

Information about Operational Programme “Environment” 2007-2013

The preparation for the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund absorption from the beginning of 2007 for the sector “environment” is a main priority in the work of the Ministry of Environment and Water.

Operational Programme “Environment” is one of the eight operational programmes, which are in a process of elaboration in our country with the aim of absorption of EU funds for the period 2007-2013. It will be financed from two EU funds – the Cohesion Fund and the European Regional Development Fund. Its elaboration started at the beginning of 2005 in conformity with the Proposal for Council Regulation COM(2004)492 laying down General Provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund.

Management

In accordance with the Proposal for Council Regulation COM (2004)492, the Managing Authority is: “an authority, or public or private national, regional or local body designated by the Member State, or the Member State itself when it carries out that task, to manage an operational programme”.

For Operational Programme “Environment”, the functions of managing authority are carried out from “Cohesion Policy for Environment” Directorate within the Ministry of Environment and Water.

Part of the implementation of the Operational programme is usually delegated to intermediate structures (bodies), they carry out the link between the Managing Authority (MA) and the Final Beneficiaries (FB). The Intermediate Body (IB) is a body which acts under the responsibility of the MA or the Certifying authority or which carries out duties on behalf of this authority vis-à-vis beneficiaries implementing operations/projects.

With the aim of the implementation of Partnership principle, one of the main principles of the Cohesion Policy, all operational programmes are elaborated from working groups, in which are represented the stakeholders of the relevant operational programme and from the relevant sector. The working group for the elaboration of Operational programme “Environment” was created at the end of 2004. Its members are representatives from the central, local and district administration, businesses, environmental NGOs, scientific organizations, syndicates and other organizations.

The main functions and tasks of the working group are to:

- (1) Be responsible for the elaboration and update of the draft version of OP “Environment” in coordination with the results from the work of the working groups;
- (2) Analyze the priorities of the country in relation to the sector “environment” and to elaborate motivated proposals for priorities for inclusion in OP ”Environment” 2007-2013;
- (3) Ensure the lack of overlaps between the measures in OP “Environment” 2007-2013 and the other operational programmes;
- (4) Keep up with the changes in the European legislation and where appropriate to reflect these changes;
- (5) Observe for the compliance of OP “Environment” 2007-2013 with the policies and the legislation of the European Community.

Members of the working group for the elaboration of Operational Programme
“Environment” 2007-2013

- MOEW – Violeta Vrancheva – Director of “Cohesion policy for environment” Directorate
- MOEW – Mariana Hristova – Director of “EU funds for environment” Directorate
- MOEW – Vanya Grigorova – Director of “Prevention activities” Directorate
- MOEW – Georgi Terzov – Junior expert in “Water” Directorate
- MOEW – Daniela Angelova – Chief expert in “Waste management” Directorate
- MOEW – Angel Kostov – Head of department “Quality of ambient air” in “Air quality protection” Directorate
- MOEW – Ivaylo Zafirov – Senior expert in “National service for nature protection” Directorate
- MOEW – Ognyan Gubev – Head of department “Mining environment and balance of reserves”
- Executive Environmental Agency /MOEW/ - Ioana Hristova – Head of department “International activity”
- MF –Rumen Simeonov– Senior expert “Management of EU funds” Directorate
- MF – Todor Todorov – Junior expert in “National Fund” Directorate
- MRDPW – Georgi Stoev – Senior expert in General directorate “Programming of regional development”
- MTC – Iva Chervenкова – Junior expert in “Projects and programmes coordination” Directorate
- MAF – Miroslava Georgieva – Director of “Development of the rural areas and investments ”Directorate
- MLSP – Plamen Girginov – Head of section in “ European funds, international programmes and projects ” Directorate
- Ministry of Economy and Energy – Iva Petrova – Chief expert in “European integration and international projects” Directorate;
- Ministry of Economy and Energy - Philip Krumov – Junior expert in “Pre-accession programmes and projects” Directorate
- MH – D-r Hristina Mileva – State expert in “Health prevention and state medical control” Directorate
- MI – Petar Petrov – Senior inspector
- Agency for Economic Analysis and Forecasting (AEAF) – Dragomir Konstantinov – Chief expert in “National Development Plan” Directorate
- National Statistical Institute (NSI) – Stefan Conev – Head of department “Environmental statistic”
- National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria (NAMRB) – Milcho Cacov – Mayor of Etropole municipality
- Municipality of Stara Zagora – Maria Neykova - Governor of the municipality
- Municipality of Gabrovo – Cvetan Nanov – Governor of the municipality
- Bulgarian Industrial Association (BIA) – chief director Dimitar Brankov
- Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) – Krasimir Dachev
- Bulgarian Association of Municipal Environmental Experts (BAMEE) - Executive director - Nikolay Sidjimov
- Bulgarian Industrial Capital Association (BICA) - Pirin Vasilev Atanasov
- Bulgarian Mining Chamber (BMC) – Botyo Tabakov

- Confederation of Independent Trade Union in Bulgaria (CITUB) - Todor Todorov
- Confederation of labor “Podkrepa” – Alexander Zagorov
- Bulgarian Academy of Science (BAS) – Secretary of science - Dimitar Sirakov
- National council of and for disabled people – Krasimir Kocev
- Center of information and education in ecology – Petko Kovachev
- Coordination council of national NGO conference – Galya Bardarska

Programming

The general strategic objective of Operational programme Environment 2007-2013 is:

- *Improvement, preservation and recovery of the natural environment and development of the environmental infrastructure.*

The implementation of this objective will contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of the population and to expanding the possibilities for investments in economy.

The specific strategic objectives of the Programme are:

- *Protection and improvement of the condition of water resources;*
- *Improvement of waste management and soil protection;*
- *Improvement of air quality and reduction of noise pollution;*
- *Conservation of biodiversity and protection of nature;*

Their implementation will be realized through concentration of the granted EU funds on the following thematic priorities:

Priority 1: Development of necessary infrastructure for wastewater collection, treatment and discharge.

Priority 2: Development of the necessary infrastructure for waste treatment.

Priority 3: Improvement of ambient air quality.

Priority 4: Closure of the waste dumpsites and past contaminations and reclamation of contaminated areas.

Priority 5: Preservation and restoration of biodiversity.

Priority 6: Development of adequate information and monitoring system for the environment sector in the country.

About November 2005, the working group of Operational programme “Environment” 2007-2013 elaborated, discussed and approved the following parts of the Programme:

- (1) Analysis of the current situation in the sector “environment”;
- (2) SWOT Analysis;
- (3) Analysis of the current financing of the sector “environment” in the country;
- (4) Strategy and objectives of the Operational programme;
- (5) Priorities of the Operational programme;
- (6) Consistency with Community policies and compliance with European Union legislation (public procurement, state aid, equal opportunities, environment and etc.)

In process of elaboration are the following parts of the Operational programme:

- (1) The system of indicators about the Programme;

- (2) Budget of the Operational programme and allocation of the funds between the separate priorities;
- (3) The whole institutional structure for management, monitoring and control of the Operational programme;
- (4) The Communication plan for publicity of Operational programmes.

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