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**REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**PROGRAMME AND PROJECT COORDINATION
DIRECTORATE**

**MANAGING AUTHORITY OF
OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME ON TRANSPORT 2007-2013**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2015**





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SUMMARY

The annual report of the implementation of Operational Programme “Transport” (OPT) 2015 was drafted pursuant to Art. 67 of Council Regulation (EC) 1083/2006 and in compliance with the requirements of Regulation (EC) 1828/2006 of the Commission. It follows the structure set out in Regulation 1828/for preparation of annual reports and the structure of the annual implementation reports of Operational Programme “Transport” 2007-2014 established over previous years.

By the end of 2015, the amount of the grant awarded was 105.96% of the programme’s budget which, calculated on the basis of concluded commercial contracts is 104.87%. Under implementation are 25 investment projects, and 19 of them are already completed. Under realisation are 11 “major“ projects (over 50 million EUR), and each one of them is approved also by the European Commission (EC). The last approved by EC project is the one for Gabrovo bypass road. The procedure for its approval concluded on 23.09.2015 with Decision C (2015) 6606 of EC.

Under Priority Axis 1, “Development of the Railway Infrastructure along the Trans-European and Major National Transport Axes”, during 2015 was given the official start of construction works for rehabilitation of Burgas Railway Station. The rehabilitation of the railway station was completed at the beginning of 2016. As a result of the railway projects implementation are rehabilitated 330 km of railway lines by the end of 2015.

In 2015, under Priority Axis 2 “Development of Road Infrastructure along the Trans-European and Major National Transport Axes” were completed Maritsa Motorway, Lot 2 and 4 of Struma Motorway, Section 1 of Sofia Ring Road's Western Arc and the bypass road of Montana. As a result of road projects implementation, at the end of 2015 are rehabilitated 19 km and are constructed 308 km New roads.

Under the Priority Axis 3 “Improvement of Intermodality for Passengers and Freight”, the Phase III of the projects for extension of Sofia Metro was concluded, and in 2015, on the sections funded by OPT are made over 38.2 million trips.

Under the Priority Axis 4 “Improvement of the Maritime And Inland Waterway Navigation”, successfully finished the implementation of two main projects „Establishment of River Information System in the Bulgarian Part of the Danube River –BULRIS” and „Vessel Traffic Managements Information System (VTMIS) – phase 3”. With their realisation it became possible to provide monitoring for the whole water area of Bulgaria with most modern information system in the world.

The Annual Report for 2015 is divided in two main sections. In Section II, “**Overview of the Implementation of OPT for 2015**”, is presented general information about the financial and physical implementation at the end of 2015. Table 1 contains a report on the implementation of the core indicators relevant for OPT. The financial implementation of the programme is presented in It. **1.2 “Financial implementation of OPT as of 31.12.2015”** of the report. There is also information about the amount of the awarded grant and resources paid in terms of by funding sources and expenditure category.

At the end of 2015 grants awarded are in the amount of **3 960 561 070.14 BGN (2,025,002,720.14 EUR) or 105.96%** of the programme's budget. The total amount of eligible



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expenditures under OPT of concluded commercial contracts is **3 920 093 948.75 BGN (2,004,312,209.52 EUR)**, or **104.87%** of the total budget of the programme. The paid grant is in the amount of **3 315 370 788.98 BGN (1,695,122,167.56 EUR)**, which is **88.70%** of the programme's budget.

According to the automatic decommitment rule “N+2“ the whole budget of the programme has to be certified by 31 March 2017 in order not to lose any funds (*the provisions of Art. 93 (3) of Regulation (EC) 1083/2006 of the Council* ”). By 31.12.2015 the expenditures certified to EC are in the amount of 1,298,509,667 EUR, only European co-financing. By the end of April 2016 with the last interim report on certification 325,969,956 EUR (250,024,855 EUR under CF and 75,945,101 under ERDF) remain to be certified to EC. With OPT third modification the rate of European co-financing was changed to 85%. With this change the MA suppose that by 31.03.2017 the budget by CF and ERDF will be used.

The fulfilment of each one of priority axes and of the individual infrastructural projects is presented in Section III **“Implementation of Operational Programme “Transport“ by Priority Axes”**. Achievement of indicators per priority axis is reported as of the end of 2015 with information on the physical and financial progress for each infrastructural project which is currently under implementation. With regards to monitoring and programme evaluation activities, information is provided from the meetings of OPT Monitoring Committee (MC) and the relevant decisions, as well as from MA on-spot checks.

ACRONYMS



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AEUFEA	Audit of EU Funds Executive Agency
AF	Application Form
BAS	Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
BPIC	Bulgarian Ports Infrastructure Company
BULRIS	Bulgarian River Information System
CCU	Central Coordination Unit
CF	Cohesion Fund
CM	Council of Ministers
CP	Communication Plan
CPPD	Coordination of Programmes and Projects Directorate
CPC	Commission for Protection of Competition
CRC	Communications Regulations Commission
DG	Directorate General
EA	Executive Agency
EA EMDR	Executive Agency for Exploration and Maintenance of the Danube River
EC	European Commission
EIA	Environmental impact assessment
EIB	European Investment Bank
EMC	Electromagnetic Compatibility
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ERTMS	European Railway Traffic Management System
EU	European Union
GIS	Geographic information system
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
IFIs	International Financial Institutions
IMT	Intermodal Terminal
JASPERS	Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions - a joint initiative of the European Commission, EIB and EBRD for providing technical assistance in the preparation of big infrastructural projects
KR	Key Requirement
MA	Managing Authority
MC	Monitoring Committee
MF	Ministry of Finance
MRD	Ministry of Regional Development
MRDPW	Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works
MS	Metro Station
MTITC	Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications
MW	Motorway
NCSIP	National company „Strategic infrastructure projects”
NF	National Fund
NRIC	National Railway Infrastructure Company
OP	Operational Programme
OPT	Operational Programme on Transport
PPA	Public Procurement Agency
PPA	Public Procurement Act
RIA	Road Infrastructure Agency
RIS	River Information System



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RRC	Route-relay centralizations
SAC	Supreme Administrative Court
SG	State Gazette
SRR	Sofia Ring Road
TCP	Technological and Construction Program
TEN-T	Trans-European transport network
VTMIS	Vessel Traffic Management and Information System
WB	World Bank

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I. IDENTIFICATION

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME	Objective concerned: Convergence
	Eligible area concerned: Bulgaria
	Programming period: 2007 - 2013
	Programme Number (CCI №): 2007BG161PO004
	Programme title: Operational Programme on Transport
ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT	Reporting year: 2015
	Date of approval of the annual report by the Monitoring Committee: ...05.2015
OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME	Objective concerned: Convergence
	Eligible area concerned: Bulgaria
	Programming period: 2007 - 2013
	Programme Number (CCI №): 2007BG161PO004
	Programme title: Operational Programme on Transport
ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT	Reporting year: 2015
	Date of approval of the annual report by the Monitoring Committee: 17.05.2016

II. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OPT FOR 2015

1. Achievement and analysis of the progress

At the end of 2015, under Operational Programme “Transport” (OPT) is awarded grant (GR) in the amount of **105,96%** of the programme's budget. Payments to the beneficiaries are almost 89% of the budget. In addition, advanced payments by the State budget are made, as well as payments by funds of the beneficiaries. In contrast to the trend from the previous years, the biggest progress to be achieved under Priority Axis 3 “Improvement of Intermodality for Passengers and Freight”, during 2015 the largest amount of funds were paid under the Priority Axis 1 “Development of the Railway Infrastructure along the Trans-European and Major National Transport Axes” – nearly 90% of the budget of the axis. After the preparation of the last interim report on certification, the MA will form the final picture of the amount of certified under the programme funds.

Under the programme are implemented 25 investment projects, and 19 of them are already finished. Under realisation are 11 “major“ projects (over 50 million EUR), and each one of them is



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approved also by the European Commission (EC). The last approved by EC project is the one for Gabrovo bypass road. The procedure for its approval concluded on 23.09.2015 with Decision C (2015) 6606 of EC. Projects realized so far largely implement the OPT targets. Each project is important for its sector. Real results are achieved and conditions and favourable environment for development of business and economy and for improvement of the quality of human life are created.

In 2015, all possible efforts were made to complete substantially the projects with the necessary quality and to invest the whole budget of the programme. In order to overcome the accumulated delay in the fulfilment of the risky projects in beginning of 2015 MA of OPT developed action plan for successful completion of the projects within the programming period. All suggested changes in it lead to re-programming of the two operational programmes and to a change of the decisions of EC for approving “major projects”.

With the approved modification of OPT for a change of the rate of co-financing by CF, the risk of loss of grant funds is brought to minimum. With the reduction of scope of the three projects, suggested for phasing, was avoided the risk of them not being finished at the finishing of the programme and, respectively, to be declared Non-functional. For the purpose of better absorption of funds by CF, at the end of 2015 were approved also two “Retrospective” projects for road infrastructure: for financing large road facilities from the project for Southern Arc of SRR and for financing modernisation and reconstruction of viaducts on Trakya MW and Hemus MW.

With cooperation efforts was overcome the challenge to secure funds for finishing the projects after the end of 2015 in the scope, in which they are approved by the European Commission. There are planned funds in the budget of the beneficiary RIA, and to the beneficiary NRIC was awarded temporary grant with no interest in the amount of 318 000 thousand BGN, for performing the necessary payments.

In the beginning of 2016 MA started a procedure for preparation of the last two interim reports on certification, which will be sent to the National Fund during March and April 2016.

1.1. Physical Implementation of OPT as of 31.12.2015

As of 31.12.2015, under Operational Programme on Transport 2007-2013 (OPT) was awarded grant for 118 projects with total value of the awarded grant in the amount of **2 025 002 720 EUR** or **105.96%** of the programme's budget. The approved grant co-finances 2,004,312,210 EUR of commercial contracts under the programme, or **104.87%** of the programme's budget.

During February 2015 started the realisation of the project *“Integrated system for analysis and evaluation of traffic on the motorways and I-st class roads on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, which are part of TEN-T”*. The establishment of the system concluded during October 2015, and the data of it were used for the preparation of the curren annual report.

On 11.03.2015, also the construction works on the rehabilitation of the railway station complex Railway Station Burgas started officially. The rehabilitation of the railway station finished in the beginning of 2016.

On 22.10.2015 started the establishment of Section 2 of the projects “Kalotina MW - Sofia“ Lot 1:Sofia Ring Road's Western Arc from km 0+780 to km 6+309. The project was submitted for phasing and the finishing of Section 2 is included in the list of large projects under OPTTI.



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During 2015, the following projects financed under OPT were completed:

- *“Construction of Maritsa Motorway, Lot 2 Dimitrovgrad - Harmanli, from km 36+400 to km 70+620;*
- *“Project for extension of Sofia Metro: Phase III Lot 1 “Tsarigradsko Shose – Sofia Airport”*
- *“Project for extension of Sofia Metro: Phase III Lot 2 Mladost 1 – Business Park in Mladost 4”*
- *The buildings of the coast centres for managing Varna and Burgas received permit for use*
- *„Improvement of navigation systems and topo-hydrographic measurements along the Danube River”*
- *“Establishment of River Information System in the Bulgarian Part of the Danube River – BULRIS”*
- *Lot 4 of Struma MW (Sandanski – Kulata)*
- *Lot 2 of Struma Motorway (Dupnitsa – Blagoevgrad)*
- *Lot 1 of Maritsa Motorway (Orizovo – Dimitrovgrad)*
- *“Road I-1 (E79) “Bypass Road of Montana” from km 102+060 to km 114+512,20“*
- *Section 1 from projects “Kalotina MW – Sofia“ Lot 1 West arc of Sofia Ring road (SRR) - Road II-18 from km 59+400 to km 61+629 also from km 0+000 to km 0+780.*

Under OPT are commercial contracts for grant awarding for twenty-five investment projects, as follows:

- **Priority Axis 1 “Development of the Railway Infrastructure along the Trans-European and Major National Transport Axes”**
 - *“„Electrification and Reconstruction of Svilengrad railway line – Turkish border”*
 - *„Project for extension of Sofia Metropolitan: Phase II, lot 1 – Obelya – Nadezhda and Lot 2 – Mladost – Tsarigradsko shose”*
 - *„Rehabilitation Railway Infrastructure in sections of Plovdiv – Burgas Railway line”*
 - *„Modernisation of Septemvri-Plovdiv Railway section, part of the Trans-European Railway Network”*
 - *„Reconstruction and electrification of Plovdiv - Svilengrad railway line of corridor IV and IX, Phase 2: section Parvomai-Svilengrad”*
- **Priority Axis 2 “Development of Road Infrastructure along the Trans-European and Major National Transport Axes”**
 - *“Completion of Trakya MW, Lots 2, 3 and 4”*
 - *“Construction of Maritsa Motorway, Lot 1 and Lot 2”*
 - *“Road E-85 (I-5) “Kardzhali - Podkova”*
 - *“Struma Motorway, Lots 1, 2 and 4”*
 - *“Bypass Road of Vratsa - Road I-1 (E79)”*
 - *“Hemus Motorway, Section “SRR-Road Junction Yana”*
 - *“Bypass Road of Montana - Road I-1 (E79)”*
 - *“Construction of Kalotina MW – Sofia - Lot 1: “Sofia Ring Road's Western Arc”*
 - *“Bypass of Gabrovo”*
 - *“Integrated system for analysis and the evaluation of traffic on motorways and I-st class roads on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, which are part of TEN-T”*



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- *“Construction of large facilities and construction/reconstruction of engineering networks in the section of Road II-18 Sofia Ring Road - Southern Arc from km 41+137.87 to km 44+720 and road connection No.2 of Road Junction Mladost in the section from SRR to the beginning of the existing overhead bridge“*
- *Modernisation of viaducts from Trakya MW and Hemus MW: - Trakya MW, at km 61+327; - Trakya MW, at km 67+027; - Hemus MW, at km 30+874*

- **Priority Axis 3 *“Improvement of Intermodality for Passengers and Freight”***
 - *“Project for extension of Sofia Metro: Stage 1 - II Metro diameter: Section “Road Junction Nadezhda (MS 5-II) - Cherni Vrah Blvd.”*
 - *“Project for extension of Sofia Metro Stage III, Lot 1 “Tsarigradsko Shose - Sofia Airport” and Lot 2 Mladost 1 - Business Park in Mladost 4”*
 - *“Project for extension Line 2 of Sofia Metro, Section from MS James Boucher to MS Vitosha - Phase 1*
 - *“Rehabilitation of railway station complexes on TEN-T network – rehabilitation of railway station complex Central Railway Station Sofia“, “Rehabilitation of railway station complex Railway Station Burgas, Passengers”, “Reconstruction and renovation of passenger terminal in Railway Station Pazardzhik - Stage 2”*
 - *“Construction of Inter-modal Terminal in Southern Central Section of Planning in Bulgaria – Plovdiv“*

- **Priority Axis 4 *“Improvement of the Maritime And Inland Waterway Navigation”***
 - *“Establishing a River Information System in the Bulgarian stretch of the Danube River – BULRIS”;*
 - *“Vessel Traffic Management Information System (VTMIS) – Phase 3”*
 - *“Improvement of the systems for navigation and topo-hydrographic measurements along the Danube River”*

At the end of 2015, as a result of the implementation of the projects under the programme 312 km railway lines are rehabilitated 308 km new roads are constructed and 19 km roads are rehabilitated. After the successful finishing of the projects for extension of Sofia Metro 20.7 km metro lines and 20 new metro stations are built. During 2015, along the newly constructed metro sections were made over 38,268,588 million trips.

Detailed information about the physical progress under the individual priority axes and projects is presented in Section III **“Implementation of Operational Programme “Transport” by Priority Axes”**.

Table 1: OPT Core Indicators

Indicator		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Transport projects (Number)	Achievement	0	0	2	3	12	15	20	22	251	25
	Target									20	
	Baseline	0									
New roads (km)	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	82	141	175	308	308
	Target									335	
	Baseline	0									
New TEN roads (km)	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	82	141	173	306	306
	Target									333	
	Baseline	0									
Reconstructed roads (km)	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	16	19	19
	Target									21	
	Baseline	0									
TEN railroads (km)	Achievement	0	0	0	2.3	27	108	164	234	312	312
	Target									345	
	Baseline	0									
Reconstructed railroads (km)	Achievement	0	0	0	2.3	27	108	164	234	312	312
	Target									345	
	Baseline	0									
Value for time savings (roads)	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	0	23 577 110	32,916,1 27	52 389 640	52 389 640

¹ Includes only investment projects implemented under OPT, for which grant contracts are concluded.

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(euro per year)	Target									216 813 133	
	Baseline	0									
Value for time savings, Euro (railway transport) (euro per year)	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3 ,076	79 850	79 850
	Target									13 060 000	
	Baseline	0									
Additional population served with improved urban transport (number)	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	438 616	438 616	438 616	559 240	559 240
	Target									445,000	
	Baseline	0									



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1.2. Financial Implementation of OPT as of 31.12.2015

1.2.1. Grant Awarding

As of 31.12.2015, under Operational Programme “Transport” (OPT) are concluded / issued **118** contracts / orders for grant awarding, in the amount of **3 960 561 070.14 BGN (2 025 002 720.14 EUR)**, or **105.96%** from the total budget of the programme.

The total amount of eligible expenditures under OPT of the commercial contracts for implementation under the programme is **3 920 093 948.75 BGN (2 030 236 724.30 EUR)**, or **104.87%** of its budget.

Table 2: Value of grant awarded by priority axis from from 2007 to 31.12.2015

Priority Axis	Grant awarded from 01.01.2007 to 31.12.2015	Ratio of grant awarded to the budget of the PA (%)
1	1 356 550 568.86 BGN (693 593 292.29 EUR)	111.66
2	1 771 983 672.97 BGN (906 000 865.60 EUR)	105.83
3	654 121 303.98 BGN (334 446 912.04 EUR)	97.45
4	67 460 094.63 BGN (34 491 798.69 EUR)	99.26
5	110 445 429 70 BGN (56,469,851.52 EUR)	100.93
Total	3 960 561 070.14 BGN (2 025 002 720.14 EUR)	105.96

Table 3: Value of eligible grant of commercial contracts by priority axis from 2007 to 31.12.2015

Priority Axis	Value of expenditure under grant eligible commercial contracts from 01.01.2007 to 31.12.2015	Ratio of the awarded GR and the budget of the priority axis, in %
1	1 370 745 250.03 BGN (700 850 917.53 EUR)	112.83
2	1 757 393 494.41 BGN (883 635 076.73 EUR)	104.96
3	665 884 018.17 BGN (340 461 092.31 EUR)*	99.20
4	66 329 700.17 BGN (33 913 837.18 EUR)	97.59
5	110 445 429.70 BGN (56 469 851.52 EUR)**	100.93
Total	3 970 797 892.49 BGN (2 030 236 724.30 EUR)	106.23

**The value is increased compared to the one in the system Lothar with the contracts for implementation of the project for extension of Line 2 of Sofia Metro, Section from MS James Boucher“ to MS Vitosha - Phase I;*

*** Due to the different specific features of the projects under the Priority Axis “Technical Assistance”, for presenting the information are used the values of the grant awarded..*

1.2.2. Payments

From the beginning of 2007 to 31.12.2015, according to the data from the accounting system of MA, to the beneficiaries under Operational Programme “Transport” are paid **3 315 370 788.98 BGN (1,695,122,167.56 EUR)**, which is **88.70%** of the total budget of the programme. The paid



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grant is classified by funding sources, as follows: Cohesion Fund (CF) – 2,058,302,096.20 BGN (1,052,393,150.84 EUR) – 69.46% of the budget of the Fund; European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) – 631,119,193.36 BGN (322,686,119.63 EUR) – 74.56% of the budget of the fund; National co-financing – 625,949,499.42 BGN (320,042,897.09 EUR) – 70.33% of the budget of the National co-financing.

Table 4: Payments made by priority axis from the beginning of 2007 to the end of 2015, according to the data from the accounting system of MA

Priority Axis	Value of payments from 01.01.2007 to 31.12.2015	Ratio of payments to the budget of the PA (%)
1	1,092,115,124.79 BGN (558,389,596.64 EUR)	89.89
2	1,480,762,495.33 BGN (757,101,841.84 EUR)	88.44
3	604,782,363.88 BGN (309,220,312.54 EUR)	90.10
4	53,894,874.93 BGN (27,556,011.99 EUR)	79.30
5	83,815,930.05 BGN (42,845,404.55 EUR)	76.59
Total	3,315,370,788.98 BGN (1,695,122,167.56 EUR)	88.70

Table 5: Payments made by the priority axes only in 2015, according to the data from the accounting system of MA

Priority Axis	The amount of payments made only during 31.12.2015	Ratio of payments made and the budget of the priority axis, in %
1	131,368,734.63 BGN (67,167,769.49 EUR)	10.81
2	309,250,834.41 BGN (158,117,440.89 EUR)	18.47
3	63,264,998.30 BGN (32,346,879.97 EUR)	9.43
4	15,171,935.92 BGN (7,757,287.65 EUR)	22.32
5	31,304,840.15 BGN (16,005,910.57 EUR)	28.61
Total	550,361,343.42 BGN (281,395,286.61 EUR)	14.89

1.2.3. Expenditure Verification

The verified expenditures from the beginning of 2007 to 31.12.2015 are 3,382,980,589.69 BGN (1,729,050,054.31 EUR), distributed by priority axes, as follows:

- **Priority Axis 1** – 1,197,797,663.03 BGN (612,424,220.42 EUR), from which
 - Grant – 1,033,093,990.84 BGN (528,212,570.03 EUR) – 85.03% of the budget
 - Own contribution – 164,703,672.19 BGN (84,211,650.39 EUR)
- **Priority Axis 2** – GR in the amount of 1,354,989,835.88 BGN (692,795,302.19 EUR), which is 80.93% of the budget of the axis
- **Priority Axis 3** – 711,286,686.10 BGN (363,675,107.81 EUR), from which:
 - Grant – 568,582,916.08 BGN (290,711,828.78 EUR) – 81.20% of the budget of the axis
 - Own contribution – 142,703,770.02 BGN (72,963,279.03 EUR)



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- **Priority Axis 4** – Grant in the amount of 44,677,951.75 BGN (22,843,474.00 EUR), which is 65.74% of the budget of the axis
- **Priority Axis 5** – Grant in the amount of 72,975,830.96 BGN (37,311,949.89 EUR), which is 66.69% of the budget of the axis

The verified expenditures only during 2015 are in the amount of 572,256,025.72 BGN (292,589,859.92 EUR), which are distributed, as follows:

- **Priority Axis 1** – 546,608,867.35 BGN (279,476,657.70 EUR), from which:
 - Grant – 49,891,688.06 BGN (25,509,215.04 EUR) – 4.11% of the budget of the axis
 - Own contribution – 4,769,179.29 BGN (2,438,442.65 EUR)
- **Priority Axis 2** – Grant in the amount of 276,916,773.59 BGN (141,585,298.10 EUR), which is 16.54% of the budget of the axis
- **Priority Axis 3** – 208,424,719.55 BGN (106,565,866.95 EUR), from which:
 - Grant – 164,935,881.78 BGN (84,330,377.27 EUR) – 24.57% of the budget of the axis
 - Own contribution – 43,488,837.77 BGN (22,235,489.67 EUR)
- **Priority Axis 4** – Grant in the amount of 11,207,084.80 BGN (5,730,091.47 EUR), which is 16.49% of the budget of the axis
- **Priority Axis 5** – Grant in the amount of 17,889,593.36 BGN (9,146,803.84 EUR), which is 16.35% of the budget of the axis

1.2.4. Expenditure certification

The expenditures to be certified from 2007 to 31.12.2015 are in the amount of 1,670,351,011.60 EUR, which are distributed as follows:

- **Priority Axis 1** – 594,649,253.04 EUR, incl. 520,474,942.34 EUR public participation, which represents 83.79% of the budget of the axis
- **Priority Axis 2** – 662,636,866.02 EUR, incl. 662,636,866.02 EUR public participation, which represents 77.40% of the budget of the axis
- **Priority Axis 3** – 357,427,475.08 EUR, incl. 288,909,205.60 EUR public participation, which represents 84.18% of the budget of the axis
- **Priority Axis 4** – 19,180,095.67 EUR, incl. 19,180,095.67 EUR public participation, which represents 55.19% of the budget of the axis
- **Priority Axis 5** – 36,457,321.75 EUR, incl. 36,457,321.75 EUR public participation, which represents 65.16% of the budget of the axis

During 2015 are submitted 3 reports on certification, under which are certified expenditures in the amount of 232,227,818.84 EUR, which are distributed as follows:

- **Priority Axis 1** – 78 978 450,20 EUR, incl. 62,116,890.36 EUR public participation, which represents 12.71% of the budget of the axis



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- **Priority Axis 2** – 124,997,560.56 EUR, incl. 124 997 560,56 EUR public participation, which represents 14.60% of the budget of the axis
- **Priority Axis 3** – 16,975,542.03 EUR, incl. 14 595 359,34 EUR public participation, which represents 4.95% of the budget of the axis
- **Priority Axis 4** – 2,107,076.74 EUR, incl. 2,107,076.74 EUR public participation, which represents 6.06% of the budget of the axis
- **Priority Axis 5** – 10,521,246.36 EUR, incl. 10,521,246.36 public participation, which represents 18.80% of the budget of the axis

1.2.5. Payments from EC

The received payments from EC for reimbursement of certified expenditures as of 31.12.2015 are in the amount of 1,249,889,300.00 EUR, allocated by funds as follows:

- CF – 985,135,759.00 EUR – 97% from the expenditures to be certified under the Fund
- ERDF – 309,753,549.00 EUR – 91.94% from the expenditures to be certified under the Fund

Payments, made by EC for reimbursement of certified expenditures in 2015 are in the amount of 109,384,429 EUR, allocated by the funds, as follows:

- CF – 80,805,147 EUR
- ERDF – 28,579,282 EUR

Table 6: breakdown of the help from EU in EUR under the priority axes

Priority Axis – EU Fund	Community co-financing	National Co-financing	National Co-financing		Total Funding	Rate of EU Funds contribution	For information	
			National Public Financing	National Private Financing			EIB Financing	Other funding
	(a)	(b) = (c) + (d)	(c)	(d)	(e) = (a) + (b)	(f) = (a)/ (e)		
Priority axis I Development of railway infrastructure along the Trans-European and major national transport axes (Cohesion Fund)	528,000,000	93,176,471	93,176,471	0	621,176,471	85%	0	0
Priority axis II “Development of Road Infrastructure along the Trans-European and Major National Transport Axes” - CF	727,669,892	128,412,334	128,412,334	0	856,082,226	85%	0	0
Priority axis III Improvement of Intermodality for passengers and Freight (European Regional Development Fund)	291,714,731	51,479,070	51,479,070	0	343,193,801	85%	0	0
Priority axis IV Improvement of the maritime and inland waterway navigation (European Regional Development Fund)	29,537,500	5,212,500	5,212,500	0	34,750,000	85%	0	0
Priority Axis V “Technical Assistance“ - ERDF	47,557,500	8,392,500	8,392,500	0	55,950,000	85%	0	0
Total	1,624,479,623	286,672,875	286,672,875	0	1,911,152,498		0	0

Table 7: Financial implementation of OPT in EUR as of 31.12.2015, based on declared and certified eligible expenditures

Priority Axis	Total funding of the OP (Union and national)	Basis for calculating Union contribution (Public or Total cost)	Total amount of certified eligible expenditure paid by beneficiaries (in EUR) ²	Corresponding public contribution	Implementation Rate, in %
	a	b	c	d	e=d/a for public expenditures
Priority axis I “Development of railway infrastructure along the Trans-European and major national transport axes” (Cohesion fund)	621,176,471.00	public expenditures	594,649,253.04	520,474,942.34	83.79
Priority axis II „Development of the road infrastructure along trans-European and major national transport axes” (Cohesion fund)	856 082 226,00	public expenditures	662 636 866,02	662 636 866,02	77,40
Priority axis III „Improving intermodality in transporting passengers and cargos” (European Regional Development Fund)	343,193,801.00	public expenditures	357,427,475.08	288,909,205.60	84.18
Priority axis IV “Improvement of the maritime and inland-waterway navigation” (European Regional Development Fund)	34,750,000.00	public expenditures	19,180,095.67	19,180,095.67	55.19

² Figures expressed in cumulative terms.

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Priority axis V “Technical Assistance” (European Regional Development Fund)	55,950,000.00	public expenditures	36,457,321.75	36,457,321.75	65.16
Total	1,911,152,498.00	public expenditures	1,670,351,011.60	1,527,658,431.42	79.93

Table 8: Financial implementation of OPT under the priority axes and funds as of 31.12.2015 (in EUR)

Priority Axis	Expenditures paid by the beneficiaries, included in payment claims to MA	Corresponding public contribution	Expenditures paid by MA to the beneficiaries	Total payments, received from EC (only interim)
Priority axis I “Development of railway infrastructure along the Trans-European and major national transport axes” (Cohesion fund)	526,945,658.29	480,677,004.24	408,649,807.29	363,400,251.18
Priority axis II „Development of the road infrastructure along trans-European and major national transport axes” (Cohesion fund)	551,880,597.61	551,880,597.61	495,339,691.30	409,085,022.21
Priority axis III „Improving intermodality in transporting passengers and cargos” (European Regional Development Fund)	342,070,835.30	271,025,047.50	238,147,282.48	218,634,052.68
Priority axis IV “Improvement of the maritime and inland-waterway navigation” (European Regional Development Fund)	18,950,597.67	18,950,597.67	13,914,947.16	9,860,829.05
Priority Axis V “Technical Assistance” (European Regional Development Fund)	26,767,272.86	26,767,272.86	19,632,505.02	19,486,509.10
Total	1,466,614,961.73	1,349,300,519.88	1,175,684,233.25	1,020,466,664.22



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1.3. Information on Breakdown of Use of the Two Funds

Key in accordance with Annex 2, Part A of Regulation No.1828/2006

Codes for Priority Themes

Code	Priority Theme
17	Railways (TEN-T)
21	Motorways (TEN-T)
22	National roads
26	Multimodal transport
27	Multimodal transport (TEN-T)
28	Intelligent transport systems
32	Inland waterways (TEN-T)
85	Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection
86	Evaluation and studies, information and communication

Form of financing

01 – non-repayable aid

Codes for type of territory

00 – Not applicable

01 – Urban

Codes for type of economic activity

00 – Not applicable

11 – Transport

Code for location dimension

BG – Bulgaria

BG411 – Sofia (capital)

Table 9 provides information on the indicative allocations in Euro of Community contribution to OPT by categories



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Table 9: Indicative breakdown of allocations in Euro of the Community contribution in OPT by category

Combination of Codes of Dimensions 1-5					
Code * Dimension 1 Priority Theme	Code * Dimension 2 Form of Financing	Code * Dimension 3 Territory	Code * Dimension 4 Economic Activity	Code * Dimension 5 Location	Amount in EUR **
17	01	00	11	BG	374,282,033.50
21	01	00	11	BG	693,469,412.32
22	01	00	11	BG	71,719,421.83
26	01	01	11	BG411	450,950,910.33
27	01	01	11	BG	29,756,331.35
28	01	00	11	BG	29,892,270.73
32	01	00	11	BG	1,560,394.34
85	01	00	00	BG	64,869,670.58
86	01	00	00	BG	4,751,867.13
Total					1,721,252,312.11
* The categories should be coded for each dimension using their standard classification.					
** The amount of the Community help for each combination of categories.					

Table 10 provides information on awarded Community contribution of commercial contracts, in Euro and by category, in accordance with Section C, Annex II of Regulation No. 1828/2006

Table 10: Awarded Community contribution by category as of 31.12.2015 (B EUR) (Commercial contracts)

Combination of Codes of Dimensions 1- 5					
Code * Dimension 1 Priority Theme	Code * Dimension 2 Form of Financing	Code * Dimension 3 Territory	Code * Dimension 4 Economic Activity	Code * Dimension 5 Location	Amount In EUR **
17	01	00	11	BG	384,314,447.44
21	01	00	11	BG	666,853,285.88
22	01	00	11	BG	92,199,793.75
26	01	01	11	BG411	463,454,264.93
27	01	01	11	BG	31,859,625.22
28	01	00	11	BG	29,350,091.22



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32	01	00	11	BG	1,561,449.97
85	01	00	00	BG	60,722,272.65
86	01	00	00	BG	4,751,867.13
Total					1,735,067,098.19

* The categories should be coded for each dimension using their standard classification.

** The amount of the Community help for each combination of categories.

*** Due to the different specific features of the projects under the Priority Axis "Technical Assistance" for presenting the information are used the values of the awarded GR.

Table 11: Community contribution paid by MA, by category, as of 31.12.2015 (in EUR)

Combination of Codes of Dimensions 1 – 5***					
Code * Dimension 1 Priority Theme	Code * Dimension 2 Form of Financing	Code * Dimension 3 Territory	Code * Dimension 4 Economic Activity	Code * Dimension 5 Location	Amount In EUR **
17	01	00	11	BG	322,691,893.93
21	01	00	11	BG	548,669,875.61
22	01	00	11	BG	49,656,071.56
26	01	01	11	BG411	511,874,427.32
27	01	01	11	BG	17,729,384.69
28	01	00	11	BG	26,896,633.59
32	01	00	11	BG	1,824,780.38
85	01	00	00	BG	44,935,010.29
86	01	00	00	BG	3,533,347.73
Total					1,527,811,425.10

* The categories should be coded for each dimension using their standard classification.

** The amount of the Community help for each combination of categories.

1.4. Provided assistance by target groups

Inapplicable.



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1.5. Assistance repaid or reused

(Information about the absorption of the assistance repaid or reused, due to cancellation of certain contribution, when applying the articles 57 and 98, Par. 2 of Regulation (EO) 1083/2006).

For the period from the beginning of 2007 to 31.12.2015, funds under registered irregularities and imposed financial corrections by the Bulgarian authorities were repaid under the projects in the amount of **20,558,571.91 BGN**. The repaid funds under the programme were reused for financing other projects.

1.6 Analysis of OPT Physical and Financial Progress, and for the Purposes of the Lisbon Earmarking under OPT in Particular (Lisbon Earmarking under OPT)

Table 12: Indicative breakdown of funds in EUR, envisioned for activities for achieving the targets of Lisbon Earmarking under OPT (only EU)

Convergence Objective			
Code (in accordance with Annex IV of Regulation 1083/2006)	Priority Themes (in accordance with Annex IV of Regulation 1083/2006)	Financing by the Community, for the respective category of expenditures (in EUR)	Share of category expenditures, compared to the total breakdown of funds by the Community, in %
	Transport	1,579,911,352.57	91.79
17	Railway lines (TEN-T)	374,282,033.50	22.12
21	Motorways (TEN-T)	693,469,412.32	37.27
26	Multi-modal transport	450,950,910.33	26.81
27	Multi-modal transport (TEN-T)	29,756,331.35	1.85
28	Intelligent transport systems	29,892,270.73	1.88
32	Inland waterways (TEN-T)	1,560,394.34	0.32
Total funds allocated to categories of Lisbon earmarking expenditure		1,579,911,352.57	91.79
Total allocations of EU contribution for the Convergence Objective		1,721,252,312.11	100

Table 13: Awarded Community contribution for Lisbon earmarking under OPT (EU only) by of 31.12.2014 (Commercial contracts)



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Convergence Objective			
Code (in accordance with Annex IV of Regulation 1083/2006)	Priority Themes (in accordance with Annex IV of Regulation 1083/2006)	GR for commercial contracts by the Community, for the respective category of expenditures (in EUR)	Share of category expenditures, compared to breakdown of funds by the Community for one category, in %
	Transport	1,577,393,164.65	99.84
17	Railway lines (TEN-T)	384,314,447.44	97.52
21	Motorways (TEN-T)	666,853,285.88	97.96
26	Multi-modal transport	463,454,264.93	98.98
27	Multi-modal transport (TEN-T)	31,859,625.22	104.17
28	Intelligent transport systems	29,350,091.22	88.68
32	Inland waterways (TEN-T)	1,561,449.97	30.06
Total contracted funding to categories of expenditure for Lisbon earmarking (EU only)		1,577,393,164.65	97.85
Total Community contribution by categories of expenditures allocated for Lisbon Earmarking (for EU only)		1,721,252,312.11	100

Table 14: Payments for Lisbon earmarking as of 31.12.2015

Convergence Objective			
Code (in accordance with Annex IV of Regulation 1083/2006)	Priority Themes (in accordance with Annex IV of Regulation 1083/2006)	Paid Community Contribution to the Respective Category of Expenditure (in Euro)	Share of paid Community contribution in relation to the Total Community Allocation for the category in %
	Transport	1,579,911,352.57	90.49
17	Railway lines (TEN-T)	374,282,033.50	57.28
21	Motorways (TEN-T)	693,469,412.32	72.15
26	Multi-modal transport	450,950,910.33	97.40
27	Multi-modal transport (TEN-T)	29,756,331.35	20.23
28	Intelligent transport systems	29,892,270.73	52.66
32	Inland waterways (TEN-T)	1,560,394.34	12.84
Total paid Community contribution by categories for Lisbon earmarking (EU only)		1,579,911,352.57	90.49
Total Community contribution by categories of		1,429,686,995.52	100



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expenditures allocated for Lisbon Earmarking (for EU only)		
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1.7. Analysis of the overall progress under OPT

Priority Axis 1 “Development of Railway Infrastructure along the Trans-European and Major National Transport Axes”

As of 31.12.2015, under this priority axis are concluded 9 grant contracts at the value of **1,356,550,568.86 BGN (693,593,292.29 EUR)**, which represents **111.66%** of the budget of the axis. The Beneficiaries have been paid grant in the amount of **1,092,115,124.70 BGN (558,389,596.59 EUR)**, or **89.89%** of the budget for the priority axis.

At present, under the priority axis are completed Phase II of the extension of Sofia Metro, the railway project for rehabilitation of railway line Svilengrad – Turkish Border, and the railway section Mihailovo – Kaloyanovets, from the projects for rehabilitation of railway line Plovdiv – Burgas.

As a result of the successful implementation of the projects under the priority axis, at the end of 2015 are rehabilitated 312 km railway lines, and 6.7 km Metro lines and 6 Metro stations are constructed and put into operation.

Priority Axis 2 “Development of Road Infrastructure along the Trans-European and Major National Transport Axes”

Under this priority axis are concluded **17** grant contracts at the value of **1,771,983,672.97 BGN (906,000,865.60 EUR)** or **105.83%** of the budget of the priority axis. The beneficiaries have been paid grant in the amount of **1,429,341,636.64 BGN (730,810,774.27 EUR)** or **85.37%** of the budget of the priority axis. Signed are contracts for providing Grant for 11 infrastructural projects, 5 from which are “major”. EC approved AF for the five “major” projects. The last approved by EC project is the one for Gabrovo bypass road. The procedure for its approval concluded on 23.09.2015 with Decision C (2015) 6606 of EC.

Under the priority axis is financed also the preparation of Hemus MW, Lot 3 of Struma MW and the road Vidin – Montana, as well as the establishment of Integrated system for analysis and evaluation of traffic on motorways and I-st class roads on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, which are part of TEN-T.

By the end of 2015 were completed the projects “*Completion of Trakya MW, Lots 2, 3 and 4*”, “*Hemus Motorway, Section “SRR-Road Junction Yana*”, “*Struma Motorway, Lots 1, 2 and 4*”, “*Construction of Maritsa Motorway, Lot 1 and Lot 2*”, “*Road E-85 (I-5) “Kardzhali - Podkova*”, “*Bypass Road of Vratsa - Road I-1 (E79)*”, “*Bypass Road of Montana - Road I-1 (E79)*”, “*Construction of Kalotina MW– Sofia - Lot 1: “Sofia Ring Road's Western Arc*”, “*Integrated system for analysis and the evaluation of traffic on motorways and I-st class roads on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, which are part of TEN-T*”. As a result, were constructed and commissioned 308 km of new roads and are rehabilitated 19 km of roads.

Priority Axis 3 “Improvement of Intermodality for Passengers and Freight”



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Under this priority axis are concluded 7 grant contracts at the value of **654,121,303.98 BGN (334,446,912.04 EUR)**, which represents **97.45%** of the budget of the axis.

The beneficiaries have been paid grant in the amount of **585,294,845.95 BGN (299,256,502.84 EUR)** or **87.20%** of the budget of the axis.

During 2015, under the priority axis started the construction works on the rehabilitation of railway station Burgas that was completed in the beginning of 2016. Phase III of the extension of Sofia Metro was completed in 2015. With funds from the priority axis are constructed 14 km Metro lines and 14 Metro stations.

Priority Axis 4 “Improvement of the Maritime and Inland Waterway Navigation“

At the end of 2015, under the priority axis are concluded 5 grant contracts at the value of **67,460,094.63 BGN (34,491,798.69 EUR)**, which represents **99.26%** of the budget of the priority axis. The beneficiaries were paid grant in the amount of **53,894,874.89 BGN (27,556,011.97 EUR)** or **79.30%** of the budget of the priority axis.

Under the priority axis is finished the realisation of the projects “Establishing a River Information System in the Bulgarian stretch of the Danube River – BULRIS”, “Vessel Traffic Management Information System (VTMIS) – Phase 3” and “Improvement of the systems for navigation and topo-hydrographic measurements along the Danube River“.

Priority Axis 5 “Technical Assistance”

At the end of 2015, under the priority axis are concluded/issued 82 grant contracts/orders at the total value of **110,445,429.70 BGN (56,469,851.52 EUR)** or **100.93%** of the budget of the priority axis. The beneficiaries have been paid in the amount of **84,675,307.44 BGN (43,293,797.23 EUR)** or **77.38%** of the budget of the priority axis.

With funds from the priority axis are financed activities connected with the improvement of the administrative capacity of MA and the beneficiaries; measures for information and publicity; performing of evaluation of OPT; implementing of Geographic information systems for the needs of NRIC and SEPI, and preparation of Operational programme for the programming period 2015 – 2020, including preliminary and ecological evaluation.

2. Information about Compliance with Community law (Problems and Measures Taken to overcome them)

As of 31.12.2015, no issues are identified in connection with non-compliance to the law of the Community.



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3. Significant Problems Encountered and Measures Taken to Overcome Them

Main challenge in the final year of the programming period was that there were needed maximum efforts for finishing the projects within the term of eligibility of the expenditures under the programme. It was necessary to secure funds for the whole implementation of the projects included in priority axes 1 and 2. Funds are necessary for the fulfilment and finishing of the projects in the scope, as they are approved by European Commission. For securing the funds needed by NRIC for finishing railway projects financed under the programme, with Decision 271/ 6.10.2015 and Decision 62/ 25.03.2016 of CM was awarded temporary grant with no interest, with total value of 318,000,000 BGN. Planned are also funds in the budget of the beneficiary RIA.

Identified are the following main weaknesses and problems, which two of the beneficiaries under the programme (NRIC and RIA) experience:

- Not enough mobilisation by the beneficiaries regarding holding of acquisition procedures.
- Delay of archaeological studies.
- Delay in coordination between the institutions involved in the approval procedures in preparation and realisation of the projects financed under OPT
- Ineffective managing of the construction contracts by NRIC and RIA
- Lack of funds, as well as of long-term planning regarding the own financing of NRIC
- Delayed and lacking preparation by the beneficiaries of the projects for financing with European funds for the period 2014-2020 – Mainly NRIC and RIA

In order to overcome the identified weaknesses, all projects continued to be subject of intense monitoring. Meetings and checks on-the-spot on different levels were held, including such with the participation of the Head of MA. The fulfilment of the corrective actions by the beneficiaries and of the prepared plans for risk management was controlled.

MA of OPT cooperates with EIB, whose experts rendered technical assistance regarding the risky projects of NRIC. In addition, in order to overcome the accumulated delay in the fulfilment of the risky projects, in the beginning of 2015 MA of OPT developed action plan for finishing the projects within the programming period, which was discussed at a meeting with the Director General of DG “Regional and Urban Policy“ and the Deputy Prime Minister responsible for the management of the funds from EU.

The action plan was presented and adopted for information at the meeting of MC of OPT 2007-2013 on 02.06.2015. The suggested changes in it lead to partial re-programming of the two operational programmes and to a need of a change of the decisions of EC for approving “major projects”.

The main points of the plan are:

1. Finishing the procedure of approving the project for Construction of Gabrovo bypass road - on 23.09.2015 EC approved the projects for Construction of Gabrovo bypass road .



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2. Possibilities for phasing of “major” projects from OPT:
 - Kalotina-Sofia MW - Lot 1 “Sofia Ring Road's Western Arc“ (*part of Section 2 is submitted for inclusion in OPTTI*)
 - Part of the activities for Construction of railway line Plovdiv – Burgas (*reduction of the scope of projects with 3 traction substations and railway junction Burgas*)
 - Part of the activities for Construction of railway line Septemvri – Plovdiv
3. Securing the financing for the projects, which cannot be finished till the end of 2015. For finishing the projects during 2016 are necessary 138 million EUR (110 million EUR for railway projects and 28 million EUR for road projects). Activities not fulfilled after 31.12.2015 will be financed with funds of the beneficiary (NRIC), loans, budget funds.
4. The suggested decision for increasing the percentage of co-financing of CF and respectively, decreasing of the national co-financing when forming GR of 85%/15% was considered and approved by CM with Minutes No.18 from 07.05.2015.
5. Identification of projects with possibilities for “reverse” phasing (earlier starting of projects from the programming period 2014-2020)
6. The extension of line 2 of the Metro from metrostation James Boucher to Hladilnika Qut., metrostation Vitosha (project from OPTTI) – Transferring 10 million EUR (European and national co-financing) from Priority Axis 5 “Technical Assistance” in Priority Axis 3 “Improvement of Intermodality for Passengers and Freight” Use of the possibilities of the provisions of Art. 77, Par. 2 of Regulation 1083/2006 for 10 % “flexibility”.

With the approved modification of OPT for change of the rate of co-financing by CF, the risk for loss of grant funds is brought to minimum. With the reduction of scope of the three projects suggested for phasing, was avoided the risk of them not being finished at the finishing of the programme, and respectively, to be declared Non-functional. For the purpose of better absorption of funds under CF, at the end of 2015 were approved also two “retrospective” projects for road infrastructure: Financing of large road facilities under the project for Southern Arc of SRR and Financing of modernisation and reconstruction of viaducts along Trakya MW and Hemus MW.

4. Changes in the context of implementation of OPT during 2015

4.1 Changes in the indicative list of major projects

During 2015, a change is made in the scope of three of the projects in the list of “large” projects under the programme:

- ***Modernisation of railway section Septemvri - Plovdiv from the line Sofia-Plovdiv – along the Trans-European Transport Network*** - from the scope of the projects are taken out the activities for the construction of four overhead bridges and acquisitions connected with them,



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due to delayed tender procedures. These activities are expected to conclude till the end of 2016 and will be financed under OPTTI 2014-2020;

- ***Renovation of sections of the railway infrastructure along the railway line Plovdiv – Burgas (along the Trans-European Transport Network)*** – from the scope of the projects are removed works connected with the construction of three traction substations and the systems for signalling and telecommunication in the railway junction Burgas. The project will be completed within Operational Programme “Transport and Transport Infrastructure” 2014-2020.
- ***“Construction of Kalotina – Sofia MW - Lot 1: “Sofia Ring Road's Western Arc (SRR)”*** - due to difficulties in the fulfilment, the construction of part of Section 2 of Western Arc of SRR will be financed as Phase 2 under Operational Programme “Transport and Transport Infrastructure” 2014-2020.

The application forms for approving the reduction of the scope of the three projects are sent in the term set by EC, until 30.09.2015.

5. Substantial modification pursuant to Art. 57 of Regulation 1083/2006

With Regulation (EU) 539/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council, since 16 June 2010, for amendment of Regulation (EO) 1083/2006 of the Council for determining the general provisions for the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund regarding the simplification of some requirements and regarding some provisions about the financial management, an amendment was made in Art. 57 “Durability of operations” of Regulation (EO) 1083/2006. The change concerns the general condition for durability of implementation of operations, under which funds provided and granted under the Regulation 1083/2006 are not a subject of return to the budget of the European Union. The changes are, as follows:

- Amended is Par. 1, as follows :
 - “The Member State or the managing authority shall ensure that an operation, including investments in infrastructure or productive investments, retains the contribution from the Funds only if within five years after its completion it does not undergo a substantial modification, resulting either from a change in the nature of ownership of an item of infrastructure, or from the cessation of a productive activity, and which affects the nature or the conditions of implementation of the operation, or gives for certain firm or public body an undue advantage.
 - For activities subject of the scope of the help from ESF it is maintained that they did not retain the contribution, only when for them exists an obligation to support the investment according to the applicable rules for state assistance under Art. 107 from the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and when they undergo significant modification as a result of the cessation of productive activity within the term set in these rules.



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The Member States have the right to reduce the term under the first paragraph, to three years in cases connected with the support of investments by small and medium businesses.”;

- Added is a new Par. 5, which specifies that the provisions of Par. 1 - 4 are not applied for operations, which undergo substantial modification as a result of the cessation of productive activity due to insolvency, which is not fraudulent.”;

During January 2015, were concluded the inspections started during December 2014 on “Project for extensions of Sofia Metro: Stage II, Lot 1 Obelya – Nadezhda and Lot 2 Mladost I - Tsarigradsko Shose and “Project for extension of Sofia Metro, Stage I – “Road Junction Nadezhda – Central railway station – St. Nedelya Sq. – Cherni Vrah Blvd. In addition, during May was made inspection also on project “Completion of Trakya Motorway, Lots 2, 3 and 4”.

In conclusion, MA established that there are not found substantial modifications, the granted material and immaterial assets are used as intended, their support is ensured and the ownership remains unchanged, as well as the results from the projects are used according to their intended purpose.

6. Complementarity with Other Community Instruments

6.1 Co-operation with JASPERS

In 2015 the cooperation with the JASPERS initiative and the international financial institutions (IFI), World Bank (WB) and the European Investment Bank (EIB) was mainly represented by the implementation of measures and interventions for each of them laid down in the action plans for 2014.

In the current action plan of JASPERS initiative for the period 2014-2020 are included 16 interventions in the projects planned to be funded during the programming period 2014-2020, of them 9 infrastructural projects (6 for road, 5 for railway and 2 for Metro) and 3 for rendering technical assistance (Improvement of the capacity offices for implementation of projects in National Company “Railway Infrastructure” (NRIC), preparation of Integrated Transport Strategy and Development of the Capacity for Strategic Planning of State Enterprise Port Infrastructure). The interventions for three of the projects (1) *For Road E79 Vidin-Montana*“, 2) *For railway line Ruse-Varna* and 3) *railway line Karnobat - Sindel*) are cancelled. The preparation of part of the projects included in the plan, financed under OPT:

- For modernisation of railway sections Elin Pelin – Ihtiman and Ihtiman - Septemvri;
- For modernisation of railway line Sofia – Serbian Border, Section Voluyak - Dragoman;
- Phase II of projects for rehabilitation of railway line Plovdiv-Burgas.
- For Lot 3 of Struma MW ;
- Phase II of projects for Construction of Gabrovo bypass road;
- For finishing of Hemus MW;



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During 2015, the help of JASPERS was used for the preparation of only 8 of the included in action plan projects (5 infrastructural and 3 for rendering of technical assistance). For the infrastructural projects was made review of the actual documentation – pre-project studies, analysis of the cost-effectiveness, EIA etc. of the projects for 1) Lot 3 of Struma Motorway, 2) For finishing of Hemus MW, 3) For modernisation of railway sections Elin Pelin - Ihtiman and Ihtiman – Septemvri, 4) For Phase II of the projects for renovation of railway line Plovdiv – Burgas and 5) For line 3 of Sofia Metro. During 2015, is issued Opinion on completion of projects for Stage I of line 3 of Sofia Metro. During 2016 are expected to be issued Opinions on completion for three of the infrastructural projects- 1) Lot 3 of Struma Motorway, 2) For modernisation of railway sections Elin Pelin - Ihtiman and Ihtiman - Septemvri, 3) For Phase II of the projects for renovation of railway line Plovdiv – Burgas. Having in mind that the project for finishing of Hemus MW is not included in the list with large projects under OPTTI, for it is not expected an Opinion on completion of projects for financing under OPTTI.

For the remaining projects included in the action plan of JASPERS during 2015 there are no implemented activities in cooperation with JASPERS under preparation, due to the lack of enough funds for financing their implementation. After finding a solution for the way of financing of the respective projects, it will be assessed what is the need for use of JASPERS for their preparation.

The preparation of the projects included in scope of Operational Programme “Transport and Transport Infrastructure” 2014-2020 (OPTTI) and the Mechanism “Connected Europe” will continue in the action plan during 2016 (railway line Sofia – Serbian Border, railway line Plovdiv – Burgas – Phase II, railway line Elin Pelin – Septemvri and the road Section Kalotina – Sofia). Regarding the interventions for technical assistance during 2016, JASPERS will continue to render cooperation to State Enterprise “Port Infrastructure” for development of the capacity for strategic planning during the implementation and managing of projects planned to be funded from ESIF for the financial frame 2014-2020

7. Co-operation with international financial institutions (IFI)

In the action plan of World Bank during 2015 is included only the project for technical assistance for improvement of the effectiveness of the work in the road sector, which is funded under OPT with beneficiary RIA. During 2015 are completed the following activities for the projects:

1. Strategy for the road sector

1.1 Review of the report for the Strategy in the road sector

The Strategy for development of road infrastructure in Republic of Bulgaria 2016 – 2022 and the middle-term Operational Programme for implementation are approved on a meeting of CM on 16.09.2015.



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1.2 Review of EC

The comments from the review of EC are given on 29.01.2015. They are presented for implementation by the Consultant developing EC of middle-term Operational Programme. The notes and comments are implemented by the Consultant, with which the activity is considered completed.

2. Developing of Strategic business plan for RIA

On 10.07.2013 the Consultant presented a version of the Strategic business plan, which is approved by Decision of MC of RIA from 10.03.2015.

3. The middle-term Operational Programme for roads

The middle-term Operational Programme for implementation of Strategy for Development of road infrastructure in RB 2014-2020 was approved on a meeting of CM from 16.09.2015.

On 12.09.2014 is presented Report for evaluation of multi-year planning and the suggested corrections, which is approved with Minutes of the decision of MC of RIA on 09.01.2015.

4. Developing of complete vision for implementation of electronic system for providing European service for electronic collection of road fees (EETS), with the tasks:

4.1 Introductory report and detailed work plan for electronic collection of fees

On 15.04.2015 is given a version on the task: "Introductory report and detailed work plan for electronic collection of road fees". The activity is adopted and approved with Minutes of MC of RIA on 25.06.2015.

4.2 Report: Analysis of the possibilities and versions for transforming the existing vignette system into electronic system for collection of road fees. Development of detailed specification for the electronic system for providing EETS

On 15.07.2015 the Consultant presented the development of the task, which is adopted and approved with Minutes of MC of RIA on 12.10.2015.

4.3 Report: Development of Strategy, business model and financial planning for implementing of electronic system for providing EETS

On 30.10.2015 the Consultant presented the development of the task, which is adopted and approved with Minutes of MC of RIA on 10.11.2015.

In action plan of European Investment Bank during 2015 are included three projects, which are financed under OPT:

- The project for technical assistance for forming of tariff policy for access and use of the railway infrastructure in NRIC is finished in term, all activities under the task are completed;
- Presenting of expert opinion in the following areas: Strategic managing of NCSIP; Technical managing of project cycle, reporting, control and monitoring under the different projects; participation in the process of training of employees of NCSIP;
- The project for providing strategic consulting help from EIB of MA of OPT for successfully finishing the programming period 2007-2013 was completed in term and all the activities for the task were completed.



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8. Monitoring and evaluation measures and OPT audits carried out

8.1 Sessions of the Monitoring Committee of the OPT in 2015

8.1.1 Eighteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of OPT

Eighteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of OP “Transport” (MC of OPT) was held on 02-03 June 2015. In the meeting participated employees of MA of OPT, the beneficiaries under the programme, representatives of EC, JASPERS, EIB, representatives of state institutions, which are related to the the fulfilment of the programme, of Regional Committees for Development, representatives of National representative organizations of employers, workers and employees.

On the first day of the meeting (02.06.2015) MA of OPT presented the general physical and financial progress under the programme, as well as the fulfilment of the communication plan and measures for information and publicity. The beneficiaries RIA, NCSIP and NRIC reported on the fulfilment of the individual projects, and EIB presented its activities for the railway sector in R Bulgaria.

Adopted was the Annual Report for implementation of OPT for 2014 and were made the following decisions for finishing OPT:

1. MC of OPT accepts for information action plan for finishing of OPT.
2. MC of OPT is not against the submitted amendment of the financial plan of the programme by increasing the financing of CF to 85% and respectively, decreasing the national co-financing to 15%.
3. MC of OPT agrees MA of OPT to undertake actions for possible phasing of the following projects: Western Arc of Sofia ring road – Lot 2 (Priority Axis 2); Modernisation of railway line Plovdiv-Burgas (Priority Axis 1).
4. MC of OPT agrees MA of OPT to undertake actions for change of the budgets of the individual priority axes by transfer of funds between them within the respective fund.

During the second day of the meeting (03.06.2015), the beneficiaries SEPI, EA EMDR and Metropolitan EAD reported on the fulfilment of the individual projects. Presented was also the report on monitoring and control of environmental impact as a result of the fulfilment of OPT.

8.1.2 Third extraordinary meeting of Monitoring Committee of OP “Transport and Transport Infrastructure“ 2014-2020

On 30.09.2015, entered into force an amendment of Decree of the Council of Ministers No 79 from 10.04.2014 for creating monitoring committees for the Partnership Agreement of Republic of Bulgaria and the programmes co-funded by the European structural and investment funds, for the programming period 2014 – 2020. According to the adopted changes, the functions of Monitoring Committee of Operational Programme “Transport“ for the period 2007 – 2013 are implemented by the Monitoring Committee of Operational Programme “Transport and Transport Infrastructure“.



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The Third meeting of Monitoring Committee of OP “Transport and Transport Infrastructure“ 2014-2020 was held on 23 October 2015. In the meeting participated representatives of MA of OPT, the beneficiaries under the programme, representatives of EC, JASPERS, representatives of state institutions, which are related to the the fulfilment of the programme, of Regional Committees for Development, representatives of national representative organizations of employers, workers and employees.

During the meeting was adopted an amendment of the procedure rules for work of MC in connection with the provisions of Decree of the Council of Ministers No 79/2014 and was made a decision for amendment of OPTTI, as follows:

1. Inclusion of Kalotina – Sofia MW - Section 2.
2. Extension of the scope of Phase II of Plovdiv - Burgas - signalling and traction substations.
3. Extension of third Metro diameter
4. Reverse phasing of projects for extension of line 2 of Sofia Metro, Section from MS James Boucher to MS Vitosha.
5. Modification of financial indicator “Certified expenditures” of the frame of fulfilment of the Priority axis 3 “Improvement of Intermodality for Passengers and Freight and Development of sustainable public transport”: Stage target for 2018 – 72,000,000 EUR to be increased to 105,152,249 EUR, due to reduction of stage target for the same year under Operational Programme “Environment” 2014-2020 (according to Decision of CCMEuF from 12.05.2015).
6. Modification of annual financial breakdown under ERDF, as a result of interinstitutional meetings and talks, with the participation of representatives of MEW, MTITC and the administration of CM.
7. Change of the base line year, the base line value, the target value and the source of providing data for Indicator for result “Inter-modal Transport Units (ITU), carried by railway and water transport“ (By the suggestion of National Statistics Institute).
8. Removing of technical errors in the text of the programme.

8.1.3 Fourth meeting of Monitoring Committee of OP “Transport and Transport Infrastructure“ 2014-2020

The Fourth meeting of Monitoring Committee of OP “Transport and Transport Infrastructure“ 2014-2020 was held on 25-26 November 2015. In the meeting participated representatives of MA of OPT, the beneficiaries under the programme, representatives of EC, JASPERS, World Bank, EIB, representatives of state Institutions, which are related to the the fulfilment of the programme, of Regional Committees for Development, representatives of National representative organizations of employers, workers and employees.

During the first day of the meeting (official part on 25.11.2015) by MA of OPT were presented the general physical and financial progress under OPT, as well as the results from the procedure for selection of NGO. The beneficiaries RIA and NRIC reported on the fulfilment of the risky projects, and EIB presented its activities for the railway sector in R Bulgaria.



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During the second day of the meeting (26.11.2015) were presented the general physical and financial progress under OPTTI, the fulfilment of the preliminary conditions, the activities for publicity of the two programmes, as well as the yearly action plan for the measures for information and communication under OPTTI. The beneficiaries NRIC, NCSIP and Metropolitan EAD reported on the fulfilment of the individual projects.

Approved was Indicative annual work programme of OPTTI for 2016. The plan for the evaluation was presented for approval but it wasn't adopted by MC. A decision was made to revise the plan based on the received by EC comments and to present it to MC for written decision.

8.1.4 Approval by EC of the Third amendment of OPT

On 29.09.2015 Bulgaria submitted by the computerised system for exchange of data with the Commission SFC 2007, an application for revision of Operational Programme “Transport” 2007-2013. By Decision C (2015) 9280 from 15.12.2015 of EC is approved the Third amendment of OPT, which includes the following main changes in texts of the programme:

- Increasing the percentage of co-financing from the Cohesion Fund (CF) of the European Union (EU) under OPT from 80% to 85% (respectively, reduction of the share of the national co-financing from 20% to 15%;
- Transfer of 10 million EUR (European and national co-financing) from Priority Axis 5 “Technical Assistance” into Priority Axis 3 “Improvement of Intermodality for Passengers and Freight” of OPT;
- In the list with priority projects of OPT by the Mechanism “Reverse phasing“ is included also as a separate project the constructed at present part of the project for extension of second Metro diameter from MS James Boucher to MS Vitosha (the crossing of Cherni Vrah Blvd. with Henrik Ibsen Blvd. and Srebarna Str.). Originally, the project was planned for financing under Operational Programme “Transport and Transport Infrastructure“ 2014-2020 (OPTTI);
- Phasing of major project 2012BG161PR005 Construction of Kalotina – Sofia MW - Lot 1 “Sofia Ring Road's Western Arc (SRR)“. The construction of Section 2 from the project - from km 0+780 (North from Road Junction Slivnitsa) to km 6+308 (at the connection with Northern Speed Tangenta) is taken out from the scope of OPT and is submitted for inclusion in the scope of Priority Axis 2 Development of road infrastructure under “main” and “extended” Trans-European Transport Network” of OPTTI.
- Reduction of the scope of the projects:
 - For Modernisation of railway section **Septemvri –Plovdiv**: from the scope of the project are taken out the activities for the construction of four overhead bridges and acquisitions connected with them due to delayed tender procedures. These activities are expected to conclude till the end of 2016 and will be financed under OPTTI 2014-2020;
 - For Renovation of sections from railway infrastructure under railway line **Plovdiv – Burgas**: the scope of the project is reduced, and from it are removed works connected with the construction of three traction substations and the systems for signalling and telecommunication in railway junction Burgas. The whole finishing of the project



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Plovdiv –Burgas will be made within Operational Programme “Transport and Transport infrastructure“ 2014-2020.

The current budget of the priority axes under the programme (European and national co-financing) is, as follows:

- Priority Axis 1 “*Development of the Railway Infrastructure along the Trans-European and Major National Transport Axes*” – 1,214,915,577 BGN (621,176,471 EUR)
- Priority Axis 2 “*Development of Road Infrastructure Along the Trans-European and Main National Transport Axes*” – 1,674,351,300 BGN (856,082,226 EUR)
- Priority Axis 3 “*Improvement of Intermodality for Passengers and Freight*” - 671,228,732 BGN (343,193,801 EUR)
- Priority Axis 4 “*Improvement of the Maritime and Inland Waterway Navigation*“ – 67,965,093 BGN (34,750,000 EUR)
- Priority Axis 5 “*Technical Assistance*“ – 109,428,689 BGN (55,950,000 EUR)

These changes are approved by the Monitoring Committee on 02.06.2015.

8.2 On-the-spot checks performed in 2015

During the period from 01.01.2015 to 31.12.2015 were held 43 checks on-the-spot, from which 32 were planned checks on-the-spot for projects in the process of implementation and 8 special checks – after an application for final payment, and 3 checks for sustainability of finished projects.

The main findings of MA can be summarised in the following groups:

- Findings connected with delays in the fulfilment of construction works, which endanger finishing of certain projects and their commissioning. These projects are rated with high complex risk factor. For them MA monitors the actions of the beneficiaries for applying and implementation of corrective measures;
- Findings connected with the fulfilment of construction works for problems with acquisition procedures of certain properties from the construction sites (delayed appeals of decisions of the Council of Ministers);
- Findings connected with delays in signing the contracts for implementation, due to delayed appeals of tender procedures, including delays of issuing the building permit for already started contracts for implementation;
- Findings connected with the presence of archaeological projects, which block the fulfilment of the construction works and increase the risk the fulfilment of CW to continue after the expiration of the term of contracts with the respective contractor;
- Findings connected with falling behind the schedule for implementation of CW, due to reduced mobilisation of contractors as regards the mechanisation and work force;



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- Findings connected with reduced pace of implementation of CW, due to lack of access to certain sections of the construction site;
- Findings connected with delay in the fulfilment of the construction works due to some problems of transferring the engineering networks;
- Findings connected with observing the tender conditions when changing key experts from the teams of the consulting firms;
- Findings connected with applying of the conditions for safe labour, according to the provisions of LHSW;
- Findings connected with observing the requirement for publicity.

Regarding the established omissions in the realisation of the projects, MA of OPT gave the respective suggestions to the beneficiaries, whose implementation is monitored with each next inspection on the spot and is reported monthly by the beneficiaries with each report for the progress of the project.

8.3 Audits carried out of MA of OPT in 2015

8.3.1 Audits carried out by the Internal Audit Unit with the Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications

During 2015, MA of OPT received 17 final audit reports from audits made by the Office for Internal audits at MTITC. The suggestions and findings are presented by the involved parties and copies of the final reports are sent to Certifying body. The audits are connected mainly with the fulfilment of individual projects, inspection of eligibility of expenditures and sending funds under OPT. In the cases when it was necessary were prepared action plans for implementation of the suggestions.

8.3.2 Audits carried out by the Audit Authority - “Audit of EU funds” Executive Agency

- *Audit of the systems for managing and control under OPT in the period of 10 November – 5 December 2014.* The audit concerns Key Requirement 7 “Necessary preventive and corrective action where systemic errors are detected by the audit“. Inspected were the actions of MA of OPT regarding given audit suggestions. During April 2015 was received final report. The Audit Authority rated with grade 1 “Works good, needed minor improvements”.

- *Audit of operations under Operational Programme “Transport” of certified during 2014 expenditures.* In the scope of the audit are payments realised under projects with beneficiaries – Metropolitan EAD, RIA, NRIC, SEPI, EA EMDR and MA of OPT. During December 2015 MA gave comments on the suggestion report. At the end of 2015, MA received the final report, and the main findings regarding the established weaknesses of public procurements, as well as findings in connection with the physical implementation of the projects. In the beginning of April 2016, MA reported to the Audit Authority the status of the given suggestions.



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- *A subject audit of the systems for management and control under OPT, in connection with the mission of EC from May 2015 - Mission 2015/BG/REGIO/C2/1412/1. The audit is about inspection of held tender procedures. In the beginning of November 2015 was received the final report. The general purpose of the audit is the evaluation of the effective functioning of the updated procedures for verification of expenditures under the contracts for public procurements by the Managing Authority of the Operational Programme “Transport”. The specific targets of the audit are:*

1. To assess the adequacy of the updated procedures of MA under OPT for verification of expenditures under the contracts for public procurements;
2. To assess the effectiveness of performed repeated checks of the procedures for awarding of public procurements, held by NRIC, Metropolitan EAD, as well as of the procedures for contracting without announcement, held by NRIC, Metropolitan EAD and RIA.
3. To assess the adequacy of the applied by MA financial corrections, in case of established violations during the second verification.

The auditing body accepts the undertaken by MA actions and suggests to impose a financial correction on the project of NRIC (Plovdiv - Burgas). During December 2015 MA reported to the Audit Authority the fulfilment of the given suggestions.

- *Audit of the systems for managing and control under Operational Programme “Transport” in the period 04.11 - 07.12.2015. The inspection is in the process of implementation. The objective is to inspect the process of verification, as well as the undertaken preventive and corrective actions in case of established systematic errors by the completed audits.*

8.3.3 Audits carried out by the Bulgarian National Audit Office

- *Audit of the fulfilment of Operational Programme “Transport” in the part of construction of railway infrastructure under the Priority Axis I for the period 01.01.2010 – 31.12.2013. In the beginning of June 2015 a preliminary report of the inspection was presented. The beneficiary NRIC and MA of OPT gave comments on the document. The final report was received during September 2015. In the report are given recommendations regarding the undertaken actions for securing of funds for final completion of the projects; measures for completion and functioning of the projects; improvement of communication between involved parties for successful verification of funds. Suggestions are made to the beneficiary NRIC for undertaking of actions for successful completion of the projects. During March 2016, NRIC and MA of OPT reported to the National Audit Office about the status of the given suggestions.*
- *Audit of the fulfilment of “Administrative capacity of the bodies for managing the funds from the European Union“. MA of OPT presented the necessary information to the Court of Auditors. The audit started during 2014, in July 2015 was presented a draft of the report from the inspection, on which was given preliminary opinion. Officially, the preliminary report was presented during November 2015, and in it are included comments of MA from July. Expected is the final report.*



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8.3.4 Audits carried out by the Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

- Mission of EC 2013/BG/REGIO/C2/1198/1, realised in the period 8-12 April 2013 in RIA, Metropolitan EAD, NRIC and MA of OPT. The objective of the mission was to gain confidence for the regularity and the lawfulness of the financing provided by the Union. During September 2013, in MA of OPT was received official translation in Bulgarian language of a preliminary report by the realised mission. The audit includes the tender procedures and commercial contracts held for the projects implemented under OPT. MA of OPT prepared an Opinion on the report, which was sent to Permanent Representation of RB in EC and to DG Regional and Urban Policy, EC on 03.10.2013. During April 2014, in MA of OPT was received the position of EC on the given comments. The suggestions concern the main established weaknesses in the public procurements and suggestions to impose financial correction on the project of Metropolitan EAD. The official translation was received in the Representation of Republic of Bulgaria in the EU of 31.07.2014. The Bulgarian side gave its position on the two suggestions (SCADA – on Metropolitan and the procedure for Kardzhali – Podkova of RIA) with Letter 30-05-28/ 19.09.2014. With Letter 30-05-28/ 12.11.2014, the Bulgarian side gives an additional opinion (for SCADA). **During April 2015, the Bulgarian side is notified that findings are closed.**
- Mission of EC 2014/BG/REGIO/C2/1358/1, realised in the period 29.09-03.10.2014. The objective of the inspection is to assess to what degree the services of EC can rely on the activity of the auditing body and on the results of its audits. For OPT the subject of the inspection were the projects of NRIC and RIA. During February 2015, MA of OPT received a preliminary report by Audit of EU Funds EA. The findings are regarding the established weaknesses in the public procurements and the eligibility of expenditures. During April 2015, the Bulgarian side issued a general position to EC on the given suggestions. During November 2015, was presented the Opinion of EC. In the report was given the suggestion to impose financial correction for Struma Motorway, Lot 2 in connection with the finding upon a realised public procurement.
- Mission of EC 2015/BG/REGIO/C2/1463/1, realised in the period 19.01-23.01.2015 in ASEuF about Annual control report and Annual control opinion on 2014 under OPT. During March 2015 was received a preliminary report in English language, and during April 2015 is received also the version of the report in Bulgarian language. MA of OPT presented to ASEuF its opinion on the report, for sending the Bulgarian position to EC. During September 2015, EC sent its position, which was taken into consideration. The suggestions are to impose financial corrections regarding the established weaknesses of public procurements from RIA, Metropolitan EAD and NRIC.
- Mission of EC 2015/BG/REGIO/C2/1412/1, the inspection was made in the period of 18-22.05.2015. The objective of the audit was to get confidence about the effective functioning of the systems for managing and control for OPT. At the end of October 2015 was received the Bulgarian version of a preliminary report. The Bulgarian side expressed its position during November 2015. Expected is the receipt of the Opinion of EC.



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9. Progress made in financing and implementing financial engineering instruments as defined in Article 44 of Regulation 1083/2006.

Not applicable.

10. Horizontal Issues

10.1 Ex-ante control performed by MA of OPT in relation to the public procurement procedures for OPT projects

During 2015 in connection with established gaps in the system for control on awarding public procurements under OPT, and after the analysis of the findings and the suggestions on the held audits by the Audit Authority, and auditors by DG Regional Policy, the managing authority made changes in the current system. As a result of the change in the system for control, MA of OPT made new verification of all procedures for public procurements, held by National Company “Railway Infrastructure“ (NRIC), Metropolitan EAD, of the project BG161PO004-3.0.01-0005 “Extension of Sofia Metro - Stage III“, as well as of all procedures for contracting without announcement, held by NRIC, Metropolitan EAD and Road Infrastructure Agency (RIA), and the subject of inspection were:

- 37 contracts of NRIC, concluded under the held procedures for public procurements (missing Art. 90 of PPA), of total value 1,103,082,243.50 BGN;
- 7 contracts of Metropolitan EAD from project BG161PO004-3.0.01-0005 “Extension of Sofia Metro - Stage III“, concluded after the realised open procedure under PPA, with total value of 222,525,312.59 BGN;
- 16 contracts, concluded after the held procedures under Art. 90 of PPA with beneficiaries NRIC, RIA and Metropolitan EAD, with total value of 64,892,703.54 BGN.

With a report of the Head of MA was changed and updated the system for control, and as of June 2015, MA is controlling the realised procedure and signed contract by the beneficiary before the expenditure verifications declared by the beneficiaries.

This solves the identified by the controlling bodies problem, related to the lack of sharing the responsibility in the process of verification on the level of MA, regarding the ex-ante and ex-post control on public procurements. The exercising of a preliminary control still is made by PPA, in the hypotheses envisioned in PPA, and the issued opinions are of informative nature for MA in the process of its checks and MA does not refer to the results of the control, when making its checks.

In addition to the above mentioned contracts, which were subject of new checks, the Department “Control on Public Procurements” continues to make new checks also on the open procedures for public procurements, by applying the new control procedures and control lists, and from the remaining contracts of NRIC (additionally are inspected 13 more contracts), as well as those of other beneficiaries under the programme, namely: EA “Exploration and Maintenance of Danube



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River“ (3 commercial contracts with open procedures), National Company “Strategic infrastructural projects“ (13 commercial contracts with open procedures), SE “Port Infrastructure“ (20 commercial contracts with open procedures) and open procedures for selection of contractor under PPA, of Road Infrastructure Agency (51 commercial contracts with open procedures).

The objective of the second checks is achieving of reasonable confidence for lawfulness at the awarding of public procurements, financed fully or partially from OPT before the verification of the declared expenditures. The repeated inspection is about the realised public procurement regarding the reimbursement of expenditures under it, from funds under OPT, but the inspection does not affect undertaking of obligations by the Contracting Authority in the process of awarding and implementation of the public procurement.

During the checks on the public procurements, in some of the inspected procedures were detected financial violations, according to *“Methodology for determining of financial corrections, which are applied in comparison with the expenditures connected with the implementation of the operational programmes co-funded by the structural instruments of EU, EFARD and EFD, adopted with Decree 134 of CM from 2010, publ. SG 53/2010; am. and ad. by Decree 339 of CM from 2010, publ. SG 3/2011; Decree of CM 150 from 2013, publ. SG 65/2013; Decree of CM 162 from 2014, publ. SG 52/2014“* (“Methodology“), and in these cases Department “Control on public procurement“ took the necessary actions by submitting a signal for established violation during a procedure for public procurement, according to the current procedure for “Irregularities within MA of OPT, open by employees“, detailed in the Rules of Procedure of Operational Programme “Transport”.

10.1.1 Implementation of the Public Procurement Act in the process of implementation of the OPT (identified problems/obstacles/ significant amendments in the Public Procurement Act concerning the implementation of the OPT (identified problems/obstacles/significant modifications in PPA, related to the fulfilment of OPT)

During 2015, in the National Assembly of Republic of Bulgaria was submitted a draft law for amendment and addition of Public Procurement Act. By drafts is developed frame law, the purpose of which is achieving of sustainability and reduction of the need of frequent changes in the essence of the whole concept. This aims to ensure durable harmonisation of the national legal frame with the European directives. The technical questions, connected with the operational realisation of the awarding will be developed in guidelines for applying the law, which should enter into force simultaneously with it during the first trimester of 2016.

Until the final adoption of the new Public Procurement Act, MA applies the now active law when it performs its control checks regarding the public procurements held by the beneficiaries under the programme.

10.1.2 Significant legislative changes in 2014 that affect directly the implementation of the projects financed under OPT

Spatial Development Act - 35 from 5.05.2015, in force from 15.05.2015, 61 from 11.08.2015, ad., 62 from 14.08.2015, in force from 14.08.2015, am. and ad., 79 from 13.10.2015, in force from



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1.11.2015, 101 from 22.12.2015 – the objectives of the changes are connected with the reduction of the regulatory weight in the area of investment projects and the construction. Included are several measures for improvement and optimisation of the procedures connected with investment projects, the construction and commissioning of the constructions, including the reduction of the terms for these procedures. The changes target the achieving of effective protection of public interest by ensuring professional qualities, qualification and experience of the persons participating in the investment process and increasing the quality of the investment projects through more active attraction of the branch organizations. Improved and added are the texts, in order to achieve singleness of interpretation and harmony with other laws. One of the important changes in SDL, which concerns RIA, 101/2015 of State Gazette, apply to the person of lead designer, the author of the leading project part of the investment project, selected by the Contracting Authority, this person is responsible for the mutual coordination of all parts of the investment project.

The Cadastre and Property Register Act - 61 from 11.08.2015, 101 from 22.12.15. The changes aim to improve the regulations for the realisation of the activities for creating, approving and maintaining the cadastre map and cadastre registers, simplifying the services for natural and legal persons with data from the Cadastre, protection against bureaucracy during the process and against corruption practices.

The Road Act - am. and ad., 10 from 6.02.2015, in force from 6.02.2015, am., 14 from 20.02.2015, 37 from 22.05.2015, ad., 61 from 11.08.2015, in force from 1.11.2015, am., 95 from 8.12.2015, in force from 1.01.2016, am. and ad., 101 from 22.12.2015, in force from 22.12.2015 The changes are aiming to ensure the harmonisation of Bulgarian legislation with the requirements of the European Union for effective realisation of the activities for public use of the roads through regulation of automobile traffic, issuing permits and imposing limitations on the road use. It is planned the conditions, order and the rules for construction and functioning of a mixed system for payment of fee for distance – toll-fee for heavy freight vehicles and electronic vignette for light vehicles, to be determined by a decree of the Council of Ministers in accordance with the requirements of [Directive 1999/62/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council, from 17 June 1999 on the payment of fees from freight vehicles for the use of certain infrastructures, and [Directive 2004/52/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council, from 29 April 2004 on the interoperability of electronic road toll systems in the Community.

Some of the main amendments in 101 / 2015 of State Gazette in the RA, affecting RIA as a beneficiary, are the following:

- About “vignette fee“ - it is planned it to be paid by the owner or the user of the vehicle after declaring the registration number;
- The national roads are managed by the Road Infrastructure Agency; The specialised office at RIA - Central Institute for Road Technologies, National and European Norms and Standards has a new name - Institute for roads and bridges;
- The main subject of activity of the National Company “Strategic Infrastructural Projects“ is changed, as follows: Financing, Design and construction of Struma Motorway, Hemus MW and Black Sea MW, as well as of other projects of road infrastructure, determined by an act of the Council of Ministers.



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- In connection with the changes, it is planned in two-month period after the receiving of the permit for use of: Struma Motorway, Hemus MW and Black Sea MW, to be given by National Company “Strategic Infrastructural Projects“ to the Road Infrastructure Agency for managing, maintaining and repair with two-sided protocol, together with the whole technical and financial documentation;

The Water Act - 12 from 13.02.2015, 14 from 20.02.2015, 17 from 6.03.2015, in force from 6.03.2015, am. and ad., 58 from 31.07.2015, am., 61 from 11.08.2015, 95 from 8.12.2016, in force from 1.01.2016, 101 from 22.12.2015, in force from 22.12.2015

With the amendment of WA with 58/2015 State Gazette, it is planned that the integration of the policy on the waters and branch policies in the water sector is performed by Coordination Council on the Waters, including the Minister of Environment and Water, the Minister of Agriculture and Foods, the Minister of Energy, the Minister of Economy, the Minister of Regional Development and Public Works, the Minister of Health Care, the Minister of Interior, the Minister of Transport, Information Technologies and Communications and the Minister of Education and Science, or authorised by them persons, and the president of the National Association of the Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria.

III. Implementation of Operational Programme “Transport” by priority axes

1. Priority Axis I – “Development of the Railway Infrastructure along the Trans-European and Major National Transport Axes”

1.1. Achievement of targets and analysis of progress

Table 15: Physical progress under the Priority Axis I – “Development of Railway Infrastructure along the Trans-European and Main National Transport Axes” by quantifiable indicators as of 31.12.2015

The target values of all indicators do not include the base line values.

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Priority Axis I – “Development of the Railway Infrastructure along the Trans-European and Major National Transport Axes”											
Time savings (railways) (thousand hours/year)	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	17	17
	Target									5,310	
	Baseline	0									
Value of time savings (railways) (euro per year)	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38,076	79,850	79850
	Target									13,060,000	
	Baseline	0									
Reconstructed/rehabilitated railway lines (km)	Achievement	0	0	0	2.3	27	108	164	234	312	312
	Target									345	
	Baseline	450									
Length of metro lines (km)	Achievement	0	0	0	0	1.6	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7

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	Target									6.7	
	Baseline	9.9									
Metro stations (number)	Achievement	0	0	0	0	5	6	6	6	6	6
	Target									6	
	Baseline	8									
Projects under PA 1 (number)	Achievement	0	0	1	1	4	5	5	5	5	5
	Target									5	
	Baseline	0									



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At the end of 2015 under the priority axis were signed **9** contracts for grant awarding of total value **1,356,550,568.86 BGN (693,593,292.29 EUR)**, which represents **111.66% of the budget** of the axis eligible expenditures under OPT, the commercial contracts for implementation under the priority axis are in the amount of **1,370,745,250.03 BGN (700,850,917.53 EUR)**. To the beneficiaries have being paid GR in the amount of **1,092,115,124.70 BGN (558,389,596.59 EUR)** or **89.89%** of the budget of the priority axis. The total amount of the verified expenditures under the priority axis at the end of 2015 is **1,197,817,554.53 BGN (612,434,390.79 EUR)**, from which GR in the amount of **1,033,113,882.34 BGN (528,222,740.39 EUR)** and **164,703,672.09 BGN (84,211,650.34 EUR)** own contribution.

In the process of implementation are 3 “major“ infrastructure projects, and EC approved AF for the three projects. Concluded is the fulfilment of the projects for electrification and reconstruction of the railway line Svilengrad – Turkish Border, projects for construction of Stage II of Sofia Metro, as well as railway section Mihailovo – Kaloyanovets (from the projects for rehabilitation of railway line Plovdiv – Burgas). As a result of the completion of the two projects are rehabilitated 18 km lines and are constructed 6.7 km Metro lines with 6 Metro stations.

- Project ***BG16PO004-1.0.01-0002 “Electrification and reconstruction of railway line Svilengrad – Turkish Border”***

Awarded under the project grant is in the amount of 58,274,218 BGN (29,795,135 EUR). The funds paid under the project, including the advanced payments, are in the amount of 52,217,727.70 BGN (26,698,500.23 EUR), from which CF – 41,774,182.16 BGN (21,358,800.18 EUR) and NCF – 10,443,545.54 BGN (5,339,700.05 EUR). The verified expenditures grant are in the amount of 49,686,719.32 BGN (25,404,416.19 EUR).

The physical implementation of the construction works **concluded at the end of 2012**, which was evidenced by signing of Act Form15 on 14.12.2012. On 07.05.2013 was signed Protocol Form 16 to establish the exploitation serviceability of the construction project, and on 08.05.2013 was issued permit for use. On 07.06.2013, the Engineer on the project issued Certificate for acceptance of the whole project according to general and specific conditions of the contracts of FIDIC for construction and projects 3219/25.05.2009 on 28.06.2013 the contractor presented to the Engineer a report of conclusion according to sub-clause 14.10 of the contract. During 2014, the contractor of the construction works repeatedly presented documents in connection with the interoperability, but they were not approved by the beneficiary and were returned for additions and corrections. On 23.12.2014 the beneficiary sent its last notes on the documents presented by the contractor and required to be presented correctly drafted and full documentation for the interoperability of the project.

On 30.09.2014 in addition of the contract for grant of the project is signed Annex ДОПТ-6/30.03.2015, with which the term for finishing of grant contract was increased and set for no later than 31.07.2015.



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- Project **BG161PO004-1.0.01-0005** “**Reconstruction and electrification of railway line Plovdiv-Svilengrad along Corridors IV and IX, Phase 2: Section Parvomay – Svilengrad**”

The awarded under projects grant is in the amount of 281,279,749 BGN (143,816,052 EUR). EC approved AF on 22.12.2011. The funds paid for the project, including the advanced payments, are in the amount of 197,819,976.14 BGN (101,143,747.74 EUR), from which CF – 158,255,980.91 BGN (80,914,998.19 EUR) and NCF – 39,563,995.23 BGN (20,228,749.55 EUR). The verified expenditures grant are in the amount of 187,694,524.67 BGN (95,966,686.61 EUR).

The general physical progress of the project as of 31.12.2015 is 60% and this includes:

Position 1: “Reconstruction and electrification of railway section Dimitrovgrad – Harmanli” – progress 89%

Position 1 is divided by convention on 4 sections and several sub-sections.

The main part of the construction works are finished and accepted by the Contracting Authority, and are signed Act Form 15 (Form 15) for the sections, as follows: Section 1 on 21.10.2015; Section 2 on 28.10.2015; Section 3.3 and Section 4.A and Section 4 on 15.10.2015.

There remain for implementation Section 2A, Section 3.1 and Section 3.2, for which the acquisition procedures are finished and is issued building permit. The last issued building permit is for Section 3.2 from 13.11.2015 (railway station Simeonovgrad).

The prognosis for finishing the contracts for position 1 is until 16.11.2016.

Position 2: “Reconstruction and electrification of railway section Harmanli – Svilengrad and rehabilitation and electrification of railway line Svilengrad – Border with the Republic of Greece” – progress 95%.

Position 2 is divided by convention on 6 sections.

On all sections the construction works are finished and accepted by the Contracting Authority with Act Form 15, as follows: Section 1 on 08.09.2015; Section 2 on 04.12.2015 ; Section 3 on 01.12.2015; Section 4 on 17.11.2015; Section 5 on 15.12.2015; Section 6 on 08.09.2015.

The prognosis for finishing the contracts for position 2 is until 03.02.2016.

Position 3: “Construction of new traction substations in Simeonovgrad and Svilengrad and extension of existing traction substation in Dimitrovgrad” – progress 92%.

The three traction substations, subject of implementation under Position 3, are finished and accepted by the Contracting Authority with Act Form 15 (Form 15), as follows: TSS Simeonovgrad on 07.10.2015; TSS Svilengrad on 27.10.2015; TSS Dimitrovgrad on 04.12.2015. To them are finished and accepted by the Contracting Authority with Act Form 15 (Form 15): Feeding water pipeline for TSS Simeonovgrad on 07.10.2015; Road for access to TSS Simeonovgrad on 07.10.2015; Reserve power for TSS Simeonovgrad on 08.12.2015; Service point Svilengrad on 06.10.2015. Remaining for implementation are Main Power line VL110 kV to TSS Svilengrad and



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TSS Simeonovgrad, as well as Road for access to TSS Svilengrad, for which the acquisition procedures are not finished.

The prognosis for finishing the contracts for position 3 is until 18.11.2016.

Phase Systems - progress 89%.

The finishing of contracts for construction of the Systems depends fully on the finishing of the work on the construction contracts.

The prognosis for finishing the contracts for the Systems is until 28.11.2016.

The problems identified on the project *“Reconstruction and electrification of railway line Plovdiv – Svilengrad along Corridors IV and IX, Phase 2: Section Parvomay – Svilengrad”*, are summarised, as follows:

- Lack of building permits for several sections and sub-projects, for issuing of which is necessary to finish the respective acquisition procedures;
- Additional works, for which the beneficiary is required to secure additional funds, including for financial corrections, as well as securing of own financing for the whole project.

The main risk of the project is its completion deadline for the programming period under OPT and the need to be funded by the beneficiary. For this the beneficiary received target loan by the Ministry of Finances. With budget from the beneficiary should be finished the uncompleted sections (railway station Simeonovgrad) for Position 1, for Position 3 the two high voltage lines for the new traction substations, the road for access to TSS Svilengrad, as well as the finishing of systems for signalling, telecommunications and SCADA for the whole line.

- Project ***BG161PO004-1.0.01-0006 “Project for extensions of Sofia Metro: Stage II Lot 1 Obelya – Nadezhda and Lot 2 Mladost I - Tsarigradsko Shose”***

The awarded GR is in the amount of 456,219,816 BGN (233,261,488 EUR). EC approved the application form on 01.07.2011. To the beneficiary Metropolitan EAD has being paid grant in the amount of 453,082,231.03 BGN (231,657,266.24 EUR), from which CF – 362,465,784.82 BGN (185,325,812.99 EUR) and NCF – 90,616,446.21 BGN (46,331,453.25 EUR). The verified expenditures GR under the project are in the amount of 451,702,047.09 BGN (230,951,589.40 EUR).

The two lots from the section are commissioned – Lot 1 on 31.08.2012 and Lot 2 on 25.04.2012. During the project are constructed 6.7 km Metro lines with 6 Metro stations.

Approved is the final report on the project and the final payment is made.

Information about concluded “major” infrastructural project:

- Name of the project: BG161PO004-1.0.01-0006 “Project for extensions of Sofia Metro: Stage II Lot 1 Obelya – Nadezhda and Lot 2 Mladost I - Tsarigradsko Shose”
- Date of finishing: 31.08.2012.



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Information about the total amount of investment expenditures under the project in EUR, according to It. H2.2 from Annex XXI and XXII of Regulation 1828/2006.

Total amount of investment costs in EUR - financing sources					For information
Total amount of investment cost	Community Assistance	National public contribution	National private contribution	Other sources	Loans from EIB/EIF
a=b+c+d+e	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
360,896,887	186,609,191	46,652,298	0	127,635,399	105,000,000

- indicators for product (output) – constructed 6.7 km Metro lines; constructed 6 Metro stations;
 - indicators for result (result) – how many realised trips with the Metro 16.49 (16,483,168) million during 2015
 - core indicators: additional population served by improved public transport (numbers) – 179,750.
 - substantial problems in the process of implementation of the projects and undertaken measures for their overcoming – during the fulfilment of the project there were no substantial problems.
- Project BG161PO004-1.0.01-0007 ***“Rehabilitation of railway infrastructure in sections from railway line Plovdiv-Burgas”***

The awarded under the project grant is in the amount of 321,596,234.85 BGN (164,432,066.09 EUR). On 01.07.2011 the project was approved also by the EC. The paid funds for the project, including the advanced payment, are in the amount of 258,826,185.27 BGN (132,335,727.17 EUR), from which CF – 207,060,948.22 BGN (105,868,581,74 EUR) and NCF – 51,765,237.05 BGN (26,467,145.43 EUR). The verified expenditures grant are in the amount of 227,552,877.79 BGN (116,345,938.96 EUR).

Position 1 – “Rehabilitation of railway section Mihaylovo – Kaloyanovets” .

The construction is finished during July 2013.

On 01.04.2015 the Engineer issued Certificate for acceptance of the project.

On 03.06.2015, in RA EA is submitted application for issuing a permit for commissioning under RTA.

The physical implementation of contracts is 100%.

Position 2 - “Rehabilitation of railway sections Stara Zagora – Zavoy – Zimnitsa”

Fully finished are the works on the rail way and the contact network in intermediate station Stara Zagora - Kalitinovo Way No.1 and Way No.2, Kalitinovo - Han Asparuh, Han Asparuh - Nova Zagora and Kermen – Bezmer Way No.1 and Way No.2. Completed are the works on the rail way and the contact network in the stations Kalitinovo, Han Asparuh and Nova Zagora. In the part



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“Signalling and telecommunications” are finished the construction works in the stations Kalitinovo and Han Asparuh, and is signed Act Form17. The stations Konyovo, Kermen and Nova Zagora are in the process of trial operation.

At present, there are performed works on safety equipment in the stations Stara Zagora, Bezmer and Yambol. The contact network in the railway station Stara Zagora is fulfilled under the conditions of 5 hours train and electrical “windows”, due to which the passengers in the section are transported by bus.

Completed are the main types of work on the contact network in the stations Konyovo and Kermen. In the final stage are the works on rail way in railway station Stara Zagora.

The physical implementation of the contracts is 97 %.

The expected finishing is during May 2016.

Position 3: “Rehabilitation of railway section Tserkovski – Karnobat – Burgas”

Fully finished are the works on the rail way in the railway station Tserkovski – III and IV tracks, III track in the railway station Chernograd, intermediate station area Tserkovski – Karnobat Way 2, the section Karnobat – Vladimir Pavlov and the railway station Aytos. In the intermediate station areas Aytos – Bulgarovo and Dolno Ezerovo – RP Losovo – Vladimir Pavlov and railway station Chernograd are finished the works on the contact network.

The systems for safety equipment in railway station Aytos and railway station Tserkovski are remodelled and work in trial operation mode. Finished are the repair and restoration works on the buildings in railway station Tserkovski.

Completed are the activities in the part “Rail Way“ on Way No.1 (2-nd track) to railway station Bulgarovo and railway station Druzhba. Expected is the change of the railway switches in the throats of the railway station Bulgarovo, Druzhba and Dolno Ezerovo.

In the railway station Karnobat are completed the activities for Rail Way of Way No.1, and at present there are performed works on the rail way of Way No.2 and its switches. Completed are the main works on the rail way and the contact network in the section Tserkovski – Karnobat Way No.1, and is restored the train traffic. At present are performed works on the rail way and the contact network in the section Karnobat – Aytos – Way No.2 and the section Vladimir Pavlov – Burgas Way No.1 and Way No.2, including and in the respective stations.

The physical implementation of the contracts is 87%.

Expected finishing is during September 2016.

- **Contract No.4733/05.09.2014** for rehabilitation of railway infrastructure along the sections of the railway line Plovdiv – Burgas – reimbursement, repair and modernisation of traction substations Stara Zagora and Nova Zagora and construction of system for telemanaging of TSS (traction substations), SP (section posts) and SD (section disconnectors) from CDP (Central Dispatcher Point) Plovdiv.
Physical implementation – 60%.
Expected finishing is during June 2016.



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The problems identified under the project “*Rehabilitation of railway infrastructure in sections from railway line Plovdiv – Burgas*”, are summarised, as follows:

- ✓ Delay in the fulfilment of the projects under Position 3 - the envisioned works are not concluded in the extended term of building contract, according to the Additional Agreement No.3, namely 20.10.2015, and the physical implementation of contracts as of 31.12.2015 is 87%.
- ✓ The contracts for construction and building oversight for the public procurement with the subject “Rehabilitation of railway infrastructure along the sections of railway line Plovdiv – Burgas – reimbursement, repair and modernisation of traction substations Stara Zagora and Nova Zagora and construction of system for telemanaging of TSS (traction substations), SP (section posts) and SD (section disconnectors) from CDP (Central Dispatcher Point) Plovdiv” are concluded on 1.11.2015. The percentage of physical implementation is 60%.
- ✓ The finishing of projects is not within the term of eligibility of expenditures under OPT.
- ✓ Part of the activities for projects – design and construction of railway junction Burgas and the activities for reimbursement, repair and modernisation of 3 traction substations - TP Burgas, TP Karnobat and TP Yambol are transferred for implementation to OPTTI. MA follows the fulfilment of the regular corrective actions by NRIC for the purpose of minimising the activities, which will remain for finishing after the end of this programming period with own funds of the beneficiary NRIC.

- Project **BG161PO004-1.0.01-0008 “Modernisation of railway section Septemvri – Plovdiv - part of Trans-European Railway Network”**

Awarded under the project GR is in the amount of 200,000,000 BGN (102,258,376 EUR). EC approved AF on 16.01.2012. The funds paid under the project, including the advanced payment, are in the amount of 122,249,347.78 BGN (62,505,099.00 EUR), from which CF – 97,799,478.22 BGN (50,004,079.20 EUR) and NCF – 24,449,869.56 BGN (12,501,019.80 EUR). The verified expenditures GR are in the amount of 111,675,535.17 BGN (57,098,794.46 EUR).

Position 1 – Section Septemvri – Pazardzhik

On 18.09.2015 was restored the train traffic along Way 2 in the intermediate station area Septemvri - Pazardzhik and the tracks in the two stations Septemvri and Pazardzhik.

The bridge on km 106+700 is finished until the stage of lower construction and reinforced concrete construction. Ready is half of the upper construction of it.

The physical progress under Position 1 is 67%.

Expected finishing of all the activities under Position 1 is June 2016.

Position 2 – Section Pazardzhik – Stamboliyski - progress 25%.

In the intermediate station area Pazardzhik – Ognyanovo along Way 2 is fully ready 7.617 km rail way and are rehabilitated all small facilities.

Fully ready is the contact network in the intermediate station area Ognyanovo - Stamboliyski.

The physical progress under Position 2 is 57%.

Expected finishing of all activities under Position 2 is August 2016.

Position 3 – Section Stamboliyski – Plovdiv



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In the intermediate station area Stamboliyski – Todor Kableshkov along Way 1 the train traffic is fully restored;

In the intermediate station area Stamboliyski – Todor Kableshkov along Way 2 are made fully 7.431 km rail way and is finished the new concrete bridge on km 143+013;

In the railway station Todor Kableshkov the train traffic is restored along Way 1 and its secondary track. Constructed are new railway switches.

TSS Proslav is fully finished.

Performed are inner tests for the readiness of the equipment for high voltage.

Until the end of March 2016 will be issued organised Act Form 15 (Form 15) for establishing the suitability to accept the construction project (Position 3).

The physical progress under Position 3 is 99.2%.

- Position 4 - “Design and construction of the systems for signalling in the section Septemvri – Plovdiv and telecommunications Sofia – Plovdiv”

In the section Sofia – Septemvri performed works under the part “Telecommunications” – Installed are 16 GSM-R towers in the stations and stops; installed and connected to the GSM-R network are 6 base stations. In the section Septemvri – Plovdiv also are performed works under the part “Telecommunications” – works are done on the installation of pipe network for optic cable and are built the bases for the lights in the section.

Under the part “Signalling“ the delivery for all stations is fulfilled.

The physical progress under Position 4 is 70%.

Expected finishing of all activities under Position 4 is October 2016.

The problems identified under the project “*Modernisation of railway section Septemvri – Plovdiv: part of Trans-European Railway Network*”, are summarised, as follows:

- ✓ Delay in the fulfilment of projects under the contracts for building works, especially Position 2 and Position 1.
- ✓ Delay in the fulfilment of the construction contracts, which results in a delay of the contracts for systems in the section Septemvri – Plovdiv and due to this reason the finishing of the projects is outside the term of eligibility of the expenditures under OPT – October 2016.
- ✓ part of the activities for projects – Construction of four overhead bridges (at Kovachevo village, Tri Voditsi village, Stamboliyski and railway station. Kableshkov) along the reconstructed sections are transferred for implementation to OPTTI.

Project BG161PO004-1.0.01-0009 “Technical Assistance for preparation of project “Modernisation of railway line Sofia - Plovdiv: railway sections Sofia-Elin Pelin and Elin Pelin-Septemvri”

On 30.01.2015 the commercial contracts for preparing DDP and technical projects for railway section Elin Pelin – Ihtiman and for railway section Ihtiman – Septemvri were signed. In the beginning of December 2015 by the expert technical council of NRIC were approved technical projects for the two section.



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Under the contracts for coordination of the preparation of technical projects and the evaluation of the compatibility with the essential requirements for the construction of the projects, the Contracting Authority approved the technical specification for holding tender procedures under PPA with the subject: “Design and construction of modernisation of railway section Sofia – Elin Pelin“, and technical specification for the evaluation of conformity with the requirements for interoperability for the section Sofia – Elin Pelin, respectively, in the beginning of July 2015 and at the end of August 2015. During December 2015 the Contracting Authority approved the prepared application forms for financing under OPTTI 2014-2020 of modernisation of railway sections Elin Pelin – Ihtiman and Ihtiman – Septemvri, the financial plan and analysis costs-benefits, technical specifications for design and construction of the systems for signalling and telecommunication for railway sections etc.

During 2015 were held several court sessions, including these with 5 members courts, as a result on 14.10.2015 all complaints on the Decision of EIA of MEW are rejected and the Decision entered into force.

Due to the cessation of public procurement under OPT for railway section Sofia-Elin Pelin, on 10.11.2015 is announced public procurement with the subject “Modernisation of railway line Sofia-Plovdiv: railway section Sofia-Elin Pelin”. The activities for the project include: preparing of technical/work project and activities on modernisation of the railway section, including the evaluation for interoperability. The financing will be provided under the Mechanism for Connected Europe, sector “Transport”. The end term for submitting offers is 25.02.2016.

The physical progress of the project is 55%.

Expected finishing is during June 2016.

- **Project BG161PO004-1.0.01-0009 “Technical assistance for preparation of project “Modernisation of railway line Sofia-Plovdiv: railway sections Sofia-Elin Pelin and Elin Pelin-Septemvri”**

On 30.01.2015 were signed the commercial contracts for preparing of DDP and technical projects for railway section Elin Pelin – Ihtiman and for railway section Ihtiman – Septemvri. In the beginning of December 2015 the expert technical council of NRIC approved the technical projects for two the section.

Under the contracts for coordination of the preparation of technical projects and the evaluation of compatibility with the essential requirements to the constructions for projects, the Contracting Authority approved technical specification for holding of tender procedures under PPA with the subject: “Design and construction for modernisation of railway section Sofia – Elin Pelin“ and technical specification for the evaluation of compatibility with the requirements for interoperability for the section Sofia – Elin Pelin, respectively, in the beginning of July 2015 and at the end of August 2015. During December 2015, the Contracting Authority approved the prepared application forms for financing under OPTTI 2014-2020, of modernisation of railway sections Elin Pelin – Ihtiman and Ihtiman – Septemvri, the financial plan and the analysis costs-benefits, the technical specifications for design and construction of the systems for signalling and telecommunication for the railway section, etc.

During 2015 were held several court sessions, including with 5-members court, As a result of which on 14.10.2015 all complaints under the Decision for EIA of MEW were rejected and the Decision entered in force.



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Due to the cessation of public procurement under OPT for railway section Sofia-Elin Pelin, on 10.11.2015 was announced public procurement with the subject “Modernisation of railway line Sofia-Plovdiv: railway section Sofia-Elin Pelin”. The activities for the project include: preparing of technical/work project and activities on modernisation of railway in the section, including the evaluation for interoperability. The financing will be provided under the Mechanism for Connected Europe, sector “Transport”. The end term for submitting the offers is 25.02.2016.

The physical progress under the projects is 55%.

Expected finishing is during June 2016.

1.2. Significant problems encountered in the preparation and execution of the projects under the Priority Axis and undertaken measures

The essential problems connected with the realisation of the projects under the priority axis during 2015, were connected mainly with:

- Delay of coordination between the institutions involved in the approval procedures during the preparation and the realisation of the projects financed under OPT.
- Ineffective managing of the construction contracts by NRIC.
- Lack of funds, as well as lack of long-term planning regarding the own financing of NRIC.
- Delay at the holding of archaeological studies.
- Not enough mobilisation of beneficiary regarding the holding of acquisition procedures.
- Delayed and not enough preparation by NRIC of the projects for financing with European funds for the period 2014-2020.

Measures for overcoming problems:

- Intense monitoring: meetings and on-the-spot checks on different levels, including these with the participation of the Head of MA; monitoring of the fulfilment of corrective actions by the beneficiary; preparation of plans for risk management and monitoring of their implementation.
- MA of OPT cooperates with EIB, whose experts render technical assistance regarding risky projects of NRIC.
- Analysis of the possibilities for phasing of the fulfilment of individual projects in two programming periods, which resulted in transfer of activities from the projects “Plovdiv-Burgas“ and “Septemvri-Plovdiv“ for financing from OPTTI.
- To the beneficiary was presented interim loan without interest in the amount of 110 million EUR for finishing the railway projects under OPT.

*

2. Priority Axis II – “Development of Road Infrastructure along the Trans-European and Major National Transport Axes”

2.1 Achievement of targets and analysis of progress

Table 16: Physical progress under the Priority Axis II – “Development of Road Infrastructure along the Trans-European and Major National Transport Axes” by quantifiable indicators as of 31.12 2015

Target values of all indicators do not include the base line values.

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Priority Axis II - Development of Road Infrastructure along the Trans-European and Main National Transport Axes											
Time savings (thousand hours/ year)	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,037	4,263	7,192	7,192
	Target									29 584	
	Baseline	0									
Value for time savings (euro/year)	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	0	23,57 7,110	32,91 6,127	52,38 9,640	52,389 ,640
	Target									216,8 13,13 3	
	Baseline	0									
New roads (km)	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	82	141	175	308	308
	Target									335	
	Baseline	0									

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Reconstructed/rehabilitated first-class roads (km)	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	16	19	19
	Target									21	
	Baseline	0									
Projects under PA 2 (number)	Achievement	0	0	0	1	5	6	9	10	12	12
	Target									9	
	Baseline	0									



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17 grant contracts were signed under the priority axis, worth a total of **BGN 1 771 983 672,97 (EUR 906 000 865,60)** or **105,83%** of the priority axis budget. The eligible expenditures of the contracts concluded under the OPT for execution of the priority axis amount to **BGN 1 728 239 992,12 (EUR 883 635 076,73)**. Grant payments to beneficiaries are in the amount of **BGN 1 429 341 636,64 (EUR 730 810 774,27)** or **85,37%** of the priority axis budget. Expenditures verified under the priority axis at the end of 2015 amount to **BGN 1 355 273 668,19 (EUR 692 940 423,34)** or **80,94%** of the axis budget. Grant contracts were signed for 11 infrastructure projects, including 5 major ones. The EC has approved the AF for all five major projects. The latest project approved by the EC is the one for the Gabrovo Bypass. The approval procedure was closed on 23.09.2015 with EC’s Decision C (2015) 6606.

The projects for “Completion of Trakia Motorway, Lots 2, 3, and 4”, the connection of Hemus Motorway to Sofia Ring Road, as well as Struma Motorway, Maritsa Motorway, Kardzhali-Podkova, the projects “Vratsa Bypass Road – Road I-1 (E79) and “Road I-1 (E79) Montana Bypass Road” from km 102+060 to km 114+512,20“, and “Construction of Kalotina – Sofia Motorway, Lot 1: “Western Arc of Sofia Ring Road”” were completed under the priority axis. As a result, 308 km of new roads were built and 19 km of existing roads were rehabilitated.

Project BG161PO004-2.0.01-0004 “Completion of Trakia Motorway, Lots 2, 3 and 4”

The grant awarded for the project amounts to BGN 503 410 743,96 (EUR 257 389 826,29). The EC approved the AF on 21.12.2010. Project payments, including advance payments, amount to BGN 503 410 743,96 (EUR 257 389 826,29), of which CF – BGN 402 728 595,17 (EUR 205 911 861,03) and national co-financing (NCF) – BGN 100 682 148,79 (EUR 51 477 965,26). Verified expenditure under the project is in the amount of BGN 503 410 743,96 (EUR 257 389 826,29).

Lot 2 “Stara Zagora – Nova Zagora” (31.8 km) and Lot 3 “Nova Zagora – Yambol” (35.7 km) are in operation since 2012.

Under Lot 4 “Yambol – Karnobat” (47.7 km), 100 % of all of the project construction works have been implemented. Section I of 14,800 km in length was commissioned on 02.01.2013 and Section II of 34,280 km in length was commissioned on 15.07.2013.

The project implementation has been completed and the final project report was approved in December 2013. The final payment on the project was approved on 21.03.2015.

Information about a completed major infrastructure project:

Project title: BG161PO004-2.0.01-0004 “Completion of Trakia Motorway, Lots 2, 3 and 4

Date completed: 15.07.2013.

Information about the total amount of investment costs under the project in EUR, according to item H2.2 of Annexes XXI and XXII to Regulation 1828/2006

Total amount of investment costs in EUR - financing sources					For information
Community Assistance	National public contribution	Community Assistance	National public contribution	Community Assistance	EIB/EIF loans
a=b+c+d+e	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
268 161 803,37	205 911 861,04	51 477 965,26	0	10 771 977,07	0



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Core indicators:

New roads (km) – 116.53

New TEN roads (km) – 116.5

Travel time savings (roads) (EUR/year) for 2015 – 11 521 996

Significant problems encountered in implementing the project and measures taken to overcome them – no significant problems were encountered in implementing the project.

Project BG161PO004-2.0.01-0006 “Construction of Maritsa Motorway, Lot 1 and Lot 2”

The grant awarded for the project is in the amount of BGN 390 445 438,63 (EUR 199 631 582,82). The EC approved the AF on 22.02.2012. Project payments, including advance payments, amount to BGN 299 223 134,61 (EUR 152 990 359,39), of which CF – BGN 239 378 507,69 (EUR 122 392 287,51) and NCF – BGN 59 844 626,92 (EUR 30 598 071,88). Verified expenditure under the project is in the amount of BGN 261 726 496,59 (EUR 133 818 632,80).

Lot 1 “Orizovo – Dimitrovgrad”, from km 5+000 to km 36+400 – progress 64,91%

The physical progress is 100%.

Pursuant to the approved technological and construction programme (TCP), construction works were carried out in 15 phases.

As a result of an open procedure, on 30.06.2015 RIA and Patishta Plovdiv AD signed Contract No. ПД-33-6/30.06.2015 for additional construction works on Maritsa Motorway, Lot 1 Orizovo – Dimitrovgrad, from km 5+000 to km 36+400 with three separate sub-lots: Sub-lot I: “Stabilisation of the field basis under the embankments and the layers of Zone B”; Sub-lot II: “Strengthening the slopes of the excavations”; Sub-lot III: “Design and construction of facilities ensuring the passage of a drainage channel crossing the route of Maritsa Motorway at km 26+070”. With the signing of the takeover control report on 08.08.2015, the construction works are considered to be completed.

Act Form 15 (establishing the suitability of a construction project to be accepted) was issued for Lot 1 on 16.10.2015. A state acceptance commission was appointed with Order No. ПД -19-1984/21.10.2015 to establish the use worthiness of the site. Protocol Form 16 (on establishing the exploitation serviceability of the construction project or part thereof) was signed on 29.10.2015 and Authorisation for Use No. CT-05-1910/29.10.2015 was issued.

Lot 2 “Dimitrovgrad-Harmanli”, from km 36+400 to km 70+620

The physical progress is 100%.

Pursuant to the approved technological and construction programme, construction works were carried out in 21 phases plus 1 publicity measures phase (I to IX, IXA, X to XXI).

A commission was set up with Order No. ПД-11-538 / 20.05.2015 of the Head of the Management Board of RIA to establish the acceptance worthiness of the site and Ascertainment Act Form 15 was signed on 21.05.2015. A state acceptance commission was set up with Order No. ПД -19-837/25.05.2015 of the deputy-head of NCSD. Protocol Form 16 was signed on 27.05.2015 and Authorisation for Use No. CT-05-715/28.05.2015 was issued whereby the site, from km 37+725 to km 70+620, was commissioned. Ascertainment Act Form 15 was executed and signed on 15.06.2015 for Sub-lot I: Reconstruction of Power Line – 20 KV, Rogozinovo Terminal with a transformer station at Topolovgrad Road Junction, at km 69+947. A state acceptance commission was appointed

³This is an output indicator



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with Order No. ПД-19-1203/21.01.2015. Protocol Form 16 was signed on 27.07.2015 and Authorisation for Use No. CT-05-1198/04.08.2015 was issued, whereby the remaining part of the project, from km 36+400 to km 37+725, was commissioned.

Information about a completed major infrastructure project:

Project title: BG161PO004-2.0.01-0006 “Construction of Maritsa Motorway, Lot 1 and Lot 2”

Date finished: 29.10.2015.

Information about the total amount of investment costs under the project in EUR, according to item H2.2 of Annexes XXI and XXII to Regulation 1828/2006

Total amount of investment costs in EUR - financing sources					For information
National public contribution	Community Assistance	National public contribution	Community Assistance	Other sources	EIB/EIF loans
a=b+c+d+e	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
200 267 950,22	159 705 266,26	39 926 316,57	0	636 367,39	0

Core indicators:

New roads (km) – 65,604

New TEN roads (km) – 65,60

Travel time savings (roads) (EUR/year) for 2015 – 10 049 144

Project BG161PO004-2.0.01-0007 “Hemus Motorway, section SRR – Yana Road Junction” – progress 99,66%

The grant awarded for the project is BGN 44 244 408,06 (EUR 22 621 806,63). Project payments, including advance payments, amount to BGN 39 819 967,25 (EUR 20 359 625,96), of which CF – BGN 31 855 973,80 (EUR 16 287 700,77) and NCF – BGN 7 963 993,45 (EUR 4 071 925,19). Verified expenditure under the project is in the amount of BGN 39 811 634,19 (EUR 20 355 365,34).

Ascertainment Act Form 15 establishing the suitability of the construction project to be accepted, was signed for the direct route part of the project on 19.08.2013 in accordance with Ordinance No. 3 / 31.07.2003. The remaining works amount to 0,34% of the construction and installation works and include construction of some sub-sites outside the direct route which cannot be completed because they fall outside the area alienated for the needs of the infrastructure project. Therefore, no Protocol Form 16 has been issued for the site. In connection with the Resolution of the Council of Ministers for alienation of parts of private property for state needs until the whole project is completed, issued in December 2013, affected owners brought actions in 2015 and the proceedings are scheduled for the period between March 2015 and June 2015.

Project BG161PO004-2.0.01-0008 “Road E-85 (I-5) Kardzhali-Podkova”

4 This is an output indicator



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The grant awarded for the project is BGN 54 107 918 (EUR 27 664 939). Project payments, including advance payments, amount to BGN 48 686 911,33 (EUR 24 893 222,48), of which CF – BGN 38 949 529,06 (EUR 19 914 577,99) and NCF – BGN 9 737 382,27 (EUR 4 071 925,19). Verified expenditure under the project is in the amount of BGN 46 101 573,32 (EUR 23 571 360,15).

The lot is divided into two sections:

Section 1 “Kardzhali – Djebel Junction”- rehabilitation and reconstruction, 8,2 km in length. The section was completed and commissioned ahead of schedule. Authorisation for Use No. SP-05-1684/16.11.2012 was issued.

Section 2 “Djebel Junction – Podkova” – new construction of 24,2 km and road connection to the village of Fotinovo of 2,4 km.

All alienation procedures under the additional contract were finalised in August 2015; Addendum to the Building Permit (BP) was issued on 14.08.2015 for the remaining types of construction works under the additional order and was promulgated in the State Gazette (SG) on 21.08.2015;

On 31.08.2015, the representatives of the Contracting Authority, the Contractor and the Consultant signed a control report for the actual completion of Phase V (the final phase) of the TCP approved for the additional contract;

Act Form 15 was signed on 17.09.2015 for the remaining construction works under the additional contract;

On 28.09.2015, the contractor of the construction works under the additional contract submitted a Certificate of Practical Completion of the construction works of the lot for approval;

On 08.10.2015, the Contracting Authority approved the Certificate of Practical Completion of the lot;

Annex No. 3 to the Grant Contract was signed on 30.10.2015, whereby the validity of the contract was extended till 31.01.2016;

A state acceptance commission is to be set up in March 2016 for the signature of Protocol Form 16 for all sections of the project.

Project BG161PO004-2.0.01-0009 “Struma Motorway, Lots 1, 2 and 4

The grant awarded for the project is BGN 538 031 140,30 (EUR 275 090 953,87). The application form was approved by the EC on 27.02.2013. Project payments, including advance payments, are in the amount of BGN 413 934 667,96 (EUR 211 641 435,07), of which CF – BGN 331 147 734,37 (EUR 169 313 148,06) and NCF – BGN 82 786 933,59 (EUR 42 328 287,01). Verified expenditure under the project amounts to BGN 406 461 053,06 (EUR 207 820 236,45).

Lot 1 “Dolna Dikania – Dupnitsa”

The physical progress on Lot 1 is 100%.

The section up to Dupnitsa North Road Junction was opened and commissioned for temporary operation on 23 July 2013. Act Form 15 was signed for the remaining 3 km on 30 August 2013.

On 08.07.15, the District Governors of Pernik and of Kyustendil were informed that the amounts for compensations for the affected owners pursuant to Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 817/21.12.2013 were transferred to the bank accounts of the district administrations, whereby the additional alienations were considered to be completed.



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On 03.09.2015, the Road Infrastructure Agency filed an application to NCSD for appointment of a state acceptance commission and for an authorisation for use of the construction site.

Lot 2 “Dupnitsa – Blagoevgrad”

On 22.10.2015, NCSD issued Authorisation for Use No. CT-05-1828/22.10.2015 to the project “Struma Motorway, Lot 2, Dupnitsa – Blagoevgrad Section, for direct route from km 322+000 to km 359+000“, without road junctions and connections.

Ascertainment Act Form 15 was signed on 29.10.2015 for 1,5 km of direct route, road junctions and connections of the site “Struma Motorway, Lot 2, Dupnitsa – Blagoevgrad Section”, a request for appointment of a state acceptance commission was filed to NCSD on 30.10.2015 and an authorisation for use was issued.

Lot 4 “Sandanski – Kulata”

The physical progress on Lot 4 is 100%.

On 10.09.2015 NCSD issued Authorisation for Use No. CT-05-1488/10.09.2015 to the project Lot 4 “Sandanski – Kulata” from km 423+800 до км 438+500“ for I and II stage - the main track and moving elements of the technical infrastructure. On 11.09.2015 was signed an act Form 15 for moving the track of Sofia-Kulata railway from km 198+042 to km 202+800.

Information about a completed major infrastructure project:

Project title: BG161PO004-2.0.01-0009 “Struma Motorway, Lots 1, 2 and 4

Date completed: 30.10.2015

Information about the total amount of investment costs under the project in EUR, according to item H2.2 of Annexes XXI and XXII to Regulation 1828/2006

Total amount of investment costs in EUR - financing sources					For information
National public contribution	Community Assistance	National public contribution	Community Assistance	National public contribution	EIB/EIF loans
a=b+c+d+e	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
277 733 624,15	220 072 763,09	55 018 190,77	0	2 642 670,28	0

Core indicators:

New roads (km) – 68,98

New TEN roads – 68,98

Travel time savings (roads) (EUR/year) for 2015 – 18 691 199

Project BG161PO004-2.0.01-0010 “Preparation of project (E-79) Vidin – Montana”

Physical progress

The project involves modernization of the existing Road I-1 by building a road with gauge G28 and crossings at two or more levels and redirection of the traffic outside the settlements.



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The following sections are subject to design:

Section I: Vidin – Dimovo, from km 3+757 to km 39+480;

Section II: Dimovo – Bela – Ruzhintsi, from km 39+480 to km 61+750;

Section III: Ruzhintsi – Montana, from km 61+750 to km 102+060;

Section IV: Montana – Vratsa, from km 111+305 to km 140+008.

Design - Physical progress about 40%. Continuing the implementation of the design contracts is subject to obtaining an effective EIA Decision which as of 31.12.2015 had not entered into force yet.

Road safety audit - Physical progress about 50 %.

EIA Report and Impact Assessment (ILA) Report – Physical progress about 70%. At the end of June, MEW issued a negative assessment regarding the quality of the EIA Report and a negative assessment for the attached impact level assessment report. The main reason for the negative assessments is the existence of an explosives warehouse (Livadksi Dol Explosives Warehouse) close to the designed variant solutions for the route of the road, in the section from km 111+305,50 to km 140+008, which is a factor for accidents. In that light a revised EIA report with attached assessment of compatibility for three sections was submitted and received a positive assessment. Section 4, Montana – Vratsa, was excluded from the scope of the deliverables because of the outstanding issue with the eligibility of the investment proposal in proximity to Livadski Dol Warehouse operated by Videx AD.

Archaeological studies - 3 (three) archaeological sites jeopardized by the construction of the Vidin – Vratsa speedway have been identified.

Comprehensive conformity assessment reports – the preparation to hold tender procedures for the selection of contractors to prepare comprehensive reports for conformity assessment and technical control of the Construction Part of the individual sections has been launched.

The total physical progress on the project as of 31.12.2015 is 38,60%.

Expected project completion date:

The project cannot be completed in full within the validity of the grant contract which is 31.12.2015, owing to problems arising in the course of the design exercise. The project is expected to be completed in July 2017.

Project BG161PO004-2.0.01-0011 “Bypass route for the town of Vratsa – Road I-1 (E79)”

The grant awarded for the project amounts to BGN 16 358 704,29 (EUR 8 364 072,69). Project payments, including advance payments, are in the amount of BGN 14 412 600,17 (EUR 7 369 045,45), of which CF – BGN 11 530 080,14 (EUR 5 895 236,36) and NCF – BGN 2 882 520,03 (EUR 1 473 809,09). Verified expenditure under the project is in the amount of BGN 12 703 776,35 (EUR 6 495 337,71).

After Authorisation for Use No. CT-05-1034/03.07.2014 was issued, the project was commissioned on 03.07.2014. The final project report was approved by the MA and the final on-the-spot check was carried out. The Beneficiary has submitted an application for final payment which is in processing as of 31.12.2015.

Physical progress – 100%

Project BG161PO004-2.0.01-0012 “Bypass route for the town of Montana – Road I-1 (E79)”



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The grant awarded for the project is in the amount of BGN 54 264 618,11 (EUR 27 745 058,68). Project payments, including advance payments, amount to BGN 22 235 170,46 (EUR 11 368 662,13), of which CF – BGN 17 788 136,37 (EUR 9 094 929,71) and NCF – BGN 4 447 034,09 (EUR 2 273 732,43). Verified expenditure under the project is in the amount of BGN 16 439 519,09 (EUR 8 405 392,64).

The project was completed at the end of December 2015. The total length of the completed section is 12,45 km. Four road junctions, 7 subways, 2 overpasses, a bridge over the Ogosta River, a railway overpass and 24 small facilities were constructed. Ascertainment Act Form 15 establishing the suitability of the construction project to be accepted was drawn up on 17.12.2015 in accordance with Ordinance No. 3 / 31.07.2013 on Producing Acts and Protocols in the Construction Process. Protocol Form 16 was signed on 29.12.2015 and Authorisation for Use No. CT-05-2586/29.12.2015 was issued for the site.

Physical progress – 100%

Project BG161PO004-2.0.01-0015 “Construction of Kalotina – Sofia Motorway, Lot 1: West Arc of Sofia Ring Road”

The grant awarded for the project is in the amount of BGN 68 385 402,46 (EUR 34 964 901,07). Project payments, including advance payments, amount to BGN 46 821 644,39 (EUR 23 939 526,64), of which CF – BGN 37 457 315,51 (EUR 19 151 621,31) and NCF – BGN 9 364 328,88 (EUR 4 787 905,33). Verified expenditure under the project is in the amount of BGN 39 118 876,02 (EUR 20 001 163,71).

The project comprises two sections with a total length of 8.5 km. The motorway section is 3 km long. Two road junctions with 2 trestles and 2 bridges over the Kakach River are under construction. Project implementation is divided into 6 construction phases.

Lot 1, Section 1 – from km 59+400 to km 61+629.18 and from km 0+000 to km 0+780 (from Lyulin Motorway to Kakach River), 3.01 km in length.

Section 1 was completed at the end of December 2015. Ascertainment Act Form 15 was issued on 30.10.2015. Ascertainment Protocol Form 16 was signed on 29.12.2015 and Authorisation for Use No. CT-05-2614/29.12.2015 was issued.

Road overpass at Filipovsko Shosse St.:

Contract No. ПД-33-26/27.11.2015 was signed with Trace Group Hold PLC which on 12.10.2015 was appointed contractor for the construction of “Road overpass at Filipovsko Shosse St. over Sofia Ring Road at km 59+500, in the section from Dobrinova Skala Blvd. to Treti Mart St.” The period for completion of the construction works is 4 months, starting to count from 10.12.2015 – the date on which Protocol form 2a, section I, for launching the construction site was drawn up.

Contract No. ПД-36-28/30.11.2015 was signed with Patconsult 2000 EOOD for construction supervision.

As regards the alienations carried out by Stolichna Municipality (Sofia City Municipality) in connection with the road overpass, Building Permit No. Б-107/18.12.2015 was obtained for the section from km 0+000,00 to km 0+496,50, inclusive of road connections for inflow and outflow to and from SRR on the side of Filipovtsi Quarter. Building permit for the section from km 0+496,50 to km 0+680,18 is pending.

The physical progress on the overpass as of 31.12.2015 is 68,5%.



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Lot 1, Section 2 from km 0+780 to km 6+309 (from the Kakach River to the Northern Speed Tangent), of 5.5 km in length.

The implementation of Section 2 was started in October 2015 with funding from OPT for Project BG161PO004-2.0.01-00015 “Construction of Kalotina – Sofia Motorway, Lot 1: Western Arc of Sofia Ring Road” and will be completed with funding from OPTTI.

The building and supervision contracts were signed on 21.10.2015. The construction works of the project are worth BGN 101 999 866,66, inclusive of VAT, and are implemented by Evropeiski Patishta (European Roads) – a Company Incorporated under the Obligations and Contracts Act (CIOCA). Construction supervision is provided by Consortium Sofia West 2013. The project implementation period is 10 months.

Building permit PC-97/16.10.2015 was issued in October 2015 for those sections of the project for which the alienation procedures were completed.

The ground-breaking ceremony turning the first sod was held on 22.10.2012.

Protocol Form 2a was signed on 04.11.2015 whereupon the implementation period of the construction works started to count. The sections of the right direct route from km 4+437 to km 5+000 and from km 6+103,72 to km 6+300 were implemented by 31.12.2015. The road is covered with binder. The road slab of the left section of the trestle at Stephenson Blvd. falling within the section from km 1+290 to km 1+635 has been completed.

The physical progress on Section 2 as of 31.12.15 is 9%.

Project BG161PO004-2.0.01-0017 “Bypass route for Gabrovo”

The grant awarded for the project is in the amount of BGN 40 294 596,08 (EUR 20 602 299,83). Project payments, including advance payments, amount to BGN 31 154 353,08 (EUR 15 928 967,79), of which CF – BGN 24 923 482,46 (EUR 12 743 174,23) and NCF – BGN 6 230 870,62 (EUR 3 185 793,56). Verified expenditure under the project is in the amount of BGN 21 079 519,44 (EUR 10 777 787,15).

A contract for construction and additional design was signed and launched on 26.06.2013. The project was not completed within the period of eligibility of expenditure under OPT, i.e. by 31.12.2015. Implementation continues in 2016 with funds from the national budget provided by the beneficiary. Expected project completion – end of 2016.

The site is divided into 4 sections and a phase connection. First section – from km 0+000 to km 7+670 – is fully rehabilitated and Protocol Form 16 was signed on 20.10.15. Second section – from km 7+760 to km 10+940.74 (with a total length of 3.27 km) is intended both for rehabilitation and for new construction – the construction works are substantially completed. For sections 3 and 4, which are intended entirely for new construction, namely: construction of 12.3 km of new road, two road junctions, four bridges/viaducts and one tunnel of 540 m in length, a building permit has been issued for the construction of a total of 10,175 km which include the phase connection and sections from phases 3 and 4 for which the alienation process has been completed. Construction works are going on the bridge facilities at km14+660 and km 15+450, on clearing up the area and on the culverts at km 14+871,51 and km 15+176.

As regards the alienation process, all legal cases are completed as of 31.12.2015. The Detailed Site Development Plan – Zoning Plan (DSDP-ZP) for Borovo-Velchevtsi has been approved, valuations of the properties are in preparation.

The contract for elaboration of an extended preliminary design for the site “Bypass road of Gabrovo” from km 0+000 до км 31+000 – a tunnel under Shipka Summit with a length of 3220 m, from km 24+400 to km 27+620” is in progress. The contractor has prepared and submitted a preliminary



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design for a tunnel under Shipka Summit – 1st phase of design. The Contractor's deliverable has been approved by the Expert Technical and Economic Council of RIA.

The physical progress on the project is 21,3%.

Expected completion – end of 2016.

Project BG161PO004-2.0.01-0018 “Preparation for completion of Hemus Motorway”

Activity 1 – preparation of feasibility studies - the physical progress on the activity is 100%.

Activity 2 – preparation of a preliminary design – is divided into three phases:

Pursuant to their obligations under the contract, the Contractors have to deliver the following reports and documents: an inception report, a preliminary design report, a draft report on the preliminary design, a report on the reference design and a final report.

Phase 1, Hemus Motorway – Yablanitsa up to road II-35 (Pleven-Lovech)

A contract was signed on 16.04.2014 with the contractor Hemus 2020 CIOCA. The implementation deadline of the contract is 13.05.2015. The Contracting Authority has approved the conceptual design presented by the Contractor, which is a final optimized variant of a route for the first 60 km of Hemus Motorway. In the course of development of the preliminary design for section 1 and section 2 a need to construct 3 tunnels (1 tunnel in section 1 and 2 tunnels in section 2), each longer than 500 m, has been identified. As a result of this change in the initial scope, the deadline for delivery and approval of the reports under the contract was extended to 31.08.2015 and an agreement to the contract was signed. The activities under the contract are completed.

Phase 2, Hemus Motorway – from road II-35 to road E-85 (Ruse – Kardzhali)

A contract was signed on 22.07.2014 with the contractor EGIS – IKP CIOCA. The implementation deadline of the contract is 15.09.2015. All contract activities are completed.

Phase 3, Hemus Motorway – from road E-85 to Belokopitovo

As regards Phase III, contracts have been signed for lots I, II (on 05.11.2014) and III (11.11.2014), respectively with Patproekt EOOD, Dopravoproekt-Mist CIOCA and AM Hemus Etap III – 2020 CIOCA.

According to the agreement to the contract signed with the contractor of Lot 1, the deadline for completion of the contract activities is 30.09.2015. All contract activities are completed.

On 30.07.2015, NCSIP and the contractor of Lot 2, Dopravoproekt – Mist CIOCA, signed agreement No. 77 – 1, setting the deadline for implementation and approval of the contract activities at 23.09.2015. As a result of the heavy rainfalls in 2014 and the snowfalls in March 2015, the contractor presented a Force Majeure Certificate from the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry for 45 days of delay. All contract activities are implemented.

The deadline for Lot 3 according to the contract is 01.09.2015. The complete preliminary design report, reference report and the final report on the contract were approved on 21.10.2015. All contract activities are implemented.

Activity 3 – preparing an EIA Report

A contract for preparing an EIA Report and an ILA Report for the completion of Hemus Motorway (Yablanitsa – Belokopitovo) was signed with Dango Proekt Konsult Ltd. on 08.04.2014. The contract activities are completed and implemented.

Activity 4 “Preliminary archaeological studies for the completion of Hemus Motorway”

On 23.09.2015, the National Archaeological Institute and Museum at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and NCSIP entered into Framework Agreement No. 136. The scope of the agreement covers the contract for preliminary archaeological studies – search for archaeological sites along the route for completion of Hemus Motorway (phase 2 and phase 3). Contract No. 141 was signed with NAIM-



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BAS on 30.09.2015 with implementation period of 36 days. В изпълнение на задълженията си по сключения договор за Етап 2 и 3. Възложените дейности са изпълнени.

The physical progress on the project is 100%.

Project BG161PO004-2.0.01-0019 “Struma Motorway, Lot 1, Lot 2 and Lot 4” (Preparation of Lot 3)

The physical progress on the project is 100%.

All activities and sub-activities envisaged for the project are implemented. The Contracting Authority has approved the documents presented. All payments on the concluded contracts have been effected.

2.2 Significant problems encountered in preparing and implementing projects under the priority axis and measures taken to overcome them

The significant problems encountered in implementing the projects under the priority axis in 2015 resulted primarily from:

- Slow coordination between the institutions involved in the approval obtaining procedures during the preparation and implementation of projects under OPT.
- Underefficient management of construction contracts by RIA.
- Delays in carrying out archaeological studies.
- Insufficient mobilisation of the beneficiary with regard to the alienation procedures.
- Delayed and inadequate preparation by RIA of projects with European funding for the 2014-2020 period

Measures to overcome the problems:

- On-site meetings and inspections at different levels, including with the participation of the Head of MA.
- Follow-up on the corrective actions undertaken by the beneficiary.
- Preparing risk management plans and follow-up on their implementation.



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3. Priority Axis III – “Improvement of intermodality for passengers and freight”

3.1 Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress

Table 17: Physical progress on Priority Axis III – “Improvement of intermodality for passengers and freight” on quantifiable indicators as of 31.12.2015

The target values of all indicators do not include baseline values

The target values of the indicators “Time savings for travel by Metro lines in thousands of hours per year”, “Time savings for travel by Metro lines in euros per year” and “Number of trips by metro lines” account the overall result of the project for the m*etro extension implemented under Priority Axes 1 and 3.

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Priority Axis III – Improvement of intermodality for passengers and freight											
Time savings (metro under PA1 and PA3) (thousand hours/year)	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	2 169	7 618	7 424	7 734	7 734
	Target									13 678	
	Baseline	0									
Value for time savings (metro under PA 1 and PA3) (euro/year)	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	10 512 962	37 101 631	36 278 188	38 504 892	38 504 892
	Target									65 375 947	
	Baseline	0									



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Number of trips (metro under PA 1 and PA3) (thousands/year)	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	9 916	31 798	34 939	38 269	38 269
	Target									69 100	
	Baseline	25 550									
Freight units processed in intermodal terminals (number of TEU / year)	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Target									4 000	
	Baseline	5 200									
Capacity of intermodal terminals (number of TEU / year)	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Target									57 600	
	Baseline	26 000									
Length of metro lines (km)	Achievement	0	0	0	0	5.39	6.5	6.5	6.5	14	14
	Target									14.1	
	Baseline	9.9									
Metro stations (number)	Achievement	0	0	0	0	4	7	7	7	14	14
	Target									14	
	Baseline	8									
Built intermodal terminals (number)	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Target									1	
	Baseline	0									
Projects of PA 3 (number)	Achievement	0	0	1	1	2	3	3	4	5	5
	Target									3	
	Baseline	0									



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7 grant contracts were signed by 31.12.2015 under this priority axis of OPT, worth a total of **BGN 654 121 303,98 (EUR 334 446 912,04)**, or **97,45%** of the priority axis budget. The eligible costs of the contracts under the priority axis of OPT are **BGN 644 333 577,97 (EUR 329 442 527,20)**. Grant payments to beneficiaries are in the amount **BGN 585 294 845,95 (EUR 299 256 502,84)** or **87,20%** of the axis budget. Total verified expenditure under the priority axis at the end of 2015 is **BGN 711 286 686,10 (EUR 363 675 107,81)**, of which **BGN 568 582 916,08 (EUR 290 711 828,78)** in grant – **84,71%** of the axis budget and **BGN 142 703 770,02 (EUR 72 963 279,03)** in own contribution.

The implementation of: “Sofia Metro Extension Project: Phase I – Nadezhda Junction – Central Railway Station – Sv. Nedelia Sq. – Cherni Vrah Blvd.;

“Sofia Metro Extension Project: Phase III, Lot 1 “Tsarigradsko Shosse – Sofia Airport” and Lot 2 “j.k. Mladost 1 – Business Park in Mladost 4”;

Modernization of the railway station in Pazardzhik, was completed under the priority axis.

Project BG161PO004-3.0.01-0001 “Sofia Metro Extension Project: Phase I – metro diameter II: section Nadezhda Junction (MS 5-II) – Cherni Vrah Blvd., (MS 11-II)”

The grant awarded amounts to BGN 362 207 591.81 (EUR 185 193 801,00). The project was approved by the EC on 22.09.2009.

The beneficiary Metropoliten PLC was paid EUR 185 193 384.63 in grant. Verified expenditure under the project amounts to EUR 247 145 295.97, including ERDF in the amount of EUR 157 414 376.94, national co-financing in the amount of EUR 27 779 007.69 and beneficiary co-financing in the amount of EUR 61 951 911.34. Certified expenditure under the project amount to EUR 247 149 086,93, including European co-financing at EUR 157 416 791,50.

Both sections of the project were commissioned on 31.08.2012. The project was completed with the final payment to the contractors. 6.5 km of metro lines and 7 metro stations were constructed as a result of the project implementation.

Information about a completed major infrastructure project:

Project title: BG161PO004-3.0.01-0001 “Sofia Metro Extension Project: Phase I – metro diameter II: section Nadezhda Junction (MS 5-II) – Cherni Vrah Blvd. (MS 11-II)”

Completion date: 31.08.2012.

Information about the total amount of investment costs under the project in EUR, according to item H2.2 of Annexes XXI and XXII to Regulation 1828/2006

Total amount of investment costs in EUR - financing sources					For information
National public contribution	Community Assistance	National public contribution	Community Assistance	National public contribution	EIB/EIF loans
a=b+c+d+e	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
197 526 460,62	86 763 914,545	15 311 279,04	0	95 451 267,04	0

5 The difference between the project budget (EU share) and the certified expenditure in euro (EU share) is due to difference between the fixed rate of BNB which is 1.95583 BGN / euro and the exchange rate of ECB which is 1.9558 lev / euro.



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Output indicators – built 6.5 km of metro lines; built 7 metro stations;
Result indicators – number of trips made by metro lines 16,8 million for 2015
Core indicators: additional population served by improved urban transport (number) – 207 585
Significant problems encountered in implementing the projects and measures taken to overcome them – no significant problems were encountered in implementing the project.

Project BG161PO004-3.0.01-0004 “Technical assistance for the construction of an intermodal terminal in the North Central Planning Region of Bulgaria – Ruse”

The physical progress on the project is 100%.

Submission of a final report and of an application for payment of the final balance is pending (by 31.01.2016)

The main project activities are divided into 6 phases:

Phase 1 – Preparation of feasibility studies, preliminary design, detailed plan and land acquisition (alienation) procedures;

Phase 2 – Preparation of an EIA Report (if necessary);

Phase 3 – Archaeological studies;

Phase 4 – Preparation of an Application Form for building IMT Ruse;

Phase 5 – Information and publicity activities;

Phase 6 – Obtaining approval documentation for the project preparation activities.

The contract with the contractors selected to implement the activities under Phase 1 was signed on 07.01.2015. The deliverables of Phase 1 “Preparation of feasibility studies” and Phase 2 “Preparation of a financial and economic analysis of alternatives” have been prepared, including the necessary documents and inquiry to the competent body for the applicable EIA procedure. RIE – Ruse has issued Decision No. PY-63-PIP/2015 as a result of which it is no longer necessary to conduct an EIA (i.e. the implementation of Phase 2 of the project is no longer necessary).

Phase 3 “Elaboration of preliminary design variants for IMT Ruse. Assessment of the different variants and identifying the most economically efficient one.” The National Railroad Infrastructure Company (NRIC) approved the location of the site of IMT Ruse on the terrain of the former Ruse – East Railway Yard, proposed by the Consultant as the most appropriate variant. Three preliminary design variants were elaborated and discussed by the expert technical council at NRIC SE and variant C-1 was approved. A publicity event to present the preliminary design of the terminal was held on 10.11.2015 in Ruse.

The activities of Phase 4 “Preparation of an opportunity analysis and a Strategy for the financing, construction and operation of IMT – Ruse” have been implemented. Draft Detailed Site Development Plan for the terrains affected by the construction of IMT – Ruse was filed in Ruse Municipality for discussion and letters with the draft DSDP were sent to the interested institutions and operating companies for opinion and approval. The Ruse Regional Museum of History issued an opinion that currently no preliminary archaeological studies are needed but the obligation under the Cultural Heritage Act (CHA) for archaeological monitoring during the construction of the terminal remained valid. Thus the activities under Phase 3 are no longer included in the project scope.

A contract was signed on 31.07.2015 and activities under Phase 1 for studying the state aid arrangements for financing the construction of IMT Ruse were carried out.

The contract for “Preparation of a funding form for the construction of an intermodal terminal in the North Central Planning Region of Bulgaria – Ruse under Operational Programme “Transport and Transport Infrastructure” 2014-2020” is under implementation.



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Project BG161PO004-3.0.01-0005 “Sofia Metro Extension Project: Phase III, Lot 1 “Tsarigradsko Shosse – Sofia Airport” and Lot 2 “j.k. Mladost 1 – Business Park in Mladost 4”

The grant awarded for the project is in the amount of BGN 199 641 725,86 (EUR 102 075 193,58). The EC approved the AF on 14.12.2012.

Project payments, including advance payments, amount to BGN 185 850 352,70 (EUR 95 023 776,45), of which ERDF – BGN 157 972 799,80 (EUR 80 770 209,99) and NCF – BGN 27 877 552,91 (EUR 14 253 566,47). Verified expenditure under the project is in the amount of BGN 176 515 093,26 (EUR 90 250 734,09).

Lot 1, section Tsarigradsko Shosse Blvd. – j.k. Druzhba – Sofia Airport

The section is 4,95 km long. It includes construction of 4 metro stations – two underground and 2 open and is divided into three lots. The construction and installation works have been completed – the tunnel sections and the metro stations are implemented, the railway and all systems required for the operation of the metro are installed, the vertical planning and reconstruction of the street network are implemented. Railway stop “Druzhba” is completed – including the reconstruction of the railway and the contact network, the road connection over the metro route and Metro Station 20 in j.k. Druzhba, from the intersection of Krastyo Pastuhov St. and Captain Dimitar Spisarevski St. to Obikolna St., and the adjacent pedestrian underpasses are built.

The section is in operation since 02.04.2015.

The physical progress on Lot 1 is 100%.

Lot 2, Section “j.k. Mladost I – Business Park in j.k. Mladost IV”

The physical progress on Lot 2 is 76,17%.

The section is 2,6 km long, with 3 metro stations. It is divided into two lots. Construction and installation works have been completed on both lots – the tunnel sections and the metro stations are implemented, the railway and all systems necessary for the operation of the metro are installed. The finishing works on the vertical planning and reconstruction of roads and sidewalks have been performed.

The section is in operation since 08.05.2015.

The physical progress on Lot 2 is 100%.

Information about a completed major infrastructure project:

Project title: BG161PO004-3.0.01-0005 “Sofia Metro Extension Project: Phase III, Lot 1, Tsarigradsko Shosse – Sofia Airport, and Lot 2, j.k. Mladost 1 – Business Park in Mladost 4”

Completion date: 08.05.2015.

Information about the total amount of investment costs under the project in EUR, according to item H2.2 of Annexes XXI and XXII to Regulation 1828/2006

Total amount of investment costs in EUR - financing sources					For information
National public contribution	Community Assistance	National public contribution	Community Assistance	National public contribution	Community Assistance
a=b+c+d+e	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
360 896 887	186 609 191	46 652 298	0	127 635 399	105 000 000

Output indicators – built 6,7 km of metro lines; built 6 metro stations.



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Result indicators – number of trips made by metro lines 5 000 087,0 mln in 2015.

Core indicators: additional population served by improved urban transport (number) – 171 905.

Significant problems encountered in implementing the project and measures taken to overcome them – no significant problems were encountered in implementing the project.

Project BG161PO004-3.0.01-0007 “Construction of intermodal terminal in South Central Planning Region in Bulgaria – Plovdiv”

The grant awarded for the project is in the amount of BGN 4 195 300 (EUR 2 145 022,83). The EC approved the AF on 14.12.2012.

Project payments, including advance payments, amount to BGN 1 603 386,47 (EUR 819 798,48), of which ERDF – BGN 1 282 709,18 (EUR 655 838,79) and NCF – BGN 320 677,29 (EUR 163 959,70). Verified expenditure under the project is in the amount of BGN 547 578,24 (EUR 279 972,31).

The physical progress on the project is 46%

A contract for the construction of an intermodal terminal in South Central Planning Region of Bulgaria – Plovdiv and a contract for evaluation of the investment project’s conformity to the essential works requirements and for construction supervision of the site were signed on 23.05.2014. The construction activities for the IMT are divided into four phases, as follows:

Phase I – entry section of the terminal (new road connection in the road branch to the IMT and a parking lot), a checkpoint, an administrative building and sheds for a customs office, a petrol station and a car wash; Phase II – railroad infrastructure – construction of seventh receiving-and-departure track and a lead track and of the catenary of 5th, 6th and 7th receiving-and-departure and lead tracks; Phase III – terminal ground; Phase IV – reconstruction of road PDV 1251. The construction phase of setting up IMT – Plovdiv is in progress since 04.06.2015.

As of 31.12.2015, completed at 100% are: the railroad earth works and draining installations; the earth moving and external installation works for correction of the route of the main communication links; supply of cables for correction of the main communication links, clearing up works, excavation works, embankment works, humus laying and filling of rock materials in the area of the road connection, the parking lot and the loading and unloading ground; supply of materials within the range of the road connection; the main layers of granular materials not treated with binders within the range of the road connection, the parking lot and the loading and unloading ground; building water supply and sewage installations in the area of the parking lot and of the loading and unloading ground; supply and installation works carried out for external electricity supply, medium voltage 20kV; supply and installation works carried out for Complete Transformer Substation (CTS) 20/0.4 kV/400 kVA.

The ownership of all 38 properties has been acquired and title deeds have been issued. Acquisition of the ownership of two municipal properties in the village of Kadievo is pending. After the completion of the site, a concession is planned to be granted for the operation and management of the services. To date, the concession analysis has been developed and a procedure for the selection of an Operator/Concessionaire is pending announcement in the coming months.

Expected completion – in June 2016.

Project BG161PO004-3.0.01-0008 “Rehabilitation of interlocking complex of TEN-T network – Rehabilitation of the station complex in Sofia Central Station”, “Rehabilitation of station



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complex, Burgas Railway Station, passenger”, “Reconstruction and renovation of the main building of Pazardzhik Station – IIInd phase”

The grant awarded for the project is in the amount of BGN 62 260 198,45 (EUR 31 833 133,99). Project payments, including advance payments, amount to BGN 33 072 276,00 (EUR 16 909 586,21), of which ERDF – BGN 28 111 434,60 (EUR 14 373 148,28) and NCF – BGN 4 960 841,40 (EUR 2 536 437,93). Verified expenditure under the project is in the amount of BGN 28 209 006,52 (EUR 14 423 036,01).

Physical progress:

Central Railway Station Sofia – Two contracts were signed on 22.08.2013 as a result of open procedures under PPA – for design and construction and for construction supervision. Building permits and Protocol Form 2 of 16.04.2014 for launching the construction site were issued. The construction and installation works planned for the site are in full swing. The activities are technologically divided into two phases so that the operation of the station is not stopped. The following have been implemented: dismantling operations, rehabilitation of part of the platforms and the pedestrian underpass, damp-proofing operations, reinforcement of structural elements, architectural and finishing works at all levels, electric installations, the elevators have been mounted; works on the railway, catenary, telecommunication systems; works on the façade and the vertical planning. Construction and installation works are expected to be completed and the site to be commissioned in early 2016.

The physical progress as of 31.12.2015 is 88%.

Burgas Railway Station – Following tender procedures, two contracts were signed on 15.07.2014 – for design and construction and for construction supervision. The design period is set at 4 months and the construction period – at 16 months. Buildings permits were issued in November and December 2014 and Protocol Form 2 for launching the construction site and defining the building line was signed on 05.01.2015. The contractor has prepared detailed designs for different parts. Works have been carried out on: the structural design, roofing works, water supply and sewerage, heating, ventilation and air conditioning, electric installations and systems, internal architectural works and restoration of architectural details, replacement of joinery, platform covers and pavements, etc. The project is expected to be completed and commissioned in early 2016.

The physical progress as of 31.12.2015 is 96%.

Pazardzhik Railway Station – All construction works have been implemented. The project was completed and commissioned in September 2014. (Protocol Form 16 for commissioning of the site was signed on 10.09.2014; NCS issued Authorisation for Use No. CT-05-1308/12.09.2014)

The physical progress on Pazardzhik Railway Station is 100%.

Expected completion for the project – March 2016.

BG161PO004-3.0.01-0009 “Sofia Metro Extension Project, second metro line, section from MS James Bourchier (MS II-11, km 10+452) to MS II-12, with field station after it (km 11+752)”, Beneficiary: Metroliten PLC



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The grant awarded for the project is in the amount of BGN 19 558 300,00 (EUR 10 000 000). Project payments, including advance payments, amount to BGN 13 487 540,60 (EUR 6 896 070,01), of which ERDF – BGN 11 464 409,51 (EUR 5 861 659,51) and NCF – BGN 2 023 131,09 (EUR 1 034 410,50). Verified expenditure under the project is in the amount of BGN 10 548 322,17 (EUR 5 393 271,49).

The overall project is implemented in two phases – Phase 1 financed from OPT and completed at the end of September 2015, and Phase 2 which is to be financed from Operational Programme “Transport and Transport Infrastructure” 2014-2020 and is scheduled for completion by 31 August 2016.

The design and construction of Phase 1 started on 1 August 2014 and were completed at the end of September 2015. The main works of Phase 1 include: elaboration and approval of detailed designs, preparing, launching and equipping construction sites, reconstruction of existing engineering networks, building the tunnels and Vitosha Metro Station, including reconstruction thereof, road works for reconstruction of affected streets and intersections, and partial delivery of machinery and equipment for the implementation of Phase 2.

The grant contract under OPT was signed on 04 November 2015. Phase 1 is completed at 100% according to the grant contract. The final report has been approved and verification of the expenditure pursuant to the application for final payment under OPT is in progress.

Phase 2 includes building the structure of the tunnel for changing the direction of movement of trains, architectural design of Vitosha MS, railway with two tracks and conductor rail with a length of 1,3 km, electricity supply system, including a traction and step-down transmission substation, and the other systems necessary for the operation of the metro. Phase 2 is currently in progress.

3.2 Significant problems encountered in preparing and implementing projects under the priority axis and measures taken to overcome them

No significant problems have been encountered in preparing and implementing the projects under the priority axis.



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4. Priority Axis IV “Improvement of the maritime and inland-waterway navigation”

4.1 Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress

Table 18: Physical progress on Priority Axis IV “Improvement of the maritime and inland-waterway navigation” by quantitative indicators as of 31.12.2015.

The target values of the indicators are inclusive of the baseline values (where such have been set out).

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Priority Axis IV “Improvement of the maritime and inland-waterway navigation”											
Supervised coast length (nautical miles)	Achievement	24,7	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35
	Target				95					238,4	
	Baseline	24,7									
Supervised river length (km)	Achievement	14	60	60	60	60	60	60	471,5	471,5	471,5
	Target									471,5	
	Baseline	24									
Implementation of the VTMIS - Phase 3 (number)	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
	Target									1	
	Baseline	0									
River information system (number)	Achievement	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Target									1	



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	Baseline	0									
Projects under PA4 (number)	Achievement	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	3	3	3
	Target									3	
	Baseline	0									



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At the end of 2015, there are 5 grant contracts signed under the priority axis. They are worth a total of **BGN 67 460 094,63 (EUR 34 491 798,69)**, making up **99,26%** of the priority axis budget. The eligible expenditure of the contracts concluded under OPT for implementation of the priority axis total **BGN 66 307 660,37 (EUR 33 913 836,54)**. Grant payments to beneficiaries are in the amount of **BGN 6 329 698,92 (EUR 27 556 011,97)** or **79,30%** of the priority axis budget. At the end of 2015, verified expenditure under the priority axis totals **BGN 44 677 951,75 (EUR 22 843 474)**, which is **65,74%** of the axis budget.

The following projects have been completed under this priority axis: “Establishment of River Information System in the Bulgarian Part of the Danube River – BULRIS”, “Vessel Traffic Management Information System (VTMIS) – Phase 3” and “Improving the system for navigation and topohydrographic measurements along the Danube River”.

Project BG161PO004-4.0.01-0003 “Establishment of River Information System in the Bulgarian Part of the Danube River – BULRIS”

The grant awarded for the project is in the amount of BGN 31 304 190 (EUR 16 005 578). Project payments, including advance payments, amount to BGN 27 067 464,54 (EUR 13 839 374,86), of which ERDF – BGN 23 007 344,86 (EUR 11 763 468,63) and NCF – BGN 4 060 119,68 (EUR 2 075 906,23). Verified expenditure under the project is in the amount of BGN 18 349 077,24 (EUR 9 381 734,22).

The total physical progress on the project is 100%.

The project implementation is divided into three phases:

Phase 1 – The implementation includes design, construction of 16 communication stations along the Danube River, supply of equipment for them and for the reservation RIS centre in Varna. The river information system in the Bulgarian part of the Danube River – BULRIS (Phase 1) has been commissioned. 100% physical progress;

Phase 2, with Lot 1, Lot 2 and Lot 3 Total progress – 100%

Phase 3 – The project scope is no longer relevant due to the delayed amendments to EU Directive 2005/44 concerning the Electronic Chart Display and Information System for Inland Navigation. The successful implementation of Phases 1 and 2 has resulted in attainment of the main project objective – “Harmonisation of information services to support traffic management along inland waterways” pursuant to Directive 2005/44/EU.

The project has been completed and State Enterprise “Port Infrastructure” have submitted the final progress report and the application for final payment for approval.

Project BG161PO004-4.0.01-0005 “Vessel Traffic Management Information System (VTMIS) – Phase 3”

The grant awarded for the project is in the amount of BGN 32 565 474,08 (EUR 16 650 462,50). Project payments, including advance payments, amount to BGN 23 256 450,17 (EUR 11 890 834,16), of which ERDF – BGN 19 767 982,64 (EUR 10 107 209,03) and NCF – BGN 3 488 467,53 (EUR 1 783 625,12). Verified expenditure under the project is in the amount of BGN 22 808 654,29 (EUR 11 661 879,76).

The physical progress on the project is 100%.

The project includes the following activities: Activity 1: “Expanding the scope and functions of the vessel traffic management system /VTMIS?”. Activity 2: “Establishing a national centre for



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electronic document flow in maritime transport (“one stop shop”). Activity 3: “Upgrading and expansion of the transmission medium (RRL) and technological modernisation of the radio communication system (GMDSS)”. Activity 4: “Building a centre for coastal management and information services to shipping Burgas”. Activity 5: “Building the Burgas centre for coastal management and information services to shipping”. Activity 6: “Construction supervision within activities 1, 3, 4, 5”. Activity 7: “Technical Assistance”.

Within activities 4 and 5, a contract for “Design and construction (engineering), and furnishing of buildings for the centres for coastal management and information services to shipping in Burgas and Varna for the project “Vessel Traffic Management Information System (VTMIS) – Phase 3”” was signed on 24.06.2013. Authorisation for Use was issued on 14.07.2015 for the coastal centre in Burgas. Authorisation for Use was issued on 08.07.2015 for the coastal centre in Varna.

Within activities 1, 2 и 3, a contract for “Supply and installation of equipment and carrying out of construction and installation works for the project “Vessel Traffic Management Information System (VTMIS) – Phase 3”” was signed on 13.12.2013. Authorisations for use of all 18 radio-communication stations covered by the project were issued on 12.09.2015 and on 29.10.2015. The final works handover certificate whereby the Contracting Authority accepted the works under the contract was signed on 03.11.2015.

All contracts concluded under the project have been implemented and are completed.

Project BG161PO004-4.0.01-0007 “Improving the system for navigation and topographic measurements along the Danube River”

The project includes 4 main activities:

Activity 1 “Building a GPS geodetic control network along the Bulgarian bank of the Danube River and connecting it to EUREF” – the implementation contract has been completed: all 198 geodetic stations have been built, measured and positioned using GNSS measurements and vertical control through IV-class levelling.

Activity 2 “Purchase and installation of automatic stream-gauging and meteorological stations” – the contract signed was completed on time and the activities implemented were accepted by the Contracting Authority on 25.03.2014.

Activity 3 “Purchase of floating and coastal navigation signs” – the contract was completed on time. 160 floating and 1000 coastal signs were produced. All parts and components for the marker lamps were produced and tested. The floating sign monitoring system was completed and demonstrated.

Activity 4 “Purchase of a hydrographic survey vessel” – following the long-drawn-out appeal procedures, the decision for appointment of a contractor took effect upon Decision No. 1528/11.02.2015 of SAC. The period for implementation of the activity is 330 days and goes beyond the period of eligibility of expenditure under OPT. After considering whether the beneficiary could procure own financial resources to complete the activity outside the period of eligibility of expenditure, a decision was taken to the effect that the activity will be financed from OP “Transport and Transport Infrastructure” 2014-2020 and will be implemented pursuant to the contract with the appointed contractor, for which an approval has been obtained from MA of OPT. In that light, the scope of the grant contract was changed, which made Activity 4 no longer relevant, and the amount of the grant was reduced.

Physical progress: 100%. The final report and the application for final payment under the project have been approved.



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4.2 Significant problems encountered in preparing and implementing projects under the priority axis and measures taken to overcome them

No significant problems in preparing and implementing the projects under the priority axis have been identified.



5. Priority Axis V – “Technical Assistance”

5.1 Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress

Table 19: Physical progress on Priority Axis V – “Technical Assistance”, by quantifiable indicator, as of 31.12.2015

Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Priority Axis V – “Technical Assistance”											
General transport master plan (number)	Achievement	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Target				1					1	
	Baseline	0									
Strategic business plan for railway transport development (number)	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
	Target				1					1	
	Baseline	0									
Communication plan (number)	Achievement	0	16	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Target				1					1	
	Baseline	0									
General environmental monitoring plan and implementation thereof (number)	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
	Target				1					1	
	Baseline	0									
Trained people according to training programmes (%)	Achievement	0	4.2	8.2	8.6	57	79	81	83,61	95	95
	Target				100 %					100 %	
	Baseline	0									

6 Approved – in progress.



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Public actions at national level (number)	Achievement	4	11	16	19	24	31	33	35	38	38
	Target				9					24	
	Baseline	0									



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At the end of 2015, there are 82 grant contracts/orders concluded/issued under the priority axis, worth a total of **BGN 110 445 429,70 (EUR 56 469 851,52)** or **100,93%** of the priority axis budget. Grant payments to beneficiaries amount to **BGN 84 675 307,44 (EUR 43 293 797,23)** or **77,38%** of the priority axis budget. The verified expenditure under the priority axis at the end of 2015 are in the amount of **BGN 72 981 984,10 (EUR 37 315 095,94)**, which is **66,69%** of the axis budget.

Project BG161PO004-5.0.01-0078 “Technical assistance to improve the efficiency of the road sector in Bulgaria”

The activities within the scope of the Agreement with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) have been implemented and approved by the Contracting Authority. The agreement with IBRD has been amended three times and the allocations to a sub-activity which has become no longer relevant, as well as a portion of the unused project allocations have been reallocated to an additional activity which includes: an Inception Report and improved work plan for the electronic collection of road charges; Analysis of the opportunities and options for transforming the existing vignette system into an Electronic Toll Collection System; Developing detailed specifications of an electronic system for provision of the European Electronic Toll Service (EETS); Drawing up a strategy and a business model for the implementation of EETS. The ultimate value of the Agreement with IBRD is BGN 6 407 000. The other activities falling within the scope of the Agreement include: Review of a road sector strategy; Preparing a strategic business plan for RIA; Drawing up a road safety action plan for the period 2013-2020; Preparing a medium-term operational programme on roads; Laying down road asset management processes; Providing operational support to the RIA departments; Preparing an IT strategy.

The following have been implemented: Contract for “Selection of a contractor for the publicity and communication activity under the project “Technical assistance to improve the efficiency of the road sector in Bulgaria””, worth BGN 11 700; Contract for “Preparing an environmental assessment of the Medium-term Operational Programme for the Implementation of the Strategy for Development of the Road Infrastructure in the Republic of Bulgaria 2014-2020”, worth BGN 54 324,00, and Contract for “Developing a methodology for the evaluation of projects financed from OP “Transport” upon completion of the construction works under the project and preparing such evaluation for the projects to be completed in this programming period”, worth BGN 352 080,00.

The procurement procedures for “Selection of a contractor for a road user satisfaction survey” and for “Selection of a contractor for setting up road network spatial data infrastructure pursuant to EU’s INSPIRE Directive, the implementing regulations and the Access to Spatial Data Act” have been terminated by the Contracting Authority.

The physical progress on the project according to the latest amendment of the Grant Contract is 100 %.

Project BG161PO004-5.0.01-0079 “Technical assistance to cover the cost of designing and implementing a resource planning and management system in State Enterprise “National Railway Infrastructure Company” – a beneficiary of Operational Programme “Transport” 2007-2013”

Physical progress:

The following activities are to be implemented pursuant to the developed and approved project application form:

Activity 1: Project management by the Contracting Authority;



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- Activity 2: Analysis of the current situation in SE NRIC;
- Activity 3: Monitor and control the implementation of the contract for “Design and implementation of a resource planning and management system (RPMS) in SE NRIC”;
- Activity 4: Preparing a detailed RPMS BLUEPRINT;
- Activity 5: Delivery and installation of hardware and software infrastructure;
- Activity 6: Building, installation, configuring and integration of the entire system;
- Activity 7: Acceptance testing of the system in a real operational environment;
- Activity 8: Personnel training;
- Activity 9: Implementing information and publicity measures.

Contract No. 3964/17.04.2012 for “Technical specification for the selection of a contractor of the project “Design and implementation of a resource planning and management system (RPMS) in SE NRIC”” was signed with the company Abeatus EOOD within Activity 2. Contract No. 4752/02.10.2014 for “Monitoring and control of the implementation of the contract for “Design and implementation of RPMS in SE NRIC”” was signed with BG Business Solutions EOOD within Activity 3. Contract No. 4592/20.03.2014 for “Design and implementation of a resource planning and management system (RPMS) in State Enterprise “National Railroad Infrastructure Company”” was signed with Consortium ADNES CIOCA for activities 4,5,6,7,8 and 9. All three contracts have been completed on time, pursuant to Annex No. 1 (ДОПТ-25/16.09.2014) to the grant contract for the project.

The physical progress on the project is 100%.

Project: BG161PO004-5.0.01-0096 “Preparation of the project “Rehabilitation of the railway section Plovdiv – Burgas – Phase 2”

The report “Pre-investment study and selection of scenarios” from Phase I was approved in March 2015 in accordance with the contractual terms. The Phase I deliverables include: Feasibility studies for development of Plovdiv railway node; Preparation for the construction of sections of Plovdiv – Burgas railway; Removal of level crossings and building underpasses / overpasses; Building signalling systems – ETCS level 1, version 2.3.0 d; Modernization of the railway section Orizovo – Mihaylovo; Reconstruction of the rail signalling line at Zimnitsa Station; Rehabilitation of the catenary between the stations Zimnitsa and Tserkovski, including Straldzha Station; Repairs of buildings and facilities in Karnobat Station Complex; Traffic forecast and the Regulatory and economic restrictions for the project; Notifications on evaluation of the need for EIA; Terms of reference for development of draft Detailed Site Development Plan (Zoning and Development Plan – Plot Plan); Modernisation of the railway section Yambol – Zimnitsa at Zavoy Station; Creating windbreaker between the stations Chernograd and Aitos; Technical specifications for construction, and safety reports. Most of the deliverables of Phase II “Preparation of construction works and of alienation procedures” were approved on 10.12.2015 and are to be agreed by external institutions. Detailed site development plans and documents for alienation procedures are still to be prepared. The activities under the contract for “Preparation of feasibility studies and a preliminary design of the railway and geodesy parts for the construction of a railway connection between Burgas Railway Station and Burgas Airport” have been completed. The final report was approved on 10.12.2015. The activities for environmental impact assessment are to be completed after the opinion of RIEW – Stara Zagora is received and conformity assessment is carried out for all parts of the project.



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The procurement procedure for “Archaeological field survey to search for archaeological sites within the scope of the project” was terminated on 01.10.2015 because a proposal which did not satisfy the requirements of the Contracting Authority was submitted (no implementation period was specified). Annex 2 to Contract No. ДОПТ-41/10.12.2013 was signed on 07.08.2015, extending the validity of the grant contract till 31.01.2016.

The physical progress on the project is 59,77%.

Project: BG161PO004-5.0.01-0097 “Design of the construction of Vidin – Sofia railway: project update and preparation of railway section Vidin – Medkovets”

The following standalone activities were carried out within the scope of the project:

Contracts concluded:

“Analysis of the preliminary design and drawing up of technical specifications for the preparation of the project “Modernisation of Vidin – Sofia railway” – physical progress 100%;

“Design of the construction of Vidin – Sofia railway: project update and preparation of railway section Vidin – Medkovets”: -Lot 1: Update and optimisation of the preliminary design for railway sections Medkovets – Ruska Bela – Stolnik; -Lot 2: Update of the preliminary design and drawing up Detailed Site Development Plan and engineering design for railway section Vidin - Medkovets. Activities 2-6.

Lot 1- 100%;

Lot 2- physical progress 60%.

“Assessment of the conformity of the engineering design for the project “Design of the construction of Vidin – Sofia railway: project update and preparation of the railway section Vidin – Medkovets” with the essential requirements to construction works” – progress 55%;

“Field surveys to search for archaeological sites along the railway section Vidin – Medkovets under project “Design of the construction of Vidin – Sofia railway: project update and preparation of the railway section Vidin – Medkovets” – progress 100%;

“Information and publicity for the project “Design of the construction of Vidin – Sofia railway: project update and preparation of the railway section Vidin – Medkovets” – progress 60%;

“Appendix to EIA for the project “Design of the construction of Vidin – Sofia railway: project update and preparation of the railway section Vidin – Medkovets” – progress 100%.

The physical progress on the project as a whole is 65%.

Expected project completion – 30.08.2016.

Project: BG161PO004-5.0.01-0098 “Project Preparation Facility for Trans-European Transport Network projects”

The following have been drawn up and approved by the Contracting Authority under the contract with the Consultant: an inception report, a quality assurance plan, 9 quarterly reports, key events, a tender procedure for preparation of the sites, a risk management plan, etc. Application forms for infrastructure projects are in preparation.

Seven contracts for preparation of Detailed Site Development Plans and engineering designs for Sofia Railway Node and for the railways Sofia – Dragoman and Sofia – Pernik – Radomir have been concluded within the project. A decision was taken for the implementation of two of the contracts (for the preparation of Detailed Site Development Plans and engineering designs for the section Petarch Station – Dragoman Station and the section Sofia – Pernik – Radomir) to be financed from OPTTI 2014 – 2020.



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The tender procedure for the selection of a contractor for “Preparing an engineering design for the project “Development of Burgas Railway Node”” was terminated by the Contracting Authority. The project implementation is planned to be assigned to engineering (design and construction) under OPTTI 2014 – 2020.

The contract for preparation of EIA reports for the project “Development of Sofia Railway Node” is completed. A positive assessment of the quality of the EIA report was received under the contract for preparation of EIA reports for the project “Modernisation of railway Sofia – Dragoman””. No reply from MEW has been received so far on the need for EIA for the project “Modernisation of railway Sofia – Pernik – Radomir””.

A contract for activities for visualisation and publicity measures has been implemented.

The physical progress on the project is 44,44 %.

Expected project completion – 31.07.2016.

Project BG161PO004-5.0.01-0099 “Technical assistance to the National Railway Infrastructure Company as a beneficiary of Operational Programme “Transport” 2007 – 2013 for the formulation of a tariff policy on the access to and use of railway infrastructure”

The project was included as an activity in support of the transport sector pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Bulgaria and the European Investment Bank (EIB). It provides for the development of a new mode of access to railway infrastructure and a new methodology for calculating the components of the infrastructure charges collected by the railway infrastructure manager from railway operators, consistent with the latest recommendations and requirements under the relevant European and national legislation – Directive 34/2012, Directive 2001/14/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2001 (on the allocation of railway infrastructure capacity and charging for the use of infrastructure), Ordinance No. 41 on the access to and use of railway infrastructure, and the pending legislative amendments at the EU level.

The contract for preparing a methodology for the calculation of infrastructure charges was signed between the EIB and the selected consultant on 01.09.2014 and its implementation started in the same month. All activities assigned with the contract were completed by 30 October 2015.

Physical progress: 100 %.

5.2 Significant problems encountered in preparing and implementing projects under the priority axis and measures taken to overcome them

No significant problems have been identified under this priority axis.

6. Use of technical assistance

The allocations to priority axis “Technical Assistance” are used to finance activities for: improving the administrative capacity of MA and of the beneficiaries, information and publicity measures, conducting an assessment of OPT, drafting the Operational Programme for the 2015 – 2020 period,



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including ex-ante and environmental assessment, implementation of Geographic Information Systems for the needs of NRIC and SEPI.

Funding for the preparation of projects in the new programming period⁷ has been procured, for example, for the construction of the third metro diameter; preparation of railway section Vidin – Medkovets (part of the railway Vidin – Sofia); preparation of the railway projects Sofia – Pernik – Radomir, Sofia – Dragoman, Sofia Railway Node and Burgas Railway Node with the Project Preparation Facility for TEN-T network projects; preparation of Phase 2 of the project for rehabilitation of sections of the railway Plovdiv – Burgas. In the road sector, preparation of Lot 3 of Struma Motorway, Hemus Motorway and the road Vidin – Montana is going on. In progress is also the project for “Technical assistance to improve the efficiency of the road sector in Bulgaria” with beneficiary RIA. The project is implemented pursuant to the Agreement signed between RIA and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development in October 2012. In 2015, the consultant developed a report on the World Bank’s assistance for the implementation of the road safety action plan, a report with proposed improvements to the administrative procedures for project planning and budgeting, a report on the performance-based scope definition of contracts, tender documents and subsequent road asset management events, a report on a proposal for traffic management improvement, a report on traffic forecasting and review of traffic statistics and proposed design and technical specification standards.

On 31.03.2015, the Ministry of Transport, Information Technologies and Communications and the European Investment Bank signed an agreement in support of the implementation of the project “Provision of strategic advisory assistance by the European Investment Bank to the Managing Authority of OP “Transport” 2007 – 2013 for successful completion of the 2007 – 2013 programming period”. The purpose of the agreement is to contribute to undertaking specific actions for the successful implementation and completion of the railway infrastructure projects under OPT identified as “projects at risk” and support the Managing Authority of OP “Transport” for hiring external consultancy assistance in the preparation for closure of the revenue-generating projects in the meaning of Article 55 of Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006.

7. Administrative capacity of the MA and the beneficiaries and measures taken to improve it

Almost 95% of the personnel of the Coordination of Programs and Projects Directorate – the Managing Authority of OPT 2007-2013, have received training in the country and abroad for improving their qualification and competences for the activities related to OP “Transport” 2007 – 2013.

Pursuant to the 2015 Training Plan:

About 67% of the personnel of MA of OPT have received training on topics related to the overall management of the European programs and projects: evaluation and monitoring, verification, financial management, control and audit procedures;

About 10% of the personnel of MA of OPT have received training on topics related to the management of the award of public procurement contracts;

⁷ The funds are provided under priority axis “Technical Assistance” as well as within the different priority axes.



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About 5% of the personnel of MA of OPT have received training on topics related to cost-benefit analysis;

About 5% of the personnel of MA of OPT have received training on topic related to state aid;

About 8% of the personnel of MA of OPT have received training on topic related to publicity;

About 5% of the personnel of MA of OPT have received training on topic related to risk management when dealing with EU funds.

On the basis of Contract No. Д-78/14.12.2012, concluded with the company LaFit OOD, a training needs analysis report was prepared for the personnel of the Managing Authority of Operational Programme “Transport” 2007 – 2013 and annual training plans were elaborated up to and including 2015.

In addition, in 2015 81% of the personnel of the Coordination of Programs and Projects Directorate – MA of OPT 2007-2013, received training in the country and abroad for improving their qualification and competences for the activities related to OP “Transport” 2007 – 2013.

In 2015, MA of OPT 2007 – 2013 held two meetings with beneficiaries of the program in Devin, Bulgaria, to discuss the implementation status of OPT and to consider and initiate specific capacity enhancement measures for the beneficiaries with a view to the successful completion of the programme.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Procedure Manual for management and implementation of Operational Programme “Transport” 2007 – 2013, information about the administrative capacity of the programme beneficiaries was collected in 2015 for the period June 2014 – end of January 2015 and for the period from the beginning of February 2015 till the end of August 2015. The information collected makes it clear that the measures taken to enhance the administrative capacity of the beneficiaries include participation in qualification improvement trainings and workshops, procuring funds for additional bonuses, provision of induction trainings and instruction of new recruits, preparing analyses of the administrative and functional structures, etc.

8. Preparation of Operational Programme “Transport and Transport Infrastructure” 2014 – 2020

Operational Programme “Transport and Transport Infrastructure” 2014-2020 (OPTTI) was approved with Commission Decision C (2014) 10232 of 19.12.2014. An amendment of the programme has been prepared. An approval for the proposed changes has been obtained from the EU Funds Coordination Council with Minutes No. 2 of 16.10.2015, and from the Monitoring Committee of OPTTI on 23.10.2015. The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria approved the draft amendments to the programme (Minutes No. 48 / 27.11.2015). The amendments of OPTTI 2014-2020 were sent to the European Commission on 27.11.2015 and were discussed by the Commission services but due to the limited processing time they were not approved. As a result of further consultations with Commission representatives, some additional changes were made to the draft amendments of OPTTI 2014-2020 which were submitted to the EU Funds Coordination Council for consideration (official letter with our ref. no. 03-00-189 / 14.03.2016).

The proposed amendments to OPTTI cover the following aspects:

1. According to the proposed amendment, the completion of Section 2 – from km 0+780 (north of road junction Slivnitsa) to km 6+308 (at the connection to the North Speed Tangent) under Project 2012BG161PR005 “Construction of Kalotina – Sofia Motorway: Lot 1 Western Arc of Sofia Ring



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Road (SRR)” is to be included in the scope of Priority Axis 2 “Development of road infrastructure along the “core” and the comprehensive Trans-European Transport Network” of OPTTI. The amendment was made because the above project could not be fully completed within the period of eligibility of expenditures under Operational Programme “Transport” 2007-2013 (OPT). In that light, Project 2012BG161PR005 “Construction of Kalotina – Sofia Motorway: Lot 1 Western Arc of Sofia Ring Road (SRR)” was phased pursuant to the Action Plan for closure of the operational programmes financed from the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund, prepared in April 2015. Project “Construction of Kalotina – Sofia Motorway: Lot 1 Western Arc of Sofia Ring Road” Phase 2 was included in the list of major projects under OPTTI because it was initially approved by the EC as a major project in its entirety;

2. Extension is envisaged of the scope of Phase II of the Project “Rehabilitation and modernisation of the railway section Plovdiv – Burgas” planned for financing under Priority Axis 1 “Development of the railway infrastructure along the core Trans-European Transport Network” of OPTTI. Phase I of the project was financed from Operational Programme “Transport” 2007-2013. The activities transferred from Phase I to Phase II of the project for the 2014-2020 programming period include: design and construction of signalling and telecommunication systems of Burgas Railway Node (within the modernisation of Burgas Railway Node); design and modernisation of traction substations Burgas, Karnobat and Yambol (as a separate project). The transfer of activities is related to the expected significant changes in the track lines development of the railway stations in Burgas Railway Node resulting from the implementation of the activities envisaged in Phase II.

3. The amendment of OPTTI envisages extension of the section of the third metro diameter of the Sofia Metro to be constructed – Botevgradsko Shosse Blvd.-Vladimir Vazov Blvd.-City Centre-j.k. Ovcha Kupel. The proposal came about from the need to modify the annual financial breakdown of the funds from the European Regional Development Fund and was a result of interinstitutional meetings and discussions with representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Water, the Ministry of Transport, Information Technologies and Communications and the Administration of the Council of Ministers.

4. The amendments of the programme also include transfer of some of the activities (phasing back) of the project for extension of Sofia Metro Line 2, the section from MS James Bourchier to MS Vitosha which were initially scheduled for financing from OPTTI. Same were financed from OPT 2007-2013 with a view to absorbing the ERDF funds for the programme.

5. It was agreed with a decision of the EU Funds Coordination Council of 12.05.2015 that the financial indicator “Certified Expenditure” of the Performance Framework of Priority Axis 3 “Improvement of intermodal transport services for passengers and freights and development of sustainable urban transport” will be modified and the milestone for 2018 – EUR 72 000 000 will be increased to EUR 105 152 249 as a result of the decreased milestone for the same year under Operational Programme “Environment” 2014-2020. In the light of the foregoing, the draft amendment increases the milestone for 2018 to EUR 105 152 249.

6. A modification of the annual financial breakdown of the ERDF funds is foreseen in order to ensure the possibility for proportional modification of the annual financial breakdown of the ERDF funds for Operational Programme “Environment” 2014-2020, as follows: the initially approved funds for 2016 are increased by EUR 25 000 000 and the funds for the next 3 years are proportionally decreased by EUR 8 333 340 for 2017 and by EUR 8 333 330 each for 2018 and 2019. The total amount of the ERDF funds in the OPTTI budget is preserved;

7. The baseline year, the baseline value, the target and the source of data for the result indicator “Intermodal transport units (ITU) transported by rail or waterway transport” are changed. At the



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proposal of the National Statistical Institute, the baseline year is changed from 2011 to 2013, the baseline value is changed respectively from 191 500 ITU to 185 106 ITU and the target becomes 222 127,2 ITU instead of 229 800 ITU. The National Statistical Institute is given as the source of data instead of the National Railway Infrastructure Company and the Executive Agency “Maritime Administration”;

8. The type of the indicator “Built GSM-R network” (35 km) is changed from “Key Implementation Step” to “Output”;

9. The section “Ex-ante Conditionalities” is supplemented – the criterion “measures guaranteeing the capacity of the Intermediate Bodies and the beneficiaries” is added under thematic ex-ante conditionalities 7.2 and 7.3 in Table 24 “Applicable Ex-ante Conditionalities and Assessment of their Fulfilment” and the information in Table 26 “Actions to Fulfil Applicable Thematic Ex-ante Conditionalities” has been elaborated (attached Jaspers Action Plan and approved Strategy for Development of Road Infrastructure in the Republic of Bulgaria 2014-2020).

Financial allocation between the different priorities and measures for funding

OP “Transport and Transport Infrastructure” 2014-2020 includes the following priority axes:

Name of priority axis	Euro EU budget	Euro NCF budget	Total euro (EU + NCF)
1. “Development of railway infrastructure along the core Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T)”	572 343 631.00 (CF)	101 001 818.00	673 345 449.00
2. “Development of road infrastructure along the core and comprehensive TEN-T”	572 343 630.00 (CF)	101 001 818.00	673 345 448.00
3. “Improvement of intermodal transport services for passengers and freights and development of sustainable urban transport”	361 300 000.00 (ERDF)	63 758 824.00	425 058 824.00
4. “Innovations in management and services – establishment of modern infrastructure for traffic management and transport safety improvement”	57 944 591.00 (ERDF)	10 225 517.00	68 170 108.00
5. “Technical Assistance”	40 517 316.00 (ERDF)	7 150 115.00	47 667 431.00
Total	1 604 449 168.00	283 138 092.00	1 887 587 260.00

The projects to be financed under the priority axes include:

Priority Axis 1 “Development of railway infrastructure along the core Trans-European Transport Network”

Rehabilitation of railway Plovdiv – Burgas: Phase II

Modernisation of railway section Sofia – Septemvri (priority section Elin Pelin – Ihtiman and Ihtiman – Septemvri)



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Priority Axis 2 “Development of road infrastructure along the core and comprehensive Trans-European Transport Network”

Struma Motorway, Lot 3 Blagoevgrad – Sandanski

Construction of Kalotina – Sofia Motorway: Lot 1, Western Arc of Sofia Ring Road, Phase 2

Investment in infrastructure along other TEN-T corridors such as Hemus Motorway Phase 1 (Yablanitsa – Road II-35) and the tunnel under Shipka Summit will be discussed for financing from OPTTI only in case of availability of funds in the programme budget.

Priority Axis 3 “Improvement of intermodal transport services for passengers and freights and development of sustainable urban transport”

Construction of intermodal terminal in the North Central Planning Region of Bulgaria – Ruse”

Reconstruction of key station complexes (Stara Zagora, Nova Zagora and Chirpan);

Construction of a third metro diameter of the Sofia Metro (Botevgradsko Shosse Blvd.-Vladimir Vazov Blvd.-City Centre-j.k. Ovcha Kupel)

Extension of the second metro diameter from MS James Bouchier to the intersection of Cherni Vrah Blvd. and Henrik Ibsen Blvd. and Srebarna St., Phase II.

Priority Axis 4 “Innovations in management and services – establishment of modern infrastructure for traffic management and transport safety improvement”

The projects to be implemented under this priority axis include projects for development of information systems in shipping, for upgrading existing systems and for systems in construction, supply of specialised vessels, development of car traffic management information systems, modernisation and construction of waste reception and treatment facilities in the Bulgarian ports of national importance, enhancing the quality of aeronautical data and information and improving environmental management in civil aviation, development of railway traffic management systems – building the GSM-R network.

Priority Axis 5 “Technical Assistance”

This priority axis will support activities for: completion of the 2007-2013 programming period, strengthening and enhancing the administrative capacity of MA and of the beneficiaries in the 2015-2020 programming period; activities for effective preparation, implementation, monitoring, control, evaluation and promotion of investment in transport; activities in preparation of the 2021-2027 programming period.

9. Information and publicity measures, implementation of the Communication Plan

The Communication Plan of OP “Transport” 2007-2013 was approved by the European Commission on 13.08.2008. Its main objective is to promote Operational Programme “Transport” and to highlight the Community support for the development of transport infrastructure in Bulgaria.



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The main objective is to present and communicate the results and achievements delivered from the use of the European funds in implementing OPT projects, as well as the effect they will have in the future.

Different activities were carried out in 2015 pursuant to the Communication Plan of OPT 2007-2013, using different communication forms and methods, at national and at regional level.

The most effective communication channels have been sought, the most appropriate vehicles to reach the target audiences have been selected and the widest media coverage has been secured when implementing all publicity activities. The different channels have been integrated so as to deliver the widest dissemination of the Communication Plan objectives.

The information and publicity measures implemented in 2015 are part of an integral process and the requirement to conduct at least one major information campaign (and/or event) per year has been met.

On Europe Day, the flag of the European Union was raised and flown for one week in front of the premises of the Managing Authority (pursuant to Regulation 1828/2006) and a special campaign was organised in print media.

In connection with the completion of programming period 2007-2013, a Closing campaign to promote the results of Operational Programme “Transport” 2007 – 2013 among the general public was organised in the second half of 2015 in cooperation with electronic media (TV and radio broadcasters).

The campaign was carried out in the national TV and radio broadcasters, with the main objective of presenting and promoting the results of OP “Transport” 2007-2013. The main focus was placed on the successfully completed projects under the Operational Programme and the projects in their final stage of implementation.

9.1 Information and publicity campaigns in the media

The closing campaign carried out in the radio and TV broadcasters with national coverage enabled the Managing Authority of OP “Transport” 2007-2013 to communicate the benefits of the projects implemented under the programme to the general public, to maintain the existing high level of public confidence in the programme and to ensure transparency in reporting the implementation of infrastructure projects.

At the national level, the campaign covered all national TV and radio broadcasters where different media products – TV and radio spots, specialised TV and radio programmes, interviews and reportages, were prepared and broadcast.

As in the previous media campaigns on the programme, an individual approach was applied to each one of the different radio and TV operators, with the aim of having programmes and reportages of various journalistic styles, with their own character and with different focuses.

All radio spots and video clips promoting the operational programme have been posted in the official website of the programme (www.optransport.bg), and the radio and TV programmes broadcast have been uploaded to the special YouTube channel of the programme (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCreJjFFNa29mi1KMP3pRdUw/feed>) in order to reach a maximum number of listeners and viewers.

With a view to promoting OP “Transport” 2007-2013, profiles of the programme were created in Instagram https://www.instagram.com/op_transport_bulgaria/ and in Google + <https://plus.google.com/115208986424048243413/posts>.



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9.1.1 Radio broadcasters

With a view to raising the profile of Operational Programme “Transport” 2007-2013 among the direct beneficiaries in the different regions of the country, contracts with the two national radio broadcasters Bulgarian National Radio and Darik Radio were successfully implemented in the period 15 September – 30 November 2015.

Listeners were made aware of the outputs of OP “Transport” 2007-2013, the major projects financed under the programme, the benefits from their implementation and the preparation of priority projects for the new programming period.

The radio programmes broadcast provided the audience with timely and correct information about the amount of European co-financing, the volume of concluded contracts, the share of payments and the physical progress on the programme.

In addition to the main programmes broadcast nationally, both radio operators broadcast for their own account, as a bonus campaign, the main overview programmes on their regional channels.

The following radio programmes, radio spots and information materials have been prepared and broadcast in cooperation with the radio operators over the review period:

Bulgarian National Radio:

- 10 programmes (5-minutes length) on Horizont and Hristo Botev channels;
- 1 overview programme on Horizont channel (15-minutes length);
- 617 radio spots on Horizont and Hristo Botev channels (30-seconds length);
- 2892 892 radio spots – a bonus campaign on the regional channels of BNR in Varna, Burgas, Shumen, Stara Zagora, Plovdiv, Blagoevgrad and Vidin (30-seconds length).

Darik Radio:

- 694 radio spots on the national channel of Darik Radio (30-seconds length);
- 3 radio programmes on the national channel of Darik Radio (20-minutes length);
- 4 bonus reportages on the regional channels of Darik Radio (5-minutes length).

9.1.2 TV broadcasters

The following TV programmes, spots and information materials were being prepared and broadcasted jointly with the national TV operators in the period 14 September–30 November 2015:

Bulgarian National Television:

- 99 video-spots, including 53 video-spots with 30-seconds length and 46 video-spots with 60-seconds length;
- 4 TV programmes, including one 4-minutes and three 6-minutes programmes.

bTV Media Group EAD:

- 22 video clips with 60-seconds length;
- 32 video clips with 30-seconds length;
- 2 programmes with 1-minute length;
- 1 reportage with 1-minute length;
- Broadcastings on the other channels of bTV Media Group – bTV Action, bTV Cinema, bTV Comedy, bTV Lady and Ring; 52 video clips with 60-seconds length and 62 video clips with 30 seconds length were broadcasted for contractor’s account as a bonus campaign;



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Nova Television:

- 21 video clips with 60-second length;
- 36 video clips with 30-seconds length;
- 4 reportages with 2-minutes length;
- 1 thematic programme with 12-minutes length.

In the period 21.09.–30.11.2015, DIEMA channel broadcasted for contractor's account as a bonus campaign the following:

- 7 video clips with 60-seconds length;
- 20 video clips with 30-seconds length;

In the period 21.09.–30.11.2015, DIEMA FAMILY channel broadcasted for contractor's account, as a bonus campaign the following:

- 3 video clips with 60-seconds length;
- 12 video clips with 30-seconds length;

In the period 22.09.–30.11.2015, KINO NOVA channel broadcasted for contractor's account, as a bonus campaign the following:

- 6 video clips with 60-seconds length;
- 19 video clips with 30-seconds length;

In the period 22.09.– 30.11.2015, NOVA SPORT channel broadcasted for contractor's account, as a bonus campaign the following:

- 4 video clips with 60-seconds length;
- 19 video clips with 30-seconds length;

Bulgaria on Air:

- 146 video clips with 60-seconds length;
- 3 programmes "VIA EU" with 15-minutes length;
- 2 interviews in the morning programme "Sutreshen Blok" with 10-minutes length;
- 1 live participation in the air of "Bulgaria on Air" TV with 10-minutes length;
- 1 topic in the programme "Vidimo-Nevidimo" ("Visible-Invisible") with 60-minutes length;

In addition to the main materials prepared and broadcasted on "Bulgaria on Air" TV channel, the contractor made for its account, as a bonus campaign, the following broadcastings and publications:

- The programmes prepared and broadcasted on "Bulgaria on Air" TV channel were also broadcasted in full on the "Cherno More" TV channel;
- The programmes prepared and broadcast on "Bulgaria on Air" TV channel were also broadcast in full on "Bulgaria on Air" radio channel;
- Text and video of the programmes of "Bulgaria on Air" TV channel were posted in the website of the media group – bgonair.bg;
- Articles on the results of Operational Programme on „Transport" 2007-2013 were published in the website dnes.bg;
- Information about OP on "Transport" 2007-2013 was published in the "Inflight Magazine" of Bulgaria on Air.



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- The TV programmes and information materials prepared and broadcasted in the four national TV broadcasters present all successfully completed projects under OP on “Transport” 2007-2013 and the projects in the final phase of their development.

9.1.3 Print and Internet media

Print media were not used as a communication channel in 2015, therefore, no campaigns were carried out in them.

➤ Closing information campaign

The closing information campaign presenting to the general public the successfully completed infrastructure projects co-financed with European funds and implemented under OP on “Transport” 2007 – 2014 was carried out in the period March – June 2015.

The campaign covered a total of **42 internet pages** including 37 information sites, 3 information agencies and 2 sites providing the service “e-mail”. The following forms were included in the online campaign:

- publication of the available advertising banners of OPT and a new banner with floating elements in websites;
- publication of information materials (reportages, interviews, etc.) on OPT-related topics in websites;
- branding of websites.

The contractor of the contract had to achieve minimum 100 000 unique visitors of the webpage of OPT www.optransport.bg as a result of activities realised during the implementation period of the contract. The consultation with the webpage of OP on “Transport” shows that in the period May 2014 – June 2015 inclusive the unique visitors are 114 514, therefore, the target has been reached.

9.2 Statistics of the traffic rate, maintenance and update of the website of OPT

9.2.1 Statistics of the traffic rate of the website of OPT

www.optransport.bg

- Total visitors for the year – 83 721;
- Unique visitors (number of visits by different users within one day: 00–24h) – 77 611;
- Impressions (number of page loads) – 235 305;
- Maximum number of online users (peak) per day – 32.

9.2.2 OPT website maintenance and update

In 2015, 38 posts were published in the News section of the OPT site and the information about the progress on the programme was updated on a continuous basis. Media channels were contacted by writing and distributing press releases about the programme and its implementation.

9.3 Printed advertising and promotional materials



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In 2015, 55 thousand copies of different advertising and promotional materials were made (pens, flash memory, thermocup, baseball cap, eco-bag, mouse pad with 4 port USB hub, etc.)

The design and branding of all articles comply with the requirements of Commission Regulation 1828/2006 for the graphic logo and standard of OP “Transport”.

The results achieved include: high visibility and recognition of OPT, increased trust in MA of OPT as a guarantor for the transparent usage of the SCF funds.

9.4 Development and maintenance of an information network between PR experts of OPT MA and beneficiaries

Four regular meetings were being held in 2015 to discuss operational issues related to the implementation of the information and publicity activities.

9.5 Organisation and holding of public events

- Annual event on the progress of Operational Programme on „Transport” 2007–2013 for 2014 was held on 22.01.2015 in Sofia Hilton Hotel;
- Training seminar for MA staff and beneficiaries on “Win-win brands and their effective marketing communications” was held in the period 02-04 April 2015 in Bansko;
- Theoretical, methodological and practical aspects of effective communication were being discussed which proved to be very useful for the participants. The focus was on the psychological mechanisms of social influence, the synchronous verbal–non-verbal communication, the techniques for influence on and interaction with the audience and for maintaining continuous feedback;
- A photo exhibition was organised and held in Burgas and Varna in the period 03-16.08.2015, as follows: in the period 03-09 August 2015 it was in Burgas, near the administrative building of the Municipal Administration, and in the period 10-16 August 2015 it was in Primorski Park in Varna. Photos of completed projects as well as of projects in completion were presented. The exhibition attracted a great deal of interest;
- Annual event on the progress of OP on “Transport” 2007 – 2013 in 2015 was held on 24.09.2015 in Sofia Hotel Balkan. Representatives of the general public, of other operational programmes, NGOs, the Transport commission, Sofia Municipality, etc. took part in the event.

Table 16: Public events organised and held in 2015

No	Date	Venue	Event	Target groups
	22.01.2015	Sofia Hilton hotel	Annual event on the progress of Operational Programme on „Transport” 2007–2013 in 2014	Media General public Beneficiaries Project contractors Academia



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				Non-governmental organisations Social and economic partners Politicians
27.02.2015	Sofia	Inspection of the construction of Sofia Metro in the section to Sofia Airport	Media General public Beneficiaries Project contractors	
11.03.2015	Burgas	Ground-breaking ceremony and turning the first sod of the rehabilitation of Burgas Station under the project "Rehabilitation of station complexes along the TEN-T-network"	Media General public Beneficiaries Project contractors	
17.03.2015	Vidin	Launching ceremony of a new specialised river bed monitoring motorboat under the BULRIS Project	Media General public Beneficiaries Project contractors	
24.03.2015	Sofia	Minister Moskov participated in the conference on "Strategic Infrastructure and Investment 2015 Bulgaria and Western Balkans"	Media General public Beneficiaries Project contractors NGOs Social and economic partners Academia	
02.04.2015	Sofia	Commissioning of the Sofia Metro extension to Sofia Airport	Media General public Beneficiaries Project contractors Academia NGOs Social and economic partners Politicians Opinion leaders	
In the period 02.04-04.04.2015	Bansko	Training seminar for MA personnel and Beneficiaries on "Win-win brands and their effective marketing communications"	Internal target groups OPT MA personnel Beneficiaries	



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	16.04.2015	Burgas	Inspection of the construction works at Burgas Station and Vladimir Pavlov Station	Media General public Beneficiaries Project contractors
	17.04.2015	Septemvri Plovdiv	Inspection of construction works on Septemvri – Plovdiv railway	Media General public Beneficiaries Project contractors
	27.04.2015	In the region of Svilengrad	Inspection of the railway sites in construction in the region of Svilengrad	Media General public Beneficiaries Project contractors
	08.05.2015	Sofia	Opening ceremony of the Sofia Metro extension to Business Park in j.k. Mladost 4	Media General public Beneficiaries Project contractors European Commission Opinion leaders Politicians Academia NGOs Social and economic partners
	In the period 22- 27.05.2015	Bulgaria	Contest “Make Selfie with a Euro Project” organised in cooperation with CCU in CoM	General public
	28.05.2015	In the region of Maritsa River	Commissioning of Lot 2 of Maritsa Motorway	European Commission Media General public Beneficiaries Project contractors Opinion leaders Politicians Academia NGOs Social and economic partners Local government
	15.06.2015	Ruse	EU Commissioner Corina Crețu visited the RIS centre in Ruse financed under OP on “Transport” within the Project “Establishment of River	European Commission Media General public Beneficiaries Project contractors



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			Information System in the Bulgarian Part of the Danube River – BULRIS”	
	In the period 03-16.08.2015	Burgas Varna	Organised and held photo exhibition of OPT projects – completed or in completion.	Media General public
	08.08.2015	Burgas	Opening of the coastal centre in Burgas under Project “Vessel Traffic Management Information System (VTMIS)”	Media General public Beneficiaries Project contractors Prime Minister, Ministers, Local government, etc.
	17.08.2015	Varna	Opening of the coastal centre in Varna under Project “Vessel Traffic Management Information System (VTMIS)”	Media General public Beneficiaries Project contractors Prime Minister, Ministers, Local government, etc.
	21.08.2015	Danube River	Executive Agency for Exploration and Maintenance of the Danube River (EAEMDR) completed successfully the project for improving the navigation conditions along the Danube River. Project “Improving the system for navigation and topohydrographic measurements along the Danube River”	Media General public Beneficiaries Project contractors
	10.09.2015	Ruse	Ribbon-cutting ceremony of the implementation of the river information system under project “Establishment of River Information System in the Bulgarian Part of the Danube River – BULRIS”.	General public Media Representatives of the central and local government, etc.
	24.09.2015	Sofia Hotel Balkan	Annual event for the progress on OP on “Transport” 2007-2013 in 2015	Media General public Beneficiaries Project contractors



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				<p>Representatives of OPT MA, CCU, OCEO, Sofia Municipality NGOs European Commission Opinion leaders Politicians Academia Social and economic partners</p>
	29.09.2015	Sofia	<p>Minister of transport, information technologies and communications Ivaylo Moskovski participated in the discussion forum on “Construction in 2016 – outlooks and challenges. The opportunities in the 2014 – 2020 programming period”.</p>	<p>Media General public Social and economic partners</p>
	22.10.2015	Sofia	<p>Launching the construction of Section 2 of the Western Arc of Sofia Ring Road from km 0+780 to km 6+309.</p>	<p>Media General public Local government Project contractors</p>
	22.10.2015	Dupnitsa	<p>Official ribbon-cutting ceremony of Lot 2 of Project “Struma Motorway, Lot 1, Lot 2 and Lot 4” co-financed from the EU Cohesion Fund through Operational Programme on „Transport” 2007-2013</p>	<p>Media General public Social and economic partners Politicians NGOs Beneficiaries Opinion leaders Local government Project contractors</p>
	29.10.2015		<p>Official ribbon-cutting ceremony of Lot 1 of Maritsa Motorway</p>	<p>Media General public Social and economic partners Politicians NGOs Beneficiaries Opinion leaders Local government</p>



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				Project contractors
	12.12.2015	Sofia	Presentation of the operational programmes “Transport” and “Transport and Transport Infrastructure” to students of “Transport Construction”	OPT MA Academia
	29.12.2015.	Montana	Official ribbon-cutting ceremony of Montana Bypass Road	Media General public Social and economic partners Politicians NGOs Beneficiaries Opinion leaders Local government Project contractors
	30.12.2015	Sofia	Official ribbon-cutting ceremony of Section 1 of the Western Arc of Sofia Ring Road	Media General public Beneficiaries Social and economic partners Politicians NGOs Beneficiaries Opinion leaders Local government Project contractors