
**CITIZEN'S SUMMARY
OF ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OPERATIONAL
PROGRAMME ENVIRONMENT 2014-2020 (OPE 2014-2020)
FOR 2016**

9 procedures under Operation Programme Environment 2014-2020 were announced in 2016, totalling BGN 403,323,122, with which the financial resource of which the beneficiaries under the programme may take advantage becomes BGN 1,391,489,687 or 43% of the programme budget.

5 of them in Water sector totalling BGN 161,489,791 for implementation of "early" WSS projects in order to provide continuity of the construction process of the WSS infrastructure until the elaboration of regional feasibility studies (RFS); for improvement of the water monitoring for the purpose of achieving conformity with the requirements of the European and national legislation and support of the regional planning of WSS investments on the territory of Sofia Municipality.

One procedure with beneficiaries the municipalities was announced in the sector of wastes for BGN 169,014,132 for provision of additional capacity for recycling of green and biodegradable wastes and capacity for preliminary treatment of domestic wastes.

One procedure under priority axis 3 Natura 2000 and Biodiversity was announced, amounting to BGN 4,300,000, aimed at raising the awareness of the stakeholders for Natura 2000 network.

Also the whole resource of 65.5 million for landslides risk prevention and management was announced in 2016, and resource of BGN 3 million was announced in sector Improvement of the ambient air quality, of which the municipalities with poor quality of the ambient air may take advantage, in order to develop or update their programmes for decrease of the pollutants and achieving of the established levels for PM10 and nitrogen oxide.

BGN 552,536,000 were contracted under Operational Programme Environment 2014-2020 in 2016, which is 17% of the programme budget. 24 projects are under implementation, and the major part of them - 15 total, are in

Water sector. As of 31 December 2016, the phased projects of Vratsa, Bansko, Varna - Zlatni Pyasatsi, Vidin, Radnevo, Tervel and Yambol are under implementation, which were started with funds from the first programme period and will be completed with funding from the new period. The first of them - the treatment plant of Shumen, which was opened on 8 September 2016, has already been completed. A project with extreme important for the Balck Sea coast is the modernization of WWTP - Zlatni Pyasatsi, which was built 33 years ago and is completely depreciated.

Two of the major "early" projects started in 2016. This is the water cycle of Dobrich. The investment amounts to BGN 114,901,132 and will solve problems in the WSS sector, which have been accumulated for years. The implementation of one more large-scale investment - the water cycle of Asenovgrad, amounting to BGN 106 million, started during the current year.

Also the first contracts under priority axis 4 - Flood and landslides risk prevention and management, were signed in 2016. One of them is for construction of 6 regional centres for response to disasters and crises, amounting to BGN 39 million, with beneficiary Fire Safety and Civil Protection Directorate General to the Ministry of Interior. Also a grant award order for implementation of a pilot project for real time monitoring of Iskar river and its tributaries, was signed. A modern system will give information to the institutions and the population not only about the risks of flood but also of drought. The purpose is to increase the readiness to response in case of occurring of natural disasters.

BGN 69,579,557 or 2.14% of the programme budget **were paid under OPE 2014-2020 as of the end of 2016.** The funds certified before the European Commission amount to BGN 5,661,911 or 0.17% of resource under OPE.

32 public events for popularization of OPE 2014-2020 and IAWP 2016 were carried out in 2016, and 11 of them were within the National information-educational campaign "It is cool to be eco", which started in 2015 and was developed in 2016.