150 598 910 BGN (VAT included)

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

- New sites building (Construction and Installation Works) - 3%
- Physical capital (purchase of radiocommunication equipment and activities for put into

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| <p>operation and integration of the equipment, maintenance of the existing components of the TETRA network, delivery of terminal devices) - 68,25%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Human capital (training of employees for maintenance and operation of the delivered equipment) - 0,5% - Labor (labor costs, consulting services...) – 0,25% - Technology (software acquisition costs) - 28% |
| 6. Indicators |
| 6.1. Result indicator/s |
| <p>Number of delivered, installed, integrated, and put into operation new stationary, compact, and mobile base stations on the TETRA standard or equivalent and their integration in the existing digital cellular radio system of the Ministry of Interior, including design, construction, connecting and integration.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initial value – 0 [I-st half of 2021] - Intermediate value – 24 pcs [II-nd half of 2021] - Intermediate value – 64 pcs [II-nd half of 2022] - Final value – 109 pcs [II-nd half of 2023] |
| <p>Delivered, installed, and put into operation and integration of new digital microwave systems and replaced existing ones to ensure network connectivity of the new and existing sites with TETRA base stations.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initial value – 0 [I-st half of 2021] - Intermediate value – 115 pcs [II-nd half of 2021] - Intermediate value – 193 pcs [II-nd half of 2022] - Final value – 330 pcs [II-nd half of 2023] |
| <p>Delivered server system for virtualization environment for installation of applications and integration solutions for the TETRA system of the Ministry of Interior</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initial value – 0 [I-st half of 2021] - Final value – 1 pc [I-st half of 2022] |
| <p>Hardware and software upgraded existing TETRA Digital Exchanges</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initial value – 0 [I-st half of 2021] - Final value – 2 pcs [I-st half of 2022] |
| <p>Replaced and/or updated systems for management of TETRA subscribers and communication, and network management and monitoring system</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initial value – 0 [I-st half of 2021] - Final value – 2 pc [II-nd half of 2021] |
| <p>Replaced and/or updated to the latest version of network management software to allow the introduction of new broadband services</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initial value – 0 [I-st half of 2021] - Final value – 1 pc [II-nd half of 2022] |
| <p>Replacement and/or update of the existing smart application, allowing GSM smart phone to be connected to the TETRA network</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initial value – 0 [I-st half of 2021] - Final value – 1 pc [I-st half of 2023] | | | | | | |
| Delivered terminal devices and licenses for connecting TETRA radio terminals for the needs of all state institutions for operation in the TETRA system | | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initial value - 20 000 [I-st half of 2021] - Intermediate value – 24 000 [II-nd half of 2022] - Final value - 34 000 [I-st half of 2023] | | | | | | |
| 6.2. Effect indicator/s | | | | | | |
| Increasing the capacity and number of subscribers of the system for the needs of all state institutions | | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initial value – 20 000 subscribers [I- st half of 2021] - Intermediate value – min 24 000 subscribers [II-nd half of 2022] - Final value – min 34 000 subscribers [I-st half of 2023] | | | | | | |
| Percentage of the TETRA communication environment radio coverage on the territory of the country with the possibility of usage by the National Early Warning and Disclosure System (NEWDS) elements | | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initial value – 75% [I-st half of 2021] - Intermediate value – 80% [II-nd half of 2021] - Intermediate value – 90% [II-nd half of 2022] - Final value – 90% for portable TETRA radio terminals and 95% for mobile TETRA radio terminals [II-nd half of 2023] | | | | | | |
| 7. Does the project require the opening of a procedure pursuant to the Public Procurement Act (PPA)? | | | | | | |
| <p>The public procurement for the implementation of the project will be assigned under the Public Procurement Act.</p> <p>The contracting authority for the public procurement will be the Communication and Information Systems Directorate - Ministry of Interior. The structure will also be the beneficiary under the project.</p> <p>2 (two) public procurements are envisaged.</p> | | | | | | |
| 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? | | | | | | |
| 99,75 % | | | | | | |
| 7.2. If a procedure under the Public Procurement Act is required, what is the indicative schedule for its implementation? | | | | | | |
| 30 months for a Contract implementation under PP | | | | | | |
| Objective | Subject of the PP | Estimated cost of the PP in BGN | Type of the procedure | Preparation date | Date of the award | Start and period of the implementation of the contract |

| | | | | | Obtaining applications/offers/projects/proposals up to date | Work of the commission and conclusion of a contract in days | |
|----------|---|-------------|----------------|------------|---|---|------------|
| Delivery | Building, development and optimization of the digital TETRA system and microwave network managed by the MoI | 150 598 910 | open procedure | 28.02.2021 | 05.04.2021 | 30 | 21.05.2021 |
| Delivery | Delivery of terminal devices and equipment | | open procedure | 28.02.2022 | 05.04.2021 | 30 | 21.05.2021 |

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.

So far, a large number of projects have been implemented, financed with European financial instruments and budget funding, to meet the communication needs of the Ministry by building and extending the digital radiocommunication system on the TETRA standard and radio microwave environment of the Ministry of Interior. Projects have been successfully implemented to secure the routes of the European infrastructure corridors and the country's external borders, which has provided reliable and secure modern communication between various structures of the ministry and contributed to meeting the technical requirements for the country's accession to the Schengen area.

Completed projects:

- 2002 – a project launched by the Border Police with TETRA digital exchange, main server systems, 5 TETRA base stations (TBS) and 500 subscribers. Funding - PHARE program. Open procedure under the Public Procurement Act;
- 2002 - 2008 - several small projects for extension of the radio coverage by delivery and installation of another 15 TBS. PHARE funding;
- 2008 - 2010 - extension of the system:
 - New Digital Exchange for TETRA in Burgas, 8 TBS. Financing - World Bank. Open procedure under the Public Procurement Act;
 - 28 TBS, AVL for Fire Safety and Civil Protection Directorate General. Funding - PHARE program. Procedure under the Public Procurement Act - open to direct negotiation;
 - 50 TBS, Financing - Schengen Financial Mechanism. Open procedure under the Public Procurement Act;
 - Multi-annual program under the External Borders Fund;
 - Financing under the program "Environment and Water", Fire Safety and Civil Protection Directorate General;
 - Financing from Kozloduy NPP, in connection with ensuring protection of the population in 30 km zone around the nuclear power plant;
 - Norwegian financial mechanism;
 - Project "Completion of a siren system for protection of the population and the sites of the European Critical Infrastructure", Stara Zagora under the Internal Security Fund, GP 2017

All these projects have gradually upgraded the TETRA radiosystem of the Ministry of Interior, adding new network elements to increase radio coverage, new functionalities to increase system services and new terminal devices to increase the number of users.

This project will achieve national coverage of the TETRA system by adding new network elements, increasing the number of subscribers, and the capacity and quality of services provided.

The radiocommunication system on the TETRA standard and the microwave transmission environment of the Ministry of Interior will be used both by the Ministry of Interior and by other state organizations in performing common tasks related to the protection of the population, protection of public order, etc.

Currently, the TETRA system is used as a communication environment for the management of elements of the National Early Warning and Disclosure System (NEWDS). The technical solutions are aimed at prevention and protection of the population and reduction of the possible negative consequences of climate change, through infrastructural measures contributing to risk management and early warning systems management, including the technical capacity in disaster risk forecasting and management.

It is envisaged that in the future the National Early Warning and Disclosure System (NEWDS) will fully use the TETRA system as a communication environment for the management of the elements, namely for the connection between the terminal devices and the elements for centralized management.

The TETRA system of the Ministry of Interior will be used as a unified radiocommunication system to provide a communication environment for management, interaction, and coordination of state structures, incl. all elements of the Unified Rescue System (URS) and integration with the National System 112.

The radio communication environment currently used in the Ministry of Interior is inhomogeneous and consists of a TETRA system under upbuilding, digital and analog networks. The situation is similar with the other state bodies and organizations in the Republic of Bulgaria, which use locally deployed and based on different communication technology radiocommunication systems. There are no technical interfaces available to ensure adequate connectivity between the systems. This causes difficulties to coordinate and interact with the responding structures when carrying out joint activities.

• The planning, building, development, management, and maintenance of the radiocommunication systems (RCS) of the Ministry of Interior (MoI) are provided so that the systems provide radiocommunication in the performance of the tasks and responsibilities of the ministry assigned and arising from the following regulations:

- Ministry of Interior Act;
- Regulations for implementation of the Ministry of Interior Act;
- Disaster Protection Act;
- Road Traffic Act;
- Regulations for implementation of the Road Traffic Act.

To coordinate the response structures in emergencies, disasters, and crises in the countries of the European Union (EU) are used radio communication systems built according to the TETRA standard approved by the "European Institute for Telecommunications Standardization" (ETSI). For the realization of this type of radiosystems internationally, certain frequency allocations have been harmonized, and Bulgaria is no exception in this respect. Based on the TETRA standard at the European and regional level, cross-border interaction is planned and implemented through the radio communication systems of the response teams of neighbouring countries.

Radiocommunication systems on the TETRA standard are currently being used or are being built in the EU member states. This is a clear indication that the trend for building a radiocommunication system of the Ministry of Interior according to the TETRA standard is in line with the general trends in Europe.

All this gives grounds for the conclusion that for effective operational interaction at the national and regional level, in order to consolidate resources and optimize financial resources for building and maintaining radiocommunications for the needs of responsible national institutions, it is appropriate to build and maintain a unified national radiosystem for the Republic of Bulgaria.

The Unified Rescue System (URS) is a set of technical and organizational measures for management of the responding units in actions related to early warning, emergency notification and protection of the population in case of disasters and accidents, protection of public order and counteraction to crime. URS includes the following main technical elements: the National Early

Warning and Disclosure System (NEWDS), and the TETRA digital radiocommunication system, which is a communication environment for management (TETRA digital exchanges, TETRA base stations, digital microwave systems to ensure connectivity of the TETRA base stations, management software, software applications, etc.), interaction and coordination of the state structures, incl. ministries, local authorities, voluntary formations and all elements of the URS, and other technical facilities. The TETRA system provides voice transmission, short messages, GPS positioning, and other services for wireless communication between responding units. From a technical point of view, the National Early Warning and Disclosure System includes terminal devices used to transmit audio information for early warning the population in disaster-affected areas and the central control elements, where information on disaster-related events is received and is transmitted to the end audio terminal devices in the affected areas as emergency notification information. A wireless radio communication environment is needed to transmit information from the central elements to the end audio devices. The TETRA system provides such a radio communication environment. In addition to its main functional characteristics (voice transmission, short messages, and GPS positioning), the use of the TETRA system for the communication environment of the NEWDS contributes to achieving efficiency in disaster and accident management. The TETRA systems built in the EU countries have such purpose, as the standard itself is created for the specialized needs in the operational management of the forces and means and the reacting units.

The TETRA system will be integrated with the National system 112 (NG112 system) and will be used for voice communication for teams of emergency services as emergency medical care, police, fire brigades, mountain rescue service, maritime administration, etc.

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 under the Partnership Agreement programs, centrally managed EU instruments or the Fair Transition Fund are not foreseen for implementation.

Demarcation and complementarity with funds/instruments in the field of Home Affairs

The project proposal complements projects related to the development and maintenance of the TETRA system of the Ministry of Interior, which are funded under the national program of the Internal Security Fund (ISF) 2014-2020.

The demarcation regarding the support under the Funds in the field of Home Affairs and the Recovery and Resilience Mechanism will be provided through the various activities/costs that are financed/are expected to be financed in view of the specific objectives of the respective instruments.

The projects and activities funded under ISF 2014-2020 are aimed at ensuring effective border control at the EU's external borders and at preventing and combating cross-border, serious and organized crime, including terrorism, and increasing the capacity for effective management of security risks and crises.

For the next programming period, support for activities in the field of effective management of external border controls (under the Instrument for Financial Assistance for Border and Visa Management 2021-2027) is expected to continue and to increase the exchange of information, cross-border operational cooperation and capacity building in the fight and prevention of serious and organized crime, including terrorism (under the Internal Security Fund 2021-2027).

Support under the Funds in the field of Home Affairs for projects/activities related to the TETRA system shall be provided to the extent that they are aimed at achieving the objectives of the relevant instruments and subject to the applicable constraints arising from sectoral legislation in terms of their cost.

The project proposal proposed for funding under the Recovery and Resilience Facility is aimed at building the TETRA system of the Ministry of Interior as a unified radiocommunication system to provide a communication environment for management, interaction and coordination of

state structures, incl. all elements of the Unified Rescue System (URS) and NS 112 in the implementation of joint activities related to the notification and protection of the population in case of disasters and accidents, protection of public order, and counteraction to crime. One of the main goals of the project is to use the TETRA system as a communication environment for managing the elements of the National Early Warning and Disclosure System (NEWDS), through a set of technical and organizational measures aimed at prevention and protection of the population and reduction of possible negative consequences of climate change.

A significant component of the project is focused on risk management and response to disasters and crises of a natural nature, as analyzes show that climate-related events such as floods, storms, heatwaves, snowfalls, and droughts account for almost 90% of all major disasters in Bulgaria.

The scope and implementation of the activities included in the proposed project go beyond the areas of support of the Funds in the field of Home Affairs, as actions related to maintaining public order at the national level and managing risks and response to disasters and crises of a natural character are not eligible for funding under them.

Ensuring complementarity, demarcation, and non-admission of double funding in terms of support provided to the Funds in the field of Home Affairs will be done through the existing coordination mechanisms with other EU-funded programs and instruments.

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 directly contributes to the implementation of some of the Council's recommendations addressed to Bulgaria within the European Semester in the period 2017-2020, insofar as the provision of adequate high-speed connectivity and communication provides the necessary conditions for the response of the Ministry of Interior and government agencies with responsibilities in the protection of public order and protection of the population - the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria, the General Directorate for the Protection of the Judiciary, the Office for Protection of the Prosecutor General of the Ministry of Justice, the Emergency Aid Teams of the Ministry of Health, Kozloduy NPP, The National System 112, the bodies of the local government and the local administration, Sofia Municipality, etc.

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

At present, the radiocommunication systems of the Ministry of Interior in 25% of the country's territory are old analog isolated radio networks, which do not have a technical interface with each other. In joint events, employees cannot communicate directly through radio networks and this hinders the coordination of forces and resources. With the achievement of TETRA radiocoverage on the territory of the country, the coordination, management and interaction will be much easier through secure and reliable direct communication both between the structural units of the Ministry of Interior and between the other users of the TETRA communication system.

The project also contributes to sustainability at the policy level. The compliance of the project activities with the commitments of the Ministry of Interior and the requirements set by them provides a solid basis both for the further development of the activities in this direction and for ensuring the sustainability of the results.

In the Security sector, the project contributes to the unification of the means of radio communication, greatly improves the coordination and management of the responding units. The project helps to increase the mobility of the teams and the security of the communication of the TETRA system users from the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria, the General Directorate for Judicial Protection, the Office for Protection at the Prosecutor General's Office, the Emergency Aid Teams at the Ministry of Health, Kozloduy NPP, the National System 112,

the bodies of local government and local administration, Sofia Municipality, etc.

The TETRA system is used for communication environment of the National Early Warning and Disclosure System. The provision of a unified communication environment will contribute to increasing the reliability of preventive activities and disaster protection.

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

The radiocommunication environment currently used in the Ministry of Interior is inhomogeneous and consists of an extending TETRA system, digital and analog systems. The situation is similar to the other state bodies and organizations in the Republic of Bulgaria, which use regionally deployed radiocommunication systems based on different communication technology. No technical interfaces are available to ensure adequate connectivity between the systems. This makes it difficult to coordinate and interact with the responding structures when carrying out joint activities.

The use of the TETRA system of the Ministry of Interior to provide a communication environment for management, interaction, and coordination of state structures, incl. all elements of the Unified Rescue System, National System 112, at all levels in the protection of public order, combating crime, early warning and protection of the population in disasters and accidents related to the Disaster Protection Act and will help to consolidate and optimize financial resources needed to build and maintain the network.

With the achieving of TETRA radiocoverage on the territory of the country, the coordination, management, and interaction will be much easier through secure and reliable direct communication both between the structures of the Ministry of Interior and between the other users of the TETRA communication system.

The frequency resource used at the moment by the various radiosystems, both by the Ministry of Interior and by all other responding structures with responsibilities for public order protection, crime prevention, early warning, and protection of the population in case of disasters and accidents, will be released.

The use of the unified communication system TETRA will contribute to increasing the security of communication of the responding structures engaged in the protection of public order and protection of the population, will promote coordination, management, and effective operational interaction between them at the national and regional level.

The establishment of a unified radiocommunication system will facilitate the process of preparation for the introducing and future building of LTE(or equivalent) infrastructure in major cities and international transport corridors for high-speed access to data for the needs of the Unified Rescue System and the executive for fast exchange of information. This will provide an opportunity to upgrade the services of the TETRA system with services for high-speed data transmission and access to information systems of the departmental public administration.

The use of the unified radiocommunication system will contribute to increasing the efficiency of the management of the forces and means of the reacting units of the structures of the state administration and the voluntary formations at the General Directorate Fire Safety and Civil Protection and at the local level.

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 contributes to the implementation of the objectives of the National Development Program BULGARIA 2030, both directly related to the main axes of development, respectively the priorities and objectives related to them, and through indirect support for the implementation of other objectives set in the program. The TETRA system has the character of a providing system in terms of communication. An important condition for the successful implementation of the set goals is ensuring public order and protection of the

population. Providing an adequate communication environment is of paramount importance for the proper functioning of the responsible units.

Priority 8 "Digital Connectivity", Development Axis 3, "Sustainable Development" Goal 11 "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable"

Priority 8 "Digital Connectivity", Development Axis 3 "Connected and Integrated Bulgaria", indicator Pillar "Connectivity".

Priority 9 "Local Development", Development Axis 3 "Connected and Integrated Bulgaria".

Building a modern digital infrastructure that will ensure reliable, secure communication between state and local government structures, through which the goals of the two priorities will be achieved.

The main element in all these measures is the TETRA radiocommunication system of the Ministry of Interior, as a communication environment for the early warning and interaction systems of the responding structures.

The actions envisaged will contribute to the implementation of certain aspects of Goal 11 "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable" and Goal 9 "Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation".

The vision for digital transformation is enshrined in a special document developed in support of the National Development Program BULGARIA 2030.

The establishment of a national wireless communication network for mobile devices and data terminals /TETRA of the Ministry of Interior/ is essential for the responsible units taking care of the security of citizens. The government's efforts will focus on increasing the capacity and speed of the network by building a unified broadband communication system for civil protection and disaster relief. The effect of the upgrade will be an increased capacity to transmit data over secure channels and released frequency resources that will be provided by the regulator to other users.

Digital technologies play an important role in building and developing a national early warning system in the event of an emergency or disaster. The efforts of the institutions responsible for the protection of the population will be focused on the use of digital technologies for the development and modernization of the early warning system, as well as the renewal of the information and communication infrastructure for the use of geospatial data, 4G and TETRA mobile networks.

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 TETRA system will also be used for the energy and ecology system, with the help of which a unified system for coordination of the teams from the different structures and the possibility for monitoring of different parameters will be achieved. The TETRA system is used for the communication environment of the National Early Warning System. The establishment of a unified communication environment will contribute to increasing the reliability of preventive action and protection in case of disasters.