



OPportunities
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OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME “ENVIRONMENT 2007 – 2013”



European Union
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Cohesion Policy for Environment Directorate
ope@moew.government.bg

Amendment of the OPE 2007 - 2013

Operational Programme Environment 2007 - 2013 is oriented towards the realization of priorities related to implementation of EU environmental legislation. The resource is aimed at achieving the requirements the implementation of which needs significant financial resources for development of investment in order to provide basic infrastructure. The main objective of the priority Axis 2 ‘Improvement and development of waste treatment infrastructure’ is to improve the waste management in the country in compliance with the defined hierarchy for waste management in parallel with the improvement the soil and groundwater condition and to decrease the part of the country’s territory covered with existing landfills for household waste.

Under Article 40 of the new Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC it must be transposed to 12.12.2010. In order to make Europe a "recycling society", which seeks to avoid waste and uses them as a resource, Member States should support the use of recyclable materials and make efforts for their separation of the total municipal solid waste stream so as far as possible not to be directed to landfill or incineration. The Sixth Environment Action Programme of the European Community gives priority to measures to ensure waste separation at the source, collection and recycling of priority waste streams as well as. According to Art.4 of Directive 2008/98/EC in waste prevention policy and management legislation the applied priority order on five point scale of the waste hierarchy: (a) prevention; (b) preparing for re-use; (c) recycling; (d) other recovery, e.g. energy recovery; and (e) disposal

To achieve the objectives set out in the OP, the indicative eligible activities under Priority Axis 2 of the OPE 2007-2013 are:

- (1) Completion the construction of systems of affordable regional facilities/installations for municipal waste treatment having sufficient capacity for the country’s purposes in the 54 waste management regions (for example regional landfills and transfer stations);
- (2) Construction of affordable facilities for pre-treatment including composting, sorting, and separation of waste, in parallel with putting into operation of the newly constructed municipal waste regional landfills;
- (3) Construction of waste recycling centers in parallel with putting into operation of the new municipal waste regional landfills;
- (4) Construction of installations for recovery of the emitted gas emissions (methane) from the municipal waste landfills for the production of electricity;
- (5) Construction of regional facilities for recycling of construction and demolition waste;
- (6) Staged decommissioning and consequent rehabilitation and closure of existing municipal landfills that do not comply with the requirements of the legislation and the modern technical standards. The closure of these municipal landfills will be coordinated with

putting into operation of the relevant new regional facility/installation of municipal waste treatment;

- (7) Preparation/review and update of regional/municipal waste management plans;
- (8) Development of investment projects for subsequent financing under priority 2 of OP "Environment 2007–2013".

Given the limited financial resource in the Mechanism for development of the waste management infrastructure with the assistance of Operational Programme Environment 2007 – 2013 the eligible activities were specified and focused on establishing regional systems for waste management to complete the network of regional systems for the disposal of the total quantity of waste in the country and ensuring the basic infrastructure. Activities funded projects are:

- Construction of 1st stage of the regional landfill with specific capacity (generally between 5 and 7 years). The 1st stage size and scope will be determined by the feasibility study and the design of the landfill;
- Construction of pre-treatment facilities providing for the separation of burnable and recyclable component of the incoming waste;
- Construction of composting facilities; as well as where viable construction of recycling installations for construction, demolition and bulky waste and recycling centers (civic community sites for collection and temporary storage of separated recyclable waste and hazardous waste from households) and/or construction of mechanical and biological treatment facility with specified parameters;
- Transfer station (where there is justified need) including pre-treatment and/or composting facilities where applicable.

With the adoption of Decree 209 of August 20th, 2009 activities for the closure of municipal landfills that do not meet the requirements of Ordinance № 8 of 2004 on the conditions and requirements for construction and operation of landfills and other facilities and installations for waste disposal and recovery (promulgated, SG. 83 of 2004, amended. No.87 of 2007) are supported by the state budget in the form of subsidies and are not part of the activities provided in the Mechanism.

Under the Mechanism only one exception is possible - in case during the project preparation for the establishment of a regional waste management system to demonstrate that construction of new regional landfill is technically inseparably linked to the closure of an existing landfill. Removing activities for closure of old landfills from the eligible activities for funding under the OPE is justified with the allocation of funding towards establishing fully functioning regional systems.

In the process of the operational programs preparation it was agreed part of the activities related to waste management to be financed under the scheme "Support to improve the living environment through the establishment of systems for waste collection and disposal" of the Operational Programme "Regional Development 2007 - 2013" . Therefore, following the requirements for demarcation between the OPs and the avoidance of double funding, these activities were excluded from the OPE.

At the fourth formal meeting of the Monitoring Committee of Operational Programme "Regional Development 2007 - 2013" held on April 30, 2009, it was decided to undertake reallocation of funds under scheme "Support to improve the living environment by organizing systems for waste collection and disposal", as well as from the scheme for support of

activities in the industrial and business areas towards the scheme for implementation of energy efficiency measures and deployment of renewable energy sources in educational institutions - municipal property.

This leads to a distortion of complementarity between the two operational programs, given that municipalities could not provide financial resources to purchase such equipment, which is an essential element of the systems for waste management.

Moreover, even during the ex – ante evaluation of the OP “Environment” 2007-2013 disparities in the level of access to certain basic services between rural and urban areas are reported, including waste collection. Weaknesses have been identified to address that will require additional financial resources:

- Insufficiently developed systems for waste collection (including separate waste collection), waste transportation and environment-friendly waste treatment facilities.
- Insufficient measures for waste minimization, re-use, recycling and recovery.
- Negative public attitude towards construction of waste treatment facilities.

It should be noted that in many cases the achievement of recycling targets and objectives for the reduction of biodegradable waste for disposal is impossible without investing in municipal systems for separate collection and transportation of various waste streams. Under the conditions of financial and economic crisis municipalities face serious difficulties such systems to organize such systems with their own resources and their absence seriously questions the applicability of feasibility studies and the selected scenarios for waste management.

Currently under Axis 2 of the OP "Environment 2007-2013" the following procedures have been announced:

1. BG161PO005/09/2.10/01/13 Establishment of Sofia Municipality Integrated Waste Treatment System - the total amount of the grant is 256 000 000 BGN
2. BG161PO005/09/2.10/02/14 Establishment of Botevgrad Regional Waste Management System worth 14 500 000 BGN
3. BG161PO005/09/2.10/02/15 Establishment of Pernik Regional Waste Management System worth 21 300 000 BGN
4. BG161PO005/09/2.10/04/17 Establishment of Vidin Regional Waste Management System worth 19 400 000 BGN
5. BG161PO005/10/2.10/05/18 Establishment of Burgas Regional Waste Management System worth 40 700 000 BGN
6. BG161PO005/10/2.10/06/21 Establishment of Malko Tarnovo Regional Waste Management System worth 5 000 000 BGN
7. BG161PO005/10/2.10/06/22 Establishment of Borovo (Byala, Ruse District), Varna, Veliko Tarnovo, Gabrovo, Dobrich, Kostenets (Samokov) Levski (Nikopol) Lukovit Panagyurishte, Pleven, Razlog, Stara Zagora and Yambol Regional Waste Management Systems - the total amount of the grant is 260 000 000 BGN

Nineteen out of 23 regions have been invited for the construction of regional systems for waste management to be financed under the OPE.

The remaining 4 regions – Pazardzhik, Kostinbrod (transfer station Svoge), Kocherinovo and Provadia face serious difficulties in project preparation. However, we hope that the

municipalities in those regions will make enough efforts and it will be possible in 2011 to be invited (as stipulated in the draft Indicative Annual Working Programme for Operational Programme "Environment 2007-2013" for 2011).

On the basis of the above and in order to meet the challenges of introducing the new Waste Framework Directive - Directive 2008/98/EC, solving the problems identified in the SWOT analysis "weaknesses" for the purpose of Operational Programme Environment 2007-2013 and to ensure the overall functioning of the waste management, we propose the following to be approved: *The activities of purchasing containers and vehicles for waste transportation (as part of the collection and transportation of waste) to be added to the indicative types of activities set in the Priority Axis 2 of the OPE.*

The amendment shall be made in 2.4 "Typology of activities within the priority axis" of the document OP "Environment 2007-2013", and the activities shall be included as a point 9 on the page 61.

The inclusion of the above activities as eligible for funding under the OPE will contribute considerably to construction of working regional waste management systems and will enable the municipalities from the financed regions to release financial resources for implementing the so-called "soft measures" (e.g. introduction of tiered "fee municipal waste" by the Municipal Councils) and will have a positive impact on the affordability of the new facilities put into operation. In most regions, one of the basic conditions for ensuring the effective functioning regional waste management system is the replacement of containers and vehicles for transportation.

Financing of investment for collection and transportation of waste will be directed towards establishment of municipal systems for separate waste collection (mostly biodegradable), and to provide collection and transportation of waste in municipalities where this activity is performed by the municipality. Thus affordability for the population of the developed regional system shall be also ensured, as it will not cause excessive and sudden increase of municipal waste fees in order to provide funding for these costs.