

Health and Structural funds in 2007-2013: country and regional assessment

COUNTRY ASSESSMENT FOR HEALTH & STRUCTURAL FUNDS

BULGARIA (BG)

Table 1: Country assessment summary - Bulgaria

NSRF strategic priorities	Funding source	Direct health sector investment	Indirect health sector investment	Potential health gain	Lisbon Agenda (renewed 2005)
				Personal Economic Social Environmental	
Improving basic infrastructure	ERDF/ CF	X	-	Env, E, S	To create a more attractive investment and working environment; To enhance growth through knowledge and innovation; To create more and better jobs.
Increasing quality of human capital with a focus on employment	E S F / ERDF	X	X	S, E, P	
Fostering entrepreneurship, favourable business environment and good governance	ERDF/ ESF	-	X	E, S	
Supporting balanced territorial development	ERDF/ CF	X	-	E, S, Env	

Table 2: Eligible regions under Cohesion Policy Objectives

Cohesion Policy Objective	Regions
Convergence	Severoiztochen, Severentsentralen, Severozapaden, Yugoiztochen, Yuzhentsentralen.
Phasing out	N/A
Phasing in	N/A
Regional competitiveness and employment	N/A

Table 2: Eligible regions under Cohesion Policy Objectives

Background: Bulgaria has a population of 7.7 million. Since 1989 the population of Bulgaria has been declining. At the end of year 2005 the number of people permanently living in Bulgaria was 7 718 750. According to forecasts of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, in 2013 the population will be around 7 348 077 people, or about 4.8 % less. The main factors of the demographic crises in Bulgaria are connected with continuous reduction of the birth-rate in the country, demographic ageing of the population, relatively high natural death-rates including infants and children and the high emigration of people in active age. These factors lead to deterioration of the age structure of the population and a decrease in number of the potential labour force. Special attention should be given to the problems connected to the average duration of life in good health. The index for Bulgaria for year 2000 is 61 years of age for men and 65.8 years of age for women, according to appraisals from the World Health Organization. In other European countries according to the same source, the values of this index are 5 to 9 years higher.

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Table 2: Eligible regions under Cohesion Policy Objectives

The demographic situation and socioeconomic development of Bulgaria influence the trends in healthcare. A mortality rate (14.6 %), high child mortality (10.4 % – almost twice higher than EU average), lower life expectancy (72.6 years as compared with 79 years for the EU countries) and an ageing population, are some of the problems of Bulgaria's society (*Source: National Strategic Reference Framework - Programming Period 2007-2013*).

Table 3: Programme period 2007-2013 - health investment in the NSRF and OPs

Allocation of money in the SF 2007-2013

Source and budget	ERDF €3 205 132 218; ESF €1 185 459 863; CF €2 283 036 163
Total	€6.673 billion
Health sector % of total allocated SF	€70 163 857 million (approximately 1.1%)

NSRF strategic objectives (with OP relevance and funding source)

Improving basic infrastructure (**OP T, OP E, OP RD** - ERDF/CF)
 Increasing quality of human capital with a focus on employment (**OP HRD, OP RD** - ESF/ERDF)
 Fostering entrepreneurship, favourable business environment and good governance (**OP C, OP AC, OP RD** - ERDF/ESF)
 Supporting balanced territorial development (**OP RD, OP E** - ERDF/CF)

Operational Programmes

Transport (OP T)
 Environment (OP E)
 Human Resource Development (OP HRD)
 Development of Competitiveness of the Bulgarian Economy (OP C)
 Administrative Capacity (OP AC)
 Regional Development (OP RD)
 Technical Assistance (OP TA)

Table 3: Programme period 2007-2013 - health investment in the NSRF and OPs

Direct health sector investment (with NSRF/OP relevance)

Health infrastructure

social infrastructure in under-developed regions (Strategic objective 4 and OP RD).

E-health

investment in e-health (OP AC).

Health services

restructuring inpatient specialist care (Strategic objective 2 and OP HRD)

institutional strengthening (Strategic objective 2 and OP HRD).

Health promotion and prevention

public informational promotional and preventive healthcare campaigns (Strategic objective 2 and OP HRD)

development and implementation of campaigns with screening and early diagnosis of socially significant diseases (Strategic objective 2 and OP HRD).

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**Table 3: Programme period 2007-2013 -
health investment in the NSRF and OPs**

Indirect health sector investment (with NSRF/OP relevance)

- Strategic priority 2 and OP HRD: With an aim to increase the capacity and efficiency of the working institutions, active in the area of the healthcare, activities aimed at the development of monitoring systems are envisaged, evaluation of the efficiency and evaluation of the influence of the healthcare services, and also introduction of good practices and activities of institutions and suppliers in the area of the health care services.
- Strategic priority 4 and OP RD: supports the development of sustainable, close and approachable city centers, will provide the relevant and profitable healthcare infrastructure, through modernization of the infrastructure and the equipment of the healthcare institutions for primary, emergency, specialized outpatient and hospital aid.

Evidence of capacity to deliver intersectoral policy and planning

The NSRF and OPs suggest where capacity exists and will be developed. Specifically, in terms of maximising health gain from Structural Funds capacity building is an approach to the development of sustainable skills, organisational structures, resources and commitment to health improvement in health and other sectors. Bulgaria is implementing targeted plans for strengthening of the capacity to manage and absorb the Structural and Cohesion Funds at central, regional and local level. They feel this is being achieved at national level and currently the efforts are more concentrated on continued capacity building at the regional, district and local levels. A specifically funded project of relevance to the health sector is “Development of in-service training centre network linked to the implementation and enforcement of the acquis”. The overall objective of the project is to improve in-service training opportunities for local inspectors and stakeholders working at municipal and regional level. This will be achieved through building a networked system for in-service training to satisfy clearly identified training needs and priorities for sustainable improvements in support for acquis implementation and enforcement in compliance with the Community norms. One area in which the project seeks achievement is healthcare including care of children, the elderly and the handicapped. Beyond this, an initial focus could include: organisation development (OP Managing Authorities, Regional Development Councils); workforce development (Regional Development Councils), resources allocation (OP Monitoring Committees), leadership (Coordination Council for the National Development Plan and the NSRF 2007-2013; Heads of Managing Authorities of the Operational Programmes) and partnerships/networks (Regional Development Councils).

Regional planning and implementation (From OPs)

The NSRF presents significant current evidence about the 6 Bulgarian regions. The Regional Development Plans 2007-2013 are strategic documents at NUTS II level, which describe the specific investment needs as well as the chosen development strategy at regional level. They were prepared in accordance with Article 11 of the Law on Regional Development and adopted at regional level by the Regional Development Councils of the six planning regions. However, strategic objective 4 and OP RD do not seem to address regional planning and implementation in any detail. The project mentioned above Development of in-service training centre network linked to the implementation and enforcement of the acquis suggests a focus on workforce development at regional and local level.

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**Table 4: Non-health sector investment with potential health gain
2007-2013**

Strategic priority (and OP)	Relevant investments	Potential health gain
<p>SP 2 - Increasing the Quality of Human Capital with a Focus on Employment (OP HRD)</p>	<p>Objective “Developing skilled and adaptable labour force”: In order to increase labour market flexibility attention should be paid to development and dissemination of knowledge on innovative and adaptable forms of work organization to take advantage of new technologies – including teleworking, improving health and safety at work, increasing productivity and promoting better reconciliation of work and family life.</p> <p>Objective “Occupational safety and health”: A combination of legislative, organizational, economic, social, technical and healthcare activities are to be accomplished and these measures are going to be oriented towards ensuring the average physical, moral and social well-being of the workers. Furthermore, measures focused on building a preventive culture of the workers and measures aimed at further development of the system for prevention of professional and health risks at the workplace, as well as measures aimed at setting conditions for effective, safe and healthy work, are to be created.</p> <p>Objective “Policy in the field of social protection and social inclusion”: A priority is to implement measures aimed at providing high quality social services for the most disadvantaged groups, improving the health status of the population and facilitating the access of the poor and vulnerable population to healthcare services OP HRD. The overall goal of HRD OP is to improve the quality of life through employment promotion, access to high quality education and health, as well as lifelong learning and social inclusion. The 6th priority axis is “Improving the efficiency of the labour market institutions and of social and healthcare services”.</p>	<p>Social, economic, personal</p>
<p>OP Competitiveness</p>	<p>The encouragement of a knowledge-based economy and the innovation activities is a separate priority in the OP which will strengthen the relationship between science and business and will increase the enterprise’s expenditures on research and development and the value added of the produced services and goods.</p>	<p>Economic, social</p>