



Study on the extent to which and how Member States used the ESF and the ERDF in the programming periods 2007–2013 and 2014–2020 to support their justice system

Member State Chapter Bulgaria



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List of abbreviations

Abbreviation in English (as used in the report)	Full name/title in English	Full name/title in original language
ACSC	Administrative Court – Sofia City	Административен съд София-град (АССГ)
AIRs	Annual Implementation Report	Годишни доклади за изпълнение
AWP	Annual Work Programme	Годишна индикативна програма
CRNLE	Centralised Register of the Not-for-profit Legal Entities	Централен регистър на юридическите лица с нестопанска цел
ESIF	European Structural and Investment Funds	Европейски структурни и инвестиционни фондове
HPC	Hybrid private cloud (of the public administration)	Хибриден частен облак (на държавната администрация)
HRM	Human Resource Management	Управление на човешките ресурси
ISJC	Inspectorate of the Supreme Judicial Council	Инспекторат на висшия съдебен съвет
MA	Managing Authority	Управляващ орган
MC	Monitoring committee	Комитет за наблюдение
MoJ	Ministry of Justice	Министерство на правосъдието
MSAAR	Ministry of State Administration and Administrative Reform	Министерство на държавната администрация и административната реформа (МДААР)
NIJ	National Institute of Justice	Национален институт на правосъдието
NRP	National Reform Programme	Национална програма за реформи
NSRF	National Strategic Reference Framework	Национална стратегическа референтна рамка
OP	Operational Programme	Оперативна програма
OPAC	Operational Programme ‘Administrative Capacity’	Оперативна програма ‘Административен капацитет’
OPGG	Operational Programme ‘Good Governance’	Оперативна програма ‘Добро управление’
PA	Partnership Agreement	Споразумение за партньорство
RA	Registry Agency	Агенция по вписванията
SAC	Supreme Administrative Court	Върховен административен съд
SCC	Supreme Cassation Court	Върховен касационен съд
SJC	Supreme Judicial Council	Висш съдебен съвет
UISCC	Unified Information System for Combating Crime	Единна информационна система за противодействие на престъпността

Document checklist

Document type	Title in English	Title in original language	Does the document exist?		Did the researcher have access to the document?		Does the document refer to the justice system?	Is it reviewed and summarised in the MS chapter in the relevant period(s)?	Is it included in the summary table?
			2007–2013	2014–2020	2007–2013	2014–2020			
National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF)	National Strategic Reference Framework for Programming Period 2007-2013	Национална стратегическа референтна рамка (НСРР) за програмния период 2007-2013 г.	yes	n/a	yes	n/a	Yes	Yes	Yes
Partnership Agreement (PA)	Partnership agreement of the Republic of Bulgaria outlining the support from the European Structural and Investment Funds for the 2014–2020 period	Споразумение за партньорство на Република България, очертаващо помощта от Европейските структурни и инвестиционни фондове за периода 2014–2020 г.	n/a	Yes	n/a	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Operational Programme (OP)	Operational Programme Administrative Capacity 2007–2013	Оперативна програма 'Административен капацитет 2007–2013 г.'	Yes	n/a	Yes	n/a	Yes	Yes	Yes
Operational Programme (OP)	Operational Programme Good Governance 2014–2020	Оперативна програма 'Добро управление' 2014–2020	n/a	Yes	n/a	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Needs assessments	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Country Specific Recommendations	-	-	No	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Action Plans	-	-	No	No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Evaluation plan	Evaluation plan for OPAC for 2007-2013	План за оценка на ОПАК за 2007-2015 г.	Yes	n/a	Yes	n/a	Yes	Yes	Yes
Evaluation plan	Evaluation plan of the OP Good Governance for the period 2014-2020	План за оценка на ОП 'Добро управление' за програмен период 2014-2020 г.	n/a	Yes	n/a	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ex-ante evaluation	Operational Programme Administrative Capacity (OPAC) Ex-ante Evaluation ¹	Предварителна оценка на Оперативна програма 'Административен капацитет' 2007-2013	Yes	n/a	No	n/a	Yes	Yes	No

¹ The ex-ante evaluations that describe Bulgaria's needs related to the ESF/ERDF support for the national justice system in relation to Operational Programme Administrative Capacity (OPAC) are not available online. The website of the former OPAC Managing Authority (MA) – the Ministry of State Administration and Administrative Reform (MSAAR), where the report was published, was shut down without its contents being transferred or archived to another website. However we know that it exists because other documents refer to it.

Document type	Title in English	Title in original language	Does the document exist?		Did the researcher have access to the document?		Does the document refer to the justice system?	Is it reviewed and summarised in the MS chapter in the relevant period(s)?	Is it included in the summary table?
			2007–2013	2014–2020	2007–2013	2014–2020			
Ex-ante evaluation	Operational Programme Good Governance (OPGG) Ex-ante Evaluation	Предварителна оценка на Оперативна програма 'Добро управление' 2014–2020	n/a	Yes	n/a	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ex-post evaluation	Analysis of the implementation of Operational Programme 'Administrative Capacity' 2007–2013 – Executive summary	Анализ на изпълнението на Оперативна програма 'Административен капацитет' 2007–2013 – Резюме	Yes	n/a	Yes	n/a	Yes	Yes	Yes
Interim evaluation	Report on the analysis of the implementation of Operational Programme 'Administrative Capacity' 2007–2013	Доклад от анализ на изпълнението на Оперативна програма 'Административен капацитет' 2007–2013	Yes	n/a	Yes	n/a	Yes	Yes	Yes
Interim evaluation	First report Evaluation of the implementation of OPAC for the period Jan–Dec 2014. Interim evaluation of OPAC	Първи доклад Оценка на изпълнението на ОПАК за периода януари – декември 2014 г. Извършване на текуща оценка на Оперативна програма 'Административен капацитет'	Yes	n/a	Yes	n/a	Yes	Yes	Yes
Interim evaluation	Second report Evaluation of the implementation of OPAC for the period Jan 2013–Sep 2015. Interim evaluation of OPAC	Втори доклад Оценка на изпълнението на ОПАК за периода януари 2013 – септември 2015 г. Извършване на текуща оценка на Оперативна програма 'Административен капацитет'	Yes	n/a	Yes	n/a	Yes	Yes	Yes, as excluded in the ISS
Interim evaluation	Final Report 'Interim Evaluation of Operational Programme Administrative Capacity'	Final Report 'Interim Evaluation of Operational Programme 'Administrative Capacity'	Yes	n/a	Yes	n/a	Yes	Yes	Yes
Annual Implementation Reports (AIR) (for each relevant OP) ²									
2007	Annual progress report on the OPAC for 2007	Годишен доклад за напредъка по Оперативна програма 'Административен капацитет' за 2007 г.	Yes	n/a	Yes	n/a	Yes	Yes	Yes

² During the 2007–2013 programming period the Bulgarian authorities issued regular Annual progress reports, which served as AIRs.

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			2007–2013	2014–2020	2007–2013	2014–2020			
2008	Annual progress report on the OPAC for 2008	Годишен доклад за напредъка по Оперативна програма 'Административен капацитет' за 2008 г.	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes
2009	Annual progress report on the OPAC for 2009	Годишен доклад за напредъка по Оперативна програма 'Административен капацитет' за 2009 г.	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes
2010	Annual progress report on the OPAC for 2010	Годишен доклад за напредъка по Оперативна програма 'Административен капацитет' за 2010 г.	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes
2011	Annual progress report on the OPAC for 2011	Годишен доклад за напредъка по Оперативна програма 'Административен капацитет' за 2011 г.	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes
2012	Annual progress report on the OPAC for 2012	Годишен доклад за напредъка по Оперативна програма 'Административен капацитет' за 2012 г.	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes
2013	Annual progress report on the OPAC for 2013	Годишен доклад за напредъка по Оперативна програма 'Административен капацитет' за 2013 г.	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes
2014	Annual progress report on the OPAC for 2014	Годишен доклад за напредъка по Оперативна програма 'Административен капацитет' за 2014 г.	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes
Annual Implementation Reports (AIR) (for each relevant OP)	Annual implementation report for the OPGG for 2014–2015	Годишен доклад за изпълнението на Оперативна програма „Добро управление“ за 2014 и 2015 г.	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, as excluded in the ISS
Annual Progress Reports ³	n/a	n/a	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Annual Work Programme (AWP)	Indicative annual working programme for providing financial aid through OPAC for 2009	Индикативна годишна работна програма за предоставяне на безвъзмездна финансова помощ по Оперативна програма 'Административен капацитет' за 2009 г.	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes

³ Ibid.

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			2007–2013	2014–2020	2007–2013	2014–2020			
Annual Work Programme (AWP)	Indicative annual working programme for providing financial aid through OPAC for 2010	Индикативна годишна работна програма за предоставяне на безвъзмездна финансова помощ по Оперативна програма 'Административен капацитет' за 2010 г.	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes
Annual Work Programme (AWP)	Indicative annual working programme for providing financial aid through OPAC for 2011 – revised	Индикативна годишна работна програма за предоставяне на безвъзмездна финансова помощ по Оперативна програма 'Административен капацитет' за 2011 г. – обновена	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes
Annual Work Programme (AWP)	Indicative annual working programme for providing financial aid through OPAC for 2012 – revised	Индикативна годишна работна програма за предоставяне на безвъзмездна финансова помощ по Оперативна програма 'Административен капацитет' за 2012 г. – обновена	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes
Annual Work Programme (AWP)	Indicative annual working programme for providing financial aid through OPAC for 2013	Индикативна годишна работна програма за предоставяне на безвъзмездна финансова помощ по Оперативна програма 'Административен капацитет' за 2013 г.	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes, as excluded in the ISS
Annual Work Programme (AWP)	Indicative annual working programme for providing financial aid through OPAC for 2013 – Revision 7	Индикативна годишна работна програма за предоставяне на безвъзмездна финансова помощ по Оперативна програма 'Административен капацитет' за 2013 г. – Седма версия	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes
Annual Work Programme (AWP)	Indicative annual work programme for OPGG for 2015. 2nd revision as of 20.11.2015	Индикативна годишна работна програма по ОПДУ за 2015 г. Второ изменение, одобрено на 20.11.2015	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Annual Work Programme (AWP)	Indicative annual work programme for OPGG for 2016. Revision as of 12.09.2016	Индикативна годишна работна програма по ОПДУ за 2016 г. Одобрена на 12.09.2016	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Annual Work Programme (AWP)	Indicative annual work programme for OPGG for 2017. Revision as of 28.11.2016	Индикативна годишна работна програма по ОПДУ за 2017 г. Одобрена на 28.11.2016	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

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			2007–2013	2014–2020	2007–2013	2014–2020			
Any other evaluation	n/a	n/a	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Any other relevant study previously undertaken	n/a	n/a	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Calls for proposals	n/a	n/a	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Consultation of stakeholders	n/a	n/a	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Monitoring Committee (MC) – Decision	n/a	n/a	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Monitoring Committee (MC) – Minutes	n/a	n/a	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Monitoring Committee (MC) – Other	Rationale regarding procedure within priority axis 1, sub-priority 1.5. 'Transparent and effective judiciary'	Мотиви относно процедура по Приоритетна ос I, подприоритет 1.5. 'Прозрачна и ефективна съдебна система'	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes
Monitoring Committee (MC) – Other	Rationale regarding procedure within priority axis 2, sub-priority 2.4. 'Competent judiciary and effective human resource management'	МОТИВИ относно процедура по Приоритетна ос II, подприоритет 2.4. 'Компетентна съдебна система и ефективно управление на човешките ресурси'	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes
Monitoring Committee (MC) – Other	Rationale regarding procedure within the Priority axis 3, sub-priority 3.3. 'Improvement of the services in the judicial system authorities through ICT development'	Мотиви Относно процедура по Приоритетна ос III, Подприоритет 3.3. 'Подобряване на обслужването от страна на органите на съдебната власт чрез развитие на информационните технологии'	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes
Monitoring Committee (MC) – Other	Manual for the OPGG indicators	Наръчник за индикаторите по ОПДУ 2014-2020	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, as excluded in the ISS

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			2007–2013	2014–2020	2007–2013	2014–2020			
Monitoring Committee (MC) – Other	Selection criteria for the OPGG 2014-2020. Procedure 1, PA 1, 2 and 3	Критерии за подбор на операции по ОПДУ 2014-2020. Процедура 1, ПО 1, 2 и 3	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, as excluded in the ISS
Monitoring Committee (MC) – Other	Selection criteria for the OPGG 2014-2020. Procedure 4, PA3	Критерии за подбор на операции по ОПДУ 2014-2020. Процедура 4, ПОЗ	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, as excluded in the ISS
Monitoring Committee (MC) – Other	Selection criteria for the OPGG 2014-2020. Procedure 5, PA3	Критерии за подбор на операции по ОПДУ 2014-2020. Процедура 5, ПОЗ	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, as excluded in the ISS s
Monitoring Committee (MC) – Other	Progress report on the Indicative annual work programme for 2015	Изпълнение на Индикативната годишна работна програма за 2015 г.	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Monitoring Committee (MC) – Other	Progress report on OPGG for 2015-2016	Изпълнение и напредък по ОПДУ за 2015 и 2016 г.	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Monitoring Committee (MC) – Other	Selection criteria for Procedure 'Civil control over the justice system reform'. Methodology for evaluation of applications for the Procedure 'Civil control over the justice system reform'	Критерии за подбор на операции по Процедура 'Граждански контрол върху реформата в съдебната система'. Методология за оценка на проектни предложения по процедура „Граждански контрол върху реформата в съдебната система“	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Monitoring Committee (MC) – Other	Selection criteria for Procedure 'Civil control over the justice system reform' (Presentation)	Критерии за подбор на операции по Процедура 'Граждански контрол върху реформата в съдебната система'. (Презентация)	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Monitoring Committee (MC) – Other	Selection criteria for Procedure 'Civil control over the justice system reform'	Критерии за подбор на операции по Процедура 'Граждански контрол върху реформата в съдебната система'	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Monitoring Committee (MC) – Other	Progress report on OPGG for 2016	Изпълнение и напредък по ОПДУ за 2016 г.	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

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			2007–2013	2014–2020	2007–2013	2014–2020			
Monitoring Committee (MC) – Other	Selection criteria for the OPGG 2014–2020. Procedure 1, PA 1, 2 and 3. Updated criteria	Критерии за подбор на операции по ОПДУ 2014–2020. Процедура 1, ПО 1, 2 и 3. Изменени критерии	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Monitoring Committee (MC) – Other	Selection criteria for the OPGG 2014–2020. Procedure 1, PA 1, 2 and 3. Report on the requirements for amendment	Критерии за подбор на операции по ОПДУ 2014–2020. Процедура 1, ПО 1, 2 и 3. Доклад за необходимостта от изменение на критериите	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Monitoring Committee (MC) – Report	Final progress report on the implementation of OPAC	Окончателен доклад за изпълнението на Оперативна програма 'Административен капацитет'	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes
National Reform Programme	National reform programme for higher growth and employment for the period 2007–2009	Национална програма за реформи за по-висок растеж и повече работни места 2007–2009 г.	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes, as excluded in the ISS
National Reform Programme	National Reform Programme. Updated version 2016	National Reform Programme. Updated version 2016	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Other implementation reports									
Other – please specify	Convergence programme 2015–2018	Конвергентна програма 2015–2018	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Other – please specify	National development programme: Bulgaria 2020	Национална програма за развитие: България 2020	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Other – please specify	Project No C11-15-1	Проект No C11-15-1	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes, as excluded in the ISS
Other – please specify	Project No C11-15-2	Проект No C11-15-2	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes, as excluded in the ISS
Other – please specify	Project No C11-15-3	Проект No C11-15-3	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes, as excluded in the ISS

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			2007–2013	2014–2020	2007–2013	2014–2020			
Other – please specify	Contract No C11-15-1	Договор No C11-15-1	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes, as excluded in the ISS
Other – please specify	Contract No C11-15-3	Договор No C11-15-3	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes, as excluded in the ISS

1. Introduction

Bulgaria	
Country Expert Name	Todor Galev
Data Collection Period Task 1	March – April 2017
Data Collection Period Task 2	April – June 2017
Number of regions/OPs covered	<p>Projects supporting the justice system have been funded under 2 OPs:</p> <p>2007–2013:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OP Administrative (ESF)⁴: 52 projects <p>2014–2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OP Good Governance (ESF)⁵: 11 projects to date

Overall, the vast majority of documents regarding the planning and implementation of European Structural and Investment Funds are publicly available in Bulgaria. Two OPs are related to the national justice system – one per each programming period, namely OP Administrative capacity 2007–2013 (OPAC) and OP Good Governance 2014–2020 (OPGG), both of which relate only to ESF. The Council of Ministers maintains centralised databases for each programming period and all OPs in the country.⁶ Both databases offer public online access to data on OP, priority axis, sub-priority and project levels in a structured template-based format. The OPAC Managing Authority has also maintained its own official website,⁷ while for the OPGG no separate website exists. Two other specialised websites also offer information on the OPs' projects and procedures for the both periods – EUFUNDS.BG⁸ and STRATEGY.BG.⁹ However, some documents – e.g. the ex-ante evaluation reports for both OPAC and OPGG – are not available online. Two requests for information were sent to the respective MAs for these and other missing documents but they were not provided. However, taking into account that the majority of documents for both programming periods are available online, including centralised project-level databases for each period, no interviews with stakeholders were undertaken. Five conversations on the phone with officials from the MAs were undertaken in order to clarify some issues that arose within the work process.

The **main challenges** were faced during the work on the collected data and information and refer to the misalignment between the planned programme-level activities, outputs, and results and the reported project-level indicators about them.

Intervention logic 2007–2013

In the **2007–2013 programming period, the main justice system related needs identified, as outlined in the** OPAC 2007–2013 (CCI No 2007BG05POO002) description, refer to improving the general administrative capacity of the justice system (i.e. improving language and digital skills of the employees, improving the effectiveness of the administrative procedures through training of the staff and implementation of new IT services or new internal regulations, etc.), enhancing the specialised qualification of magistrates and integrating and updating the existing information systems in the system or development of new ones.

The **OPAC 2007–2013 specific objectives** refer directly to the priorities of the National Strategic Reference Framework and regarding the support to justice system include: increasing the confidence of citizens and businesses in the justice system, improving the

⁴ <https://www.eufunds.bg/archive/documents/1259761603.pdf>

⁵ https://www.eufunds.bg/images/eu_funds/files/OP_Good_Governance/OP_final.pdf

⁶ The 2007–2013 database (<http://umispublic.government.bg>) offers only information about the implemented projects, while the 2014–2020 database is divided into an e-application web portal (<https://eumis2020.government.bg>) and an information portal (<http://2020.eufunds.bg>).

⁷ www.opac.government.bg

⁸ www.eufunds.bg

⁹ www.strategy.bg

qualifications of magistrates and court officials and increasing the effectiveness and transparency of the judiciary, including through the introduction of integrated automatic information systems. The OP Administrative capacity 2007-2013 (OPAC) was funded through the ESF and aimed at improving existing and building new capacity in state administration and civil society organisations (NGOs), working on justice-related topics. ERDF did not support the justice system in Bulgaria during the first programming period. Even OPAC objectives refer directly to the NSF priorities in the field of justice, and the analysis of the state of justice system is one of the four major chapters in OPAC itself, the programme divided the issues, related to justice only by three sub-priorities into different priority axis of the programme:

PA I – Good governance: Sub-priority 1.5. Transparent and effective judicial system;
 PA II – Human resources management: Sub-priority 2.4. Competent judicial system and effective human resource management;
 PA III – Quality administrative service delivery and e-government development: Sub-priority 3.3. Improvement of the service delivery provided by the bodies of the judiciary through development of information technologies.

Out of 52 projects related to justice in total implemented under the **OPAC 2007-2013**, seven have been cancelled during their lifecycle while the rest of 45 projects are closed. All the collected information shows that these are the only differences between the planned and the implemented activities under this programme. The identified needs have been addressed mainly through the implementation of two types of activities. The first one refers to competence system – both on general skills, related to their everyday work (e.g. foreign language and digital skills, use of information systems related to administrative work, etc.), and on specialised law-related topics. The second type of activities refers to development and implementation of general and specialised information systems in different bodies of the justice system, e.g. case management systems, HRM systems, electronic document flow systems, etc. Accordingly, the major outputs from the projects, supporting justice, refer to indicators, which addressed directly the identified needs:

- Number of trained magistrates, administrative officials and technical staff and/or number and type of conducted trainings. With a single exception, the share of trained women is not reported;
- Number of newly developed training modules for the justice system. However, about ¼ of the projects did not report the exact number;
- Number of developed / upgraded information systems in the justice system (including case management systems, HRM systems, electronic document flow systems, etc.);
- Number of the justice institutions, which introduced a case management system.

The evaluation of OPAC 2007-2013 in general and of justice-related projects in particular, has been positive and the major conclusion is that the programme has achieved its goals and thus the undertaken activities have addressed properly the identified needs.¹⁰

Intervention Logic 2014–20

In the **2014–2020 period, the main needs**¹¹ refer to the reduction of administrative burden for businesses, and the development of accountability and transparency of the justice system, including through the application of electronic systems and databases. Preventive actions against corruption in the justice system are also to be supported in this period.

The **OPGG 2014–2020 specific objectives** reflect these needs setting the following specific objectives as corresponding to the investment priorities related to support to justice:

- Specific objective 1: Increase of transparency and acceleration of judicial proceedings through structural, procedural and organisational reforms in the judiciary;

¹⁰ Analysis of the implementation of Operational Programme 'Administrative Capacity' 2007–2013, Ex-post evaluation report, 2016.

¹¹ As outlined in the OPGG 2014–2020 description.

- Specific objective 2: Improve the accessibility and the accountability of the judiciary through the introduction of e-justice;
- Specific objective 3: Extension of the scope and improvement of the quality of training in the judicial system.

In contrast to OPAC 2007-2013, the current programme set up the intervention on justice system as a separate priority axis, dedicated to justice (PA 3: Transparent and efficient judiciary), which underlines the increased importance of this topic in the planning and n of the second programming period.

OPGG 2014–2020 is funded rough the ESF.¹² As all projects related to justice, included into this review, are still ongoing, there is no official information about the implementation of these projects. As a result, it is not possible to compare planned and implemented programme activities and objectives.

- first programming period where the focus was on training activities and the development of single bodies' information systems of the current programming period are focused on the comprehensive restructuring and of the justice sysetory and technical audit of the existing information systems in all bodies of judiciary;
- Creating a model for the optimisation of the judicial map of all regional courts and prosecution offices and providing a roadmap for reforming the territorial and functional structure of the courts and prosecution offices;
- Elaborating a strategy for the development of the penitentiary system in Bulgaria up to 2025;

Introducing two new unified information systems for all law enforcement bodies, purchase of hardware equipment and software, etc. are foreseen mainly as supporting activities in the current programming period as part of the more ambitious large-scale projects, covering the justice system.

Due to the fact that all projects, included inhe current review, are still ongoing, the available project-level documents **do not include any information about actual outputs, results or impacts.**

Justice system in Bulgaria

Table 1: Overview of the justice system

Institutions and bodies of the judiciary ¹³		Other institutions and bodies that are part of or supporting the justice system ¹⁴	
Englishsh	Original langu urts - Supreme Court ofлица - окръжни съдилища -апелативни съдилища -Върховен касационен съд	Ministry of Justice	Министерство на правосъдието
Specialised courts: -administrative courts -Supreme Administrative court -military courts -Military Court of Appeal -Specialised Criminal Court -Specialised Criminal Court of Appeal	Специализирани съдилища: -административни съдилища -Върховен Административен съд - военни съдилища - Военно-апелативен съд - Специализиран наказателен съд - Специализиран апелативен наказателен съд	Directorate General 'Execution of penal sanctions' at the Minister of Justice (including its territorial services)	Главна дирекция 'Изпълнение на наказанията

¹² As per the information provided by the OPGG MA during the review process, between 1% and 3 % of the contracted amounts for the projects, related to justice, hasbeen funded by ERDF. Neither official information on this was found in the reviewed documents, nor the MA was able to provide more detailed information.

¹³ i.e. the judiciary as defined in the national legal framework and following the definition used for the purpose of this study.

¹⁴ i.e. justice system as defined for the purpose of this study.

Institutions and bodies of the judiciary ¹³		Other institutions and bodies that are part of or supporting the justice system ¹⁴	
The Prosecutor's Office ¹⁵ : - Prosecutor General - Supreme Prosecutor's Office of Cassation - Supreme Administrative Prosecutor's Office prosecutors' Offices of appeals - district prosecutors' offices - regional prosecutors' offices - military district prosecutors' offices - Military Prosecutors' Office of Appeal - National Investigative Service (and its subunits)/	Прокуратура: - Главен прокурор - Върховна касационна прокуратура - Върховна административна прокуратура - апелативна прокуратура - окръжни прокуратури - районни прокуратури - окръжни военни прокуратури - Военно-апелативна прокуратура - Национална следствена служба(вкл. подразделенията ѝ)	Registry Agency to the Ministry of Justice	Агенция по вписванията
Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) ¹⁶	Висш съдебен съвет	National Legal Aid Bureau at the Minister of Justice	Национално бюро за правна помощ
Inspectorate with the Supreme Judicial Council ¹⁷	Инспекторат към Висшия съдебен съвет	a) National Institute of Justice(NIJ) ¹⁸ b) Court of Arbitration at the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry c) Arbitration Court at the Bulgarian Industrial Association d) Bulgarian association of registration judges e) Notary Chamber and Notary associations f) Supreme Bar Council and Bar associations g) Union of Judges in Bulgaria (SSB) h) Bulgarian Judges Association i) Association of Public Prosecutors in Bulgaria j) Chamber of Private Bailiffs k) Bulgarian Association of State Bailiffs	a) Национален институт на правосъдието b) Арбитражен съд при БТПП c) Арбитражен съд при БСК d) Българска асоциация на съдиите по вписванията e) Нотариална камара и нотариални колегии f) Висш адвокатски съвет и адвокатски колегии g) Съюз на съдиите в България h) Българска съдийска асоциация i) Асоциация на прокурорите в България j) Камара на частните съдебни изпълнители k) Асоциация на държавните съдебни изпълнители в България

¹⁵ The structure of the prosecuting magistracy corresponds to the structure of the courts.

¹⁶ The SJC is a self-governing body, responsible for the self-administration, organisation and independence of the judiciary, recently divided in two chambers – one governing the courts and the other governing prosecutors. The Minister of Justice presides at the meetings of the Supreme Judicial Council in a non-voting capacity.

¹⁷ It examines the operation of the judicial authorities without affecting the independence of judges, jurors, prosecutors and investigating magistrates.

¹⁸ NIJ is a public institution, and an independent legal entity but in a functional relationship with the Supreme Judicial Council and the Ministry of Justice.

Table 2: Stakeholders contacted for Task 2*

Name of institution in English	Name of institution in original language	Relevance to the study (MA, IB, beneficiary, part of target group, other)	Position (if known)	Method of information request (email exchange/phone call etc)	Did you hear back from the stakeholder? (y/n)	Date of conversation/email exchange
Bulgaria (BG)						
'Good governance' Directorate, Council of Ministers	Дирекция „Добро управление“ към Министерския съвет	Managing Authority	Head of Unit 'Financial Management', DG 'Good governance', Council of Ministers	Phone call, asking about availability of missing programme and project level documents and about the availability of certain data	Phone conversation	end of March 2017
'Good governance' Directorate, Council of Ministers	Дирекция „Добро управление“ към Министерския съвет	Managing Authority	Head of Unit 'Monitoring and verification', DG 'Good governance', Council of Ministers	Phone call, asking about some details on availability of data for the second programming period	Phone conversation	April 2017
Central Coordination Unit	Централно координационно звено в Администрацията на Министерския съвет	Central Coordination Unit in the Administration of the Council of Ministers		Did not need to contact as documents were publicly available		
Administrative court Dobrich	Административен съд Добрич	Beneficiary		Sent email with a request for information, following the elaborated common template	Two contacts via phone. Received answer per email – see below	Sent email on 13.11.2017
Administrative court Haskovo	Административен съд Хасково	Beneficiary		Sent email with a request for information, following the elaborated common template		Sent email on 13.11.2017
Administrative court Pleven	Административен съд Плевен	Beneficiary		Sent email with a request for information, following the elaborated common template	Received answer, see below	Sent email on 13.11.2017
Administrative court Sofia city	Административен съд София -град	Beneficiary		Sent email with a request for information, following the elaborated common template		Sent email on 13.11.2017
Administrative court Veliko Tarnovo **	Административен съд Велико Търново	Beneficiary		Sent email with a request for information, following the elaborated common template	Received response, instructing to	Sent email on 13.11.2017

					send Request for information according to the Access to Public Information Act	
Administrative court Vidin	Административен съд Видин	Beneficiary		Sent email with a request for information, following the elaborated common template		Sent email on 13.11.2017
Administrative court Yambol	Административен съд Ямбол	Beneficiary		Sent email with a request for information, following the elaborated common template	Received official answer per email that can't provide any information, as all documents are archived.	Sent email on 13.11.2017
District court Haskovo	Районен съд Хасково	Beneficiary		Sent email with a request for information, following the elaborated common template	Received official letter with information about the budget lines. See below	Sent email on 13.11.2017
District court Pazardzhik	Районен съд Пазарджик	Beneficiary		Sent email with a request for information, following the elaborated common template		Sent email on 13.11.2017
Inspectorate of the Supreme Judicial Council	Инспекторат на Висшия съдебен съвет	Beneficiary		Sent email with a request for information, following the elaborated common template		Sent email on 13.11.2017
Military court of appeals	Военно-апелативен съд	Beneficiary		Sent email with a request for information, following the elaborated common template		Sent email on 13.11.2017
Ministry of interior	Министерство на вътрешните работи	Beneficiary		Sent email with a request for information, following the elaborated common template	Received response per email that the period for providing the requested information is extended by 10 days and before its expiration, an	Sent email on 13.11.2017

					answer will be send. Contacted via phone but refused to give additional information.	
Ministry of Justice	Министерство на правосъдието	Beneficiary	Head of unit, DG 'Execution of Punishments', Ministry of Justice	Sent email with a request for information, following the elaborated common template	Received answer per email – see below	Sent email on 13.11.2017
National Investigation Service	Национална следствена служба	Beneficiary		Sent email with a request for information, following the elaborated common template	Received copy of letter stating that the request was forwarded to the Administration office of the Chief Prosecutor, who are entitled to answer the request. The Administration office was contacted via phone (secretary of Mr Ivan Marinov – General Secretary of the Administration office) but they refused to give any information before the official response letter was sent.	Sent email on 13.11.2017
National Institute of Justice	Национален институт на правосъдието	Beneficiary		Sent email with a request for information, following the elaborated common template	Received official answer per email that they can't provide	Sent email on 13.11.2017

					any information, as all documents are archived.	
Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria **	Прокуратура на Р България	Beneficiary		Sent email with a request for information, following the elaborated common template	Received response, instructing to send Request for information according to the Access to Public Information Act.	Sent email on 13.11.2017
Registry Agency	Агенция по вписванията	Beneficiary		Sent email with a request for information, following the elaborated common template	Several phone calls and emails exchanged in the period 15-22.11.2017. Received official answer – see below	Sent email on 13.11.2017
Supreme Judicial Council	Висш съдебен съвет	Beneficiary		Sent email with a request for information, following the elaborated common template	Call on the phone on 17.11.2017 and again on 23.11.2017 – no information was provided, with the justification that an official answer will follow up.	Sent email on 13.11.2017
Sofia City Court	Софийски градски съд	Beneficiary		Sent email with a request for information, following the elaborated common template		Sent email on 13.11.2017
Sofia District Court	Софийски окръжен съд	Beneficiary		Sent email with a request for information, following the elaborated common template		Sent email on 13.11.2017
Supreme Administrative court	Върховен административен съд	Beneficiary		Sent email with a request for information, following the elaborated common template		Sent email on 13.11.2017

* Please note that certain changes occurred during the 2007–2013 programming period, as the MA of OPAC was transferred from the Ministry of Finance to the Council of Ministers in 2015.¹⁹ In the MS Summary Table, the Ministry of Finance is listed as the MA for the first programming period because no related projects from this period started during or after 2015. In addition, it should be stated that there was no need to conduct comprehensive interviews with the listed stakeholders, as the majority of the related information is publicly available. However, the stakeholders were contacted for clarification with regard to specific project/programme documents and/or data.

Some of the beneficiaries contacted (marked with two asterisks '**' in Table 2) responded with an official letter, instructing the national researcher to resend the request for information, following the rules and the approved templates according to the Access to Public Information Act (APIA). The researcher replied to all of them, explaining that this is not a request for information under this Act and he sent the request not as an individual citizen but as part of a research team, commissioned by the DG Justice of the European Commission to conduct a specific consulting service. However, all of the beneficiaries insisted that the request must be submitted according to the APIA requirements. The researcher did not send APIA requests, as the time period for receiving a response according to the APIA conditions was beyond the project deadline.

Information about received answers / feedback:

District court Haskovo (Beneficiary) sent only information on original budget lines, stating that they are not able to decide how to allocate the amounts to the respective categories of activities. The court did not give any information about the reasons for the differences between 'allocated' and 'spent' budget.

No	Budget line	Allocated budget (BGN)	Spent budget (BGN)	Difference (BGN)
1	Personnel expenses	232,966	21,1948	21,018
2	Social insurance fees, paid by the employer	27,580.93	5,094.98	22,485.95
3	Travel expenses	164,115	94,796.19	69,318.81
4	Materials and consumables	13,401	11,450.90	1,950.10
5	Expenses for external services	183,407	156,254.93	27,152.07
6	Expenses for project management and logistics	62,040	47,945.43	14,094.57
	Total	683,509.93	527,490.43	156,019.50

Registry Agency (Beneficiary) sent an official answer with the following information:

1. The difference between 'allocated' and 'spent' budget is due to two reasons – expenses unverified by the MA (EUR 87,638) and changes in the market cost of services and products that have been used in the project during its lifetime as compared to the initially planned cost (allocated budget).

¹⁹ By Decree No. 125 of 20.05.2015 of the Council of Ministers as the Managing Authority (MA) of OPAC, a 'Good Governance' Directorate was appointed to the Council of Ministers.

2. The whole project budget could be allocated to one category of activities – ‘Developing, upgrading HR management’. This is reflected in the latest categorisation of projects according to the newest ‘project focus’ classification of activities/projects.

Administrative court Pleven (Beneficiary) sent an official answer with the following information:

1. They do not have information about the reasons for the difference between ‘allocated’ and ‘spent’ budget.
2. The whole project budget could be allocated to one category of activities – ‘Training of judges, prosecutors, court staff, bailiffs, public notaries, insolvency and restructuring administrators’. This is reflected in the latest categorisation of projects according to the newest ‘project focus’ classification of activities/projects.

Administrative court Dobrich (Beneficiary) sent an official answer with the following information:

1. They do not have information about the reasons for the difference between ‘allocated’ and ‘spent’ budget.
2. The whole project budget could be allocated to one category of activities – ‘Training of judges, prosecutors, court staff, bailiffs, public notaries, insolvency and restructuring administrators’. This is reflected in the latest categorisation of projects according to the newest ‘project focus’ classification of activities/projects.

Ministry of Justice, DG ‘Execution of Punishments’ (Beneficiary) sent an official answer per email, stating that they are not able to provide the requested information because all project documents are archived and inaccessible.

2. Funding Period 2007–2013

2.1. The needs of the Member State relating to the national justice system

Desk research on the availability of documents that describe the needs of Bulgaria related to the ESF/ERDF support to the national justice system has identified that the official Operational Programme Administrative Capacity (OPAC) ex-ante evaluation report is not available online. The website of the former OPAC MA – the Ministry of State Administration and Administrative Reform (MSAAR), where the report was published, was shut down and the report is not available on the new website, where the content was transferred.²⁰ The OPAC 2007–2013 (CCI No 2007BG05POO002) description, however, includes an overview of the ex-ante evaluation's results, which is referred to further below.²¹

The SWOT analysis of the status of the judicial system in Bulgaria, as described in the OPAC 2007–2013, gave some indication about the identified needs, resulting from the identified main weaknesses:

- insufficient administrative capacity of the judicial bodies for the fulfilment of their powers;
- considerable need for enhancing the specialised qualification of magistrates, due to the dynamic introduction of new national legislation and their work with the acquis, as well as need for training opportunities for court employees;
- presence of several information systems, which are not integrated;
- lack of national connectivity between the automated information systems in the judicial power; and
- lack of continuity and coordination in project planning.²²

The ex-ante evaluation also suggested that despite the formal definition of 'state administration' within the Bulgarian legislation, the scope of the OP should include the judiciary, as well as all administrations delivering public services. The ex-ante evaluation suggested that the fact that the judiciary is independent of the executive authorities should not prevent judicial bodies from becoming target beneficiaries of OPAC. The same principle applies to the socio-economic partners. The ex-ante evaluation also recommended that the scope of the OP be broadened, extending the list of potential beneficiaries to other training institutions apart from the Institute for Public Administration and European Integration, as initially planned. These recommendations were taken into account and the National Institute for Justice (NIJ) and the judicial bodies were included in the respective sub-priorities of the OP.

ry Specific Recommendations (CSRs) referred to the need to "Improve the quality and independence of the judicial system"^{23,24} in Bulgaria. However, in the context of this study, it is important to mention that the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism²⁵ (CVM) is the main instrument, which provides long-term benchmarks regarding the independence, accountability, transparency and efficiency of the

²⁰ See the footnote at page 110, 'Operational Programme Administrative Capacity, 2007–2013', published by the MSAAR as of September 2007. Available online at <https://www.eufunds.bg/archive/documents/1259761603.pdf>, accessed 15.02.2017. The desk research was unable to find a copy of the ex-ante evaluation report on another website.

²¹ OPAC 2007–2013, September 2007, p. 110 ff.

²² Ibid, p. 109

²³ COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION on the National Reform Programme 2012 of Bulgaria and delivering a Council opinion on the Convergence Programme of Bulgaria, 2012-2015

²⁴ COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION of 9 July 2013 on the National Reform Programme 2013 of Bulgaria and delivering a Council opinion on the Convergence Programme of Bulgaria, 2012-2016

²⁵ 2006/929/EC: Commission Decision of 13 December 2006 establishing a mechanism for cooperation and verification of progress in Bulgaria to address specific benchmarks in the areas of judicial reform and the fight against corruption and organised crime (notified under document number C(2006) 6570)

judicial system in Bulgaria. Although eligibility or access to European Structural and Investment Funds is not conditional to the fulfillment of the criteria, the planned activities for the programming period 2007 – 2013 reflect the shortcomings of the Bulgarian justice system identified by the CVM.

2.2. **Planning stage:** The extent to which the Member State programmed support to the justice system through ESF and ERDF

2.2.1. High-level objectives related to justice set in the programming documents

The National Strategic Reference Framework for Programming Period 2007–2013 (**NSRF**)²⁶ **does not outline support to justice as part of its priorities and objectives. However, the OPAC description refers directly to the NSRF Priority 2, 'Increasing the Quality of Human Capital with a Focus on Employment', as an argument for implementing national priorities as they had been formulated in the country's strategic documents. In this respect, the OPAC description refers directly to the NSRF Priority 3 'Fostering Entrepreneurship, Favourable Business Environment and Good Governance', and its sub-priority 3.2 'Good governance'. The national objectives related to the above priorities as set up in the NSRF are as follows**²⁷:

- strengthen the competitiveness of the economy to achieve high and sustainable growth; and
- develop human capital to ensure higher employment, income and social integration.

OPAC 2007–2013 has set out all objectives and priorities, including those related to supporting the national justice system only at the national level. Based on the SWOT analysis of the OP, the specific objectives are as follows:

- **Priority axis 1 'Good governance', Sub-priority 1.5. 'Transparent and effective judicial system'**, whose specific objectives are to increase the confidence of citizens and business sector in the judicial system and to improve the organisation of its operation;
- **Priority axis 2 'Human Resource Management', Sub-priority 2.4. 'Competent judicial system and effective HRM'**, whose specific objectives are to improve the qualifications of magistrates and court officials and to elaborate overall human resource management policy in the judicial system; and
- **Priority axis 3 'Quality administrative service delivery and e-governance development', Sub-priority 3.3. 'Improvement of the service delivery provided by the bodies of the judiciary through development of information technologies'**, whose specific objective is to increase the effectiveness and transparency in the activity of the bodies of the judiciary through the introduction of integrated automatic information systems.²⁸

²⁶ National Strategic Reference Framework for Programming Period 2007–2013, 2007, online available at http://www.opac.government.bg/userfiles/pages/files/regulatory_framework/1/%D0%9D%D0%B0%D1%86%D0%B8%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%BD%D0%B0_%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%BE%D0%B3%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%BC%D0%B0_%D0%B7%D0%B0_%D1%80%D0%B5%D1%84%D0%BE%D1%80%D0%BC%D0%B8.pdf, accessed 15.02.2017

²⁷ National Strategic Reference Framework for Programming Period 2007–2013, 2007

²⁸ OPAC 2007–2013, September 2007, p. 120f.

When laying out the OPAC, the development of administrative capacity was assessed as a new priority of the ESF for the programming period 2007–2013.²⁹ The basic goal of the ESF was described as supporting social and economic development and addressing the requirements for accelerated reforms in the EU. This includes support for the reform of the state administrations with the aim of improving competitiveness and economic growth. The new ESF priority focused on the modernisation and improvement in the functioning of the state administration and its ability to formulate and implement the national and European policies effectively.³⁰

Based on the above, the strategic goal of the OPAC was amended as of September 2007 with regard to support to the justice system to cover also 'Enhancing the professionalism, transparency and accountability of the judiciary'.³¹

In compliance with Art. 34, para 2 of Regulation (EC) 1083/2006, 10% of the total amount of resources under priority axis 1 was envisaged to be used for complementary financing of actions beyond the scope of the ESF assistance and falling within the scope of the European Regional Development Fund.³²

The main programme objectives, related to the justice sector, are predominantly focused on:

- ensuring effective functioning of the administration and the judiciary; and
- increasing the confidence of citizens and business sector in the judicial system and improving the organisation of its operation.

These objectives are linked to the scope of the NSRF, particularly in terms of improving the quality of human resources with a focus on employment (priority 2 of NSRF), and fostering entrepreneurship, a favourable business environment and good governance (priority 3 of NSRF).

The planned activities, expected results and impacts and proposed direct beneficiaries for each of the above-mentioned sub-priorities are as follows³³:

Sub-priority 1.5. Transparent and effective judicial system – indicative types of activities and rationale

Indicative types of activities	Rationale
<p>Improving and implementing the legislation for the judicial system</p>	<p>The improvement of the existing monitoring mechanisms and the creation of new monitoring mechanisms³⁴ for legislation implementation is envisaged, as well as mechanisms for reporting the monitoring results. Support is also planned for elaboration of proposals for improving the legislation in force, for further developing and fine tuning the existing normative base of the judicial system. Criteria and mechanisms for assessment of the impact of</p>

²⁹ Ibid, p. 116

³⁰ Ibid, p. 116

³¹ Ibid, p. 118

³² This complementary financing was planned to be granted only provided that these actions are necessary for the satisfactory implementation of operations and are directly related to it.

³³ OPAC 2007–2013, September 2007, pp. 131–132, 143–145, 157–158

³⁴ Highlighted in the original

Indicative types of activities	Rationale
	legislation implementation were also intended to be developed and implemented.
Organisational development and coordination of the judicial authorities	<p>Planned activities to be supported included optimisation of the organisation and specialisation of the courts; especially the development of the administrative courts. It was also envisaged that as a result of a functional analysis, activities would be planned to support the improvement of the organisation as well as the administrative processes in the judicial bodies, and also to provide methodological support to the magistrates. Criteria for statistical analyses of the staff workload in the judicial bodies were planned to be developed for the accurate distribution of work and to identify the staff needed.</p> <p>Other planned activities included assisting the implementation of coordination mechanisms among the different judicial authorities, and encouraging measures for the establishment of a modern court administration through: evaluation of the functioning and effectiveness of random case distribution, and its introduction in all authorities that are obliged to use it by law; implementation of different mechanisms for oversight on case processing and effectiveness of case administration; and exchange of best practices between courts and the prosecutor's office.</p>
Accountability, transparency and access to information about the activity of the judiciary	<p>Measures for improving the mechanisms for providing information to the public on the activity of the judicial authorities were financed. Activities will assist the process of increasing the qualifications and improving the working rules for all public relations officers at all levels of the judiciary.</p> <p>Measures were undertaken for improving the accountability system of the judiciary: development and updating of statistical forms for reporting the activity of the judicial authorities, taking into consideration changes in the legislation; improvement of the system for collecting and processing the reports. The preparation of analyses on the effectiveness of the reporting system used at present was also supported.</p> <p>A review of the ethical standards of magistrates was envisaged so that these standards could be improved in the light of acquired experience, and possibilities for their unification analysed.</p>
Anti-corruption practices	<p>It was envisaged that projects aiming at improving the mechanisms for identifying corruption cases and measures taken against them would be prioritised and would receive funding.</p> <p>Support was also planned for the creation and application of a unified, accessible and transparent system for examining claims, guaranteeing that feedback reaches the claimants,</p>

Indicative types of activities	Rationale
	<p>the courts and the prosecutor’s office. The development and implementation of an efficient mechanism for independent oversight or investigation of serious claims was also intended to be promoted.</p> <p>The cooperation between the judicial authorities and NGOs in the field of counteracting corruption, especially on regional level, was planned to be supported through common initiatives, partnership guidelines and greater publicity.</p> <p>The successful measures for achieving transparency and combating corruption were planned to be further developed, popularised and disseminated as best practices.</p>

Beneficiaries and intended target groups outlined by the OPAC include: Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Registry Agency (RA), Supreme Judicial Council (SJC), SJC Inspectorate, Supreme Court of Cassation (SCC), Supreme Administrative Court (SAC), courts, Prosecutor’s office, National Investigation Service, etc.³⁵ Project-level data reviewed expands significantly on the scope of the latter, and also includes citizens and all legal entities registered and operating in the country.

Additionally, sub-priority 1.5 also includes a specific topic which refers to the need to modernise the Centralised Register of Not-for-profit Legal Entities (CRNLE) under the Ministry of Justice. Several projects were implemented under this specific topic, which will be described in detail in Task 2.

Expected outputs (activities planned) related to support to justice systems

The eligible activities and the expected outputs under sub-priority 1.5. Transparent and effective judicial system include:

- Development of analyses, conducting surveys and studies, monitoring and assessments;
- Development of particular suggestions and recommendations for revisions and amendments of legal and strategic documents;
- Development and improvement of strategies and action plans, internal rules and procedures, methodologies, manuals and other tools, used in the work of the beneficiaries;
- Assessment of the work and the effectiveness of the random division of courts cases and identification of measures for its improvement;
- Development and update of information systems, registers and databases, as well as publication of electronic newsletters, and organisation of online discussion forums, as well as development and update of the beneficiaries’ websites;
- Organisation of communication campaigns;
- Organisation and implementation of events;

³⁵ OPAC 2007–2013, September 2007, p. 132

In addition, one of the procedures, which address specifically the improvement of the Centralised Register of Not-for-profit Legal Entities (CRNLE)³⁶, mention explicitly in the OPAC needs assessment, added the following specific planned activities, beyond the scope of the above mentioned eligible s under this sub-priority:

- Linking the CRNLE with the BULSTAT Register and with the registries of the district courts and implementation of procedures for automatic exchange of information between the above registries (CRNLE, BULSTAT and district courts' registries);
- Developing a possibility for online submission of documents to the CRNLE, for online inquiries from the users of the Register;
- Introducing a procedure for implementation of a time limit for online publication by the Register of the reports received from the registered organisations;
- Introducing legislative changes aiming at limiting the possible duplication of activities between the Register and the district courts.

Justice systems

Neither the Procedure call documents nor the project-level documents provide information on expected impacts.

Proposed beneficiaries (those who receive funding and implement the project)

The Application Guidelines for the Procedure 1.5-03 primarily describe the functions of the proposed beneficiaries without providing justification why these beneficiaries are proposed, with only a few exceptions. The only argument is that all of them belong to the national justice system and represent both the executive (MoJ, RA), and the governance (SJC, SCC, SAC) branches of the justice system.³⁷ The exceptions refer to some findings and recommendations from earlier studies or strategic documents that identify specific weaknesses in the justice system. These exceptions include: a) the findings of the 'Report on the activity of the courts for 2009', which recommend that the SJC start a process of reforming the so called 'court map' as a measure for balancing the workload of magistrates; b) the Procedure 1.5-03 also implements the recommendations from the Strategy for continuation of the reform in the justice system (published in 2010) and as a result, all major stakeholders responsible for the implementation of this strategy are referred to as potential beneficiaries in the Procedure documents; and c) Based on the results from the implementation of the projects under the Norway Grants Programme,³⁸ specific weaknesses in the work of the CRNLE have been identified, and as a result the CRNLE was added as a particular beneficiary to this Procedure.

³⁶ Application Guidelines for Procedure 1.5-03 published on 30.09.2011, online available at http://www.opac.government.bg/bg/for_candidates/procedure/42, accessed on 6.03.2017.

³⁷ Application Guidelines for Procedure 1.5-03 published on 30.09.2011, pp. 12–13, online available at http://www.opac.government.bg/bg/for_candidates/procedure/42, accessed on 6.03.2017.

³⁸ <https://eeagrants.org/>

Proposed target groups (those who benefit from the funding)

Both the Procedure call documents and project-level documents provide information that the proposed target groups include all proposed beneficiaries plus citizens and business enterprises, without specifying in more detail the latter group.³⁹ However, the documents do not refer to the not-for-profit legal entities⁴⁰ as a specific target group; the only envisaged output in the Procedure call documents is related to the improvement of the CRNLE work and includes the CRNLE as one of the proposed beneficiaries.

³⁹ Application Guidelines for Procedure 1.5-03 published on 30.09.2011, p. 20, available at http://www.opac.government.bg/bg/for_candidates/procedure/42, accessed on 6.03.2017.

⁴⁰ According to the commonly accepted distinction, not-for-profit organisations do not belong to the business sector. The legal practice in the country also makes such a distinction at least due to the different requirements for registration of not-for-profit and business legal entities – the former are registered in BULSTAT register and in the CRNLE, while the latter are registered in the national Commercial Register.

Indicative types of activities	Rationale
<p>Improvement of the HRM</p>	<p>This activity is meant to provide support for improvement of human resource management in the judicial system through the introduction of system for centralised conduct of competitions for appointment of magistrates and for the provision of wide access to information about vacancies in the judicial bodies.</p> <p>Analysis was planned to find out the needs for changes in the staff numbers of magistrates and court officials. Activities also included initiatives to support the establishment of stable criteria for professional development, the establishment and implementation of new methodology for assessment of the work of magistrates, and the establishment of a complete system for assessment of the workload in the judicial system. The effectiveness and accuracy of the system had to be monitored during its integration, looking for potential weaknesses and improvements.</p> <p>After a need assessment, the creation of integrated information systems for human resources management in the bodies of judicial power was planned.</p> <p>Assistance had to be given for the elaboration of clear criteria for stimulating and sanction of the court officials. Support had to be provided for: improvement of the procedure for imposition of disciplinary liability of magistrates; a register of the disciplinary proceedings and a register of the penal proceedings against magistrates.</p>
<p>Training for the judiciary</p>	<p>Training needs analyses had to be performed for the magistrates and court officials and the monitoring system for conducted training needed to be improved. It was planned to provide assistance for carrying out assessments of the delivered trainings and their results with a view of elaboration and/or improvement of training programmes.</p> <p>On the basis of the established needs specialised trainings were planned to be delivered on: improvement of the computer literacy of magistrates and court officials, work with specialised software, information security, newly adopted legislation, specialised legislation, i.e. in the environmental field, different areas of EU Law, judicial and police cooperation in penal and civil cases, judicial cooperation in civil cases and case law of the European Court of Justice; cooperation between national courts and the ECJ; judicial protection in the EU; role of the national judge in the EU; fight against financial interest fraud related to EU financial interests; fight against organised crime, etc.</p> <p>Special attention had to be paid to the training of the administrative managers and court administrators to improve their organisational and management skills, as well as the training of the inspectors in the Inspectorates at the SJC.</p> <p>Encouragement was to be provided for joint initiatives between the bodies of judicial power and the state administration for implementation of meetings and trainings</p>

	and exchange of experience in the enforcement of the Administrative Procedural Code.
Strengthening the capacity of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) ⁴¹	<p>Measures were planned to be taken for widening and strengthening of the capacity of NIJ to make training needs analyses of the magistrates and court officials and to improve its management, as well as for establishing cooperation with other training institutions.</p> <p>To achieve sustainability of the activities already envisaged under PHARE Programme, the capabilities of NIJ to organise trainings were intended to be supported through: the development of distance online training; establishment of a system for outsourced training delivery, mostly for court officials, on the basis of the network of magistrates-correspondents; elaboration and distribution of CDs, manuals, research papers and other training materials by the Learning and Resource Centre.</p> <p>Assistance was planned to provide the Learning and Resource Centre of the NIJ with increased capabilities for collection, research and distribution of information, for the needs of the judicial system and the NIJ's future trainings.</p>

Sub-priority 2.4. Competent judicial system and effective human resource management – indicative types of activities and rationale

Envisaged beneficiaries and target groups outlined by the OPAC include: MoJ, Registry Agency, NIJ, SJC, SJC Inspectorate, SCC, SAC, courts, Prosecutor's office, National Investigation Service, etc.⁴²

Sub-priority 3.3. Improvement of the service delivery provided by the bodies of the judiciary through development of information technologies – indicative types of activities and rationale

Indicative types of activities	Rationale
Improvement of the information systems of the bodies of the judiciary	<p>This activity aimed at encouraging the improvement and update of the information systems, and the creation of databases for the needs of the judicial system and websites. As of 2007, the systems provided one-way connection; that is, they only provide information. The objective was to achieve a high number of transactions so that citizens and the business sector are able to communicate with the systems, and to achieve a coordinated development of a single communication environment for the judicial system.</p> <p>It was envisaged that a concept (blueprint) would be elaborated which must allow the recovery of data and</p>

⁴¹ NIJ is an independent specialised training institution, part of the justice system.

⁴² OPAC 2007–2013, p. 145

Indicative types of activities	Rationale
	<p>functionality of information systems as a consequence of losses caused by unpredictable circumstances (force majeure). Assistance was meant to be provided to activities related to the improvement of the information security in the information systems of the bodies of the judiciary.</p> <p>Encouragement was planned to be given to the use of paperless flow of information between the Ministry of Justice, the prosecutors, the courts, the bailiffs, etc.</p> <p>On the basis of the needs analysis support was envisaged to be given to the creation of overall systems for electronic management which, in addition to the typical tasks of the magistrates, should also include the following activities: financial-economic management, accounting, human resources management, qualifications of the staff, etc.</p> <p>Improvements planned for the existing unified information systems (for example, the one for the needs of the Prosecutor's Office); their adaptation in the case of amendments to the legislation; improvement and update of the existing modules and development of new ones.</p>
Interoperability in the judicial system	<p>The activity aimed at achieving interoperability, including the possibility for data and/or documents exchange among the information systems in the judicial systems, on the one hand, and between them and the single environment for document exchange of the state administration, on the other. It was meant to provide also direct exchange of data and documents with the respective EU systems.</p> <p>It was envisaged also to improve the Unified Information System for Combating Crime (UISCC) in the context of the information exchange on penal cases in the EU.</p> <p>Assistance was meant to be provided for the development and improvement of the existing and future registers of the judicial system. Update and improvement must be provided for the information systems of the Property Register, the Commercial Register and BULSTAT Register for harmonisation with the amending legislation; establishment of connection and exchange of data with EC registers.</p>
E-justice	<p>The activity was directed towards increase of the quality of the services provided to the citizens and the business sector through improvement and development of the system and the centralised portal for e-justice. Support was meant to be provided to realisation of access to other information systems and registers on the basis of a single interface. Within the framework of the activity encouragement should be given to the regular update of the concept of e-justice.</p>

Envisaged beneficiaries and target groups: MoJ, the Registry Agency, SJC, SJC Inspectorate, SCC, SAC, courts, Prosecutor's office, National Investigation Service, etc.⁴³

Expected outputs and results for the three priority axes are only presented as output and result indicators (see section 2.4.1). There are no descriptions of expected impacts.

No Action Plans exist for the period 2007–2013 and Monitoring Committee documents (e.g. Decisions, Minutes, Reports) and the Evaluation Plan for the OPAC⁴⁴ did not contain relevant information on justice, except internal MC documents that are related to the MC formal approval of documents, already reviewed above (e.g. Decision of the MC for the approval of the Application guidelines, cited above⁴⁵).

⁴³ Ibid., p. 158

⁴⁴ Evaluation plan for OPAC for 2007–2015, online available at http://www.opac.government.bg/userfiles/pages/files/regulatory_framework/1/%D0%94%D0%BE%D0%BA%D0%BB%D0%B0%D0%B4%D0%B8.rar

⁴⁵ Application Guidelines for Procedure 1.5-03 published on 30.09.2011, online available at http://www.opac.government.bg/bg/for_candidates/procedure/42, accessed on 6.03.2017.

2.2.2. Planned projects listed in the programming documents aiming to the support justice

The reviewed programming documents, related to the support to the national justice system, have not mentioned any specific project, which is intended to be realised.

2.3. **Implementation stage:** Support to the justice system through ESF and ERDF

2.3.1. Support to the justice system: reported at programme level

2.3.2. Support to the justice system: reported at project level

As described in Section 2.3.1 above, no specific project selection criteria linked to individual calls related to justice have been used. The projects' selection criteria under all procedures have a similar structure and include an assessment of the administrative eligibility and the application eligibility, as well as a quality assessment (technical and financial assessment) of the application proposal. As OPAC contained three specific sub-priorities related to justice, all calls for projects related to justice were issued under these sub-priorities, but these documents are only partially available.

Out of 52 projects related to justice in total, 7 were cancelled during their lifecycle, while the remaining 45 projects are closed. All the projects have been implemented under the OPAC 2007–2013 and funded under the ESF only. The reasons for cancellation of the above 7 projects differ: one was stopped due to started legal proceedings against the beneficiary⁴⁶, while the other six did not start a year after being contracted and stopped due to inactivity.

⁴⁶ See Table 3: Overview of projects supporting justice 2007-2013, where the respective projects are noted.

Table 3: Overview of projects supporting justice 2007–2013⁴⁷

Project Name	Start of project (year)	End of project (year)	Duration of project	Budget allocated ⁴⁸ in thousand EUR ⁴⁹	Budget spent ⁵⁰ in thousand EUR *	Actual EU contribution in thousand EUR *	Summary of activities undertaken
<i>Operational Programme Administrative capacity 2007–2013, BG051PO002, ESF</i>							
Information system for transparency in the military courts Информационна система за прозрачност във военните съдилища	2008	2009	1	375.01	0 **	0 **	NOTE: Project cancelled due to a court proceeding against it. The activities below are described according to the project proposal. The aim of the project was to enhance the business processes and the efficiency of the three courts – Military Court of Appeal (MCA), Sofia Military Court and Plevan Military Court. It included 12 activities, with the following major ones among them: Analysis of the current situation and needs analysis, including study of best practices in France; development of a new information system for court cases to be piloted in the three courts and modification and optimisation of the MCA website. Major results from the project were: tested and implemented new information system for court cases in the three courts and modified MCA website. Recipients of all activities were the employees (both magistrates and court clerks and court administration) of the three courts. Detailed activities are: Activity 1: Project management; Activity 2: Preparation of the procurement documentation for selection of contractors and purchasing of equipment; Activity 3: Information and publicity; Activity 4: Analysis of the current situation of the military justice system and the needs; Activity 5: Research of the best practices in France; Activity 6: Developing a conceptual design of an information system and its synchronisation with the national documents; Activity 7: Development of the Information system and testing it in Sofia and Plevan; Activity 8: Optimisation and modification of the existing website of the Military Court of Appeals; Activity 10: Training the employees to use the system; Activity 11: Demonstration meeting for promoting the Information system; Activity 12: Final report and audit.
Competent administrative judges – guarantees for the correct and uniform application of the laws in the administrative jurisdiction	2008	2009	1	461.88	303.42	257.91	Raising the competence of the judges from the Supreme Administrative Court and the administrative courts. Activity 1: Analysis of the training needs amongst judges and legal secretaries; Activity 2: Study of the court practices in EU Member States; Activity 3: Conducting specialised trainings for judges and legal secretaries; Activity 4: English language courses;

⁴⁷ Data from the Unified management information system for the EU structural instruments in Bulgaria, 2007–2013, <http://umispublic.government.bg/Default.aspx> and OPAC official webpage, <http://www.opac.government.bg/bg/home>. For separate project documents, please see the country MS Summary Table.

⁴⁸ Planned/ committed

⁴⁹ Conversion rate of the Bulgarian National Bank: EUR 1 = 1.95583 BGN (Bulgaria has a fixed conversion rate due to the Monetary Board).

⁵⁰ Budget actually paid/ disbursed

* 'Budget spend' and 'Actual EU contribution' for some projects amounts to EUR 0. The project was either cancelled during its implementation or the final report was not approved. In both cases, no budget from the OP has been spent.

** Amounts corrected by the MA according to their internal information (not reflected / updated in the Unified management information system for the EU structural instruments in Bulgaria, 2007–2013).

Project Name	Start of project (year)	End of project (year)	Duration of project	Budget allocated ⁴⁸ in thousand EUR ⁴⁹	Budget spent ⁵⁰ in thousand EUR *	Actual EU contribution in thousand EUR *	Summary of activities undertaken
Компетентни административни съдии – гаранти за точното и еднакво прилагане на законите в административното правораздаване							Activity 5: Information and publicity; Activity 6: Project organisation and management; Activity 7: Audit.
Competent and motivated magistrates and court clerks in the investigative bodies of the Republic of Bulgaria ⁵¹ Компетентни и мотивирани магистрати и съдебни служители в следствените органи на Република България	2008	2009	1	421.75 **	0.00	0.00	NOTE: The project did not start and no activities were implemented. The overall objective of the draft proposal was to strengthen the capacity of investigative bodies to improve pre-trial proceedings through effective human resources management. The aim was to increase the accountability, control and transparency of investigative activities.
Strengthening the confidence in the work of the Administrative Court – Sofia City (ACSC) and enhancing its image in the society Утвърждаване на доверието в дейността на Административен съд София-град (АССГ) и повишаване на имиджа му в обществото	2008	2009	1	380.87	271.43	230.71	The project goal was to optimise the business processes in the Administrative Court – Sofia City. Major activities are: analysis and assessment of the internal organisation of the administrative work of the court and development of a comprehensive concept, plan and procedures for its optimisation and for improvement of the transparency and accountability of the ACSC work. Recipients of all activities were judges and court clerks at the ACSC. Detailed activities included: Activity 1: Overall project management. Project planning and structure; Activity 2: Information and publicity; Activity 3: Analyse and assess the internal organisation of the administrative work of the court and optimise the work in ACSC; Activity 4: Develop a comprehensive concept, plan and procedures that are transparent and accountable in ACSC; Activity 5: Raising public awareness in ACSC; Activity 6: Training of 120 employees of ACSC; Activity 7: Thematic meetings between representatives of the target group and representatives of the judicial authorities and the administration to promote the activities of ACSC; Activity 8: Two working visits to EU countries
Competent and motivated magistrates and court clerks Компетентни и мотивирани магистрати и съдебни служители	2008	2009	1	1 157.17	895.14 **	760.87 **	Creating transparent human resources management in the judiciary bodies by motivating and building a unified management system. Activity 1: Preparation of public procurement documentation; Activity 2: Analysis of the approaches used so far for evaluation of the workload of the magistrates and the court clerks and of the experience in EU Member States; Activity 3: Creating a unified system for evaluation of the workload of the magistrates and the court clerks in the judiciary; Activity 4: Developing a methodology for motivation of the court clerks and guidelines for the preparation of internal rules; Activity 5: Increasing the capacity of the assistant attestation commissions; Activity 6: Creating an integrated information system for human resources management in the judiciary bodies – pilot; Activity 7: Training in application of the legislation; Activity 8: Developing a training programme for the application

⁵¹ This project was cancelled

Project Name	Start of project (year)	End of project (year)	Duration of project	Budget allocated ⁴⁸ in thousand EUR ⁴⁹	Budget spent ⁵⁰ in thousand EUR *	Actual EU contribution in thousand EUR *	Summary of activities undertaken
							of the Law on public procurements for judges in the administrative justice system; Activity 9: Training for magistrates for improving their skills and helping their activities beyond the legal field; Activity 10: Training for the court administration staff on providing better service; Activity 11: Information and publicity; Activity 12: Audit.
Advisory Forum of Regional Courts Консултативен форум на районните съдилища	2008	2009	1	349.47	268.99 **	228.64	The main project objective was to improve the cooperation and coordination between the district courts and the SJC and to provide better-functioning and stronger district courts by implementing an effective and positive reform of the judicial system, enjoying the trust and support on local level to uphold the principles of transparency, openness and accountability of the judicial system; Activity 1: Advisory Forum for regional courts; Activity 1a : Forum Website for regional courts; Activity 2: Monitoring the principle of random assignment of cases; Activity 2s: Round-table on the application of the principle of random assignment of cases; Activity 3: Analysis of the duration of the examination of cases in court and develop time standards; Activity 3a : Training 'Mechanisms to manage the flow of cases and reduce delays'; Activity 4: Developing a manual for clerks on the rules for publication of decisions; Activity 4a: Training of judicial officers and system administrators on the publication of judgments; Activity 5: Activities for information and publicity.
In service of society В услуга на обществото	2008	2009	1	296.29	287.50	244.37	The objective of the project was to increase public trust in the judiciary, to increase transparency and accountability and to contribute to the effective functioning of the judiciary. Activity 1: Management and project implementation; Activity 2: Study of public opinion about the activities of administrative courts; Activity 3: Conducting internal research aimed at self-evaluation of the judicial officers; Activity 4: 'Risk assessment' of corrupt practices in the three administrative courts; Activity 6: Studying the experience of an EU Member State, Germany, in the field of administrative justice; Activity 7: Development of individual action plans to eliminate the problems identified; Activity 8: Conducting thematic meeting for the presentation of the developed individual plans; Activity 9: Conduct training for magistrates and officials of the three courts; Activity 10: Improvement of the information systems of the three courts; Activity 11: Proposal to change the regulations concerning the work of the administrative courts; Activity 12: Organise information campaign to introduce the main features and mechanisms of the work of the administrative courts; Activity 13: Report to the Managing Authority; Activity 14: Provision of information and publicity about the project.
Specialised computer training of prosecutors and court clerks of Prosecutor's Office of Republic of Bulgaria	2008	2009	1	820.66	661.94	562.65	Enhancing the qualifications of prosecutors and court clerks, the control, accountability and transparency of the work of prosecution offices and the quality of service to citizens. Activity 1: Training on basic computer skills and using of two-level office applications for prosecutors and court clerks; Activity 2: Specialised training for system administrators and computer specialists; Activity 3: Specialised computer training for court clerks of the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria for effective work with the Unified information system (UIS);

Project Name	Start of project (year)	End of project (year)	Duration of project	Budget allocated ⁴⁸ in thousand EUR ⁴⁹	Budget spent ⁵⁰ in thousand EUR *	Actual EU contribution in thousand EUR *	Summary of activities undertaken
Специализирано компютърно обучение на прокурори и съдебни служители от Прокуратурата на Република България							Activity 4: Delivery of computer equipment for a mobile learning centre; Activity 5: Information and publicity.
Transparent, efficient, competent management of the Sofia District Court (SDC) За прозрачно, ефективно, компетентно управление на Софийски окръжен съд (СОС)	2008	2009	1	417.99	334.39 **	284.23 **	The objective of the project was to improve the quality of the work, the publicity of the activities and performance of Sofia District Court and the adjacent regional courts. Activity 1: Survey and analysis of the existing practice of exchanging information and communication within the SDC and SDC and regional courts; Activity 2: Study of experience and good practice applied in the EU member states on transparency and accountability of the activities of the courts; Activity 3: Develop a centralised web-based portal of SDC; Action 4: Develop and implement policies and procedures for uniform standards of transparency, accountability and control in SDC and judges in his district; Activity 5: Conduct specialised training for public servants and judges in the SDC and its adjacent units for handling the information system; Activity 6: Organise a national workshop to improve cooperation and communication between SDC and its adjacent district courts and between SDC and other judicial and state structures; Activity 7: preview, project promotion.
Strengthening the administrative and functional capacity of the SJC Inspectorate Укрепване на административния и функционалния капацитет на Инспектората към ВСС	2009	2010	1	420.59	221.76	188.49	To develop and validate the administrative and functional capacity of the SJC Inspectorate. Activity 1: Preparation of public procurement documentation; Activity 2: A comparative analysis of the human resources management in the judicial inspection bodies in the EU; Activity 3: Input and output analysis of the effectiveness of the human resources in the SJC Inspectorate before the beginning of the project and after its completion; Activity 4: Conducting six trainings on the application of the methodologies for planned, topical check-ups and signal check-ups; Activity 5: Conducting six practical seminars for unifying the check-up practices; Activity 6: two visits to inspection bodies of EU Member States for experience exchange and training in the application of good employee management methods; Activity 7: An international conference on good European practices in management and motivation of human resources; Activity 8: Conducting three seminars for 50-60 people to improve the specialisation of the inspectors and experts; Activity 9: Conducting 2,880 hours of specialised language courses for the inspectors, experts and Inspectorate employees; Activity 10: Conducting four specialised trainings to increase the functional and coordination capacity of the administration of the SJC inspectorate; Activity 11: Preparation and publication of a collection of the internal acts of the SJC inspectorate; Activity 12: Publicity; Activity 13: Audit.
Strengthening the capacity of the specialised administration of the Minister of Justice to fulfil its duties under the Law on the Judiciary relating to state bailiffs and registrars Укрепване на капацитета на специализираната администрация на	2009	2010	1	617.83	497.42	422.81 **	Enhancing the professionalism in the units with functions in the judiciary and assisting or reporting to the Minister of Justice. Activity 1: Increasing the capacity of the Legislation Council, regarding its assistance to the Minister of Justice in preparing draft laws and secondary legislation on the judicial system; Activity 2: Training of organisational units in the Ministry of Justice regarding their assistance to the Minister in the interaction between the judiciary and the executive; Activity 3: Training for state bailiffs; Activity 4: Training for

Project Name	Start of project (year)	End of project (year)	Duration of project	Budget allocated ⁴⁸ in thousand EUR ⁴⁹	Budget spent ⁵⁰ in thousand EUR *	Actual EU contribution in thousand EUR *	Summary of activities undertaken
министъра на правосъдието за изпълнение на правомощията му по Закона за съдебната власт, на държавните съдебни изпълнители и на съдиите по вписванията							registrars; Activity 5: Development of a unified system for attestation of state bailiffs and registrars; Activity 6: Information and publicity; Activity 7: Audit.
Human resources development in the field of international legal cooperation in criminal matters Развитие на човешките ресурси в областта на международното правно сътрудничество по наказателни въпроси	2009	2010	1	388.52	304.00	258.40	Achieving effectiveness in the work of the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria in the field of international legal assistance through human resources development. Activity 1: Development of a Handbook for working on criminal issues in the area of international legal aid; Activity 2: Organising and conducting a training programme for trainers; Activity 3: Organising and conducting six specialised trainings and a final conference with a focus on international legal assistance; Activity 4: Organising and conducting specialised English language courses for 100 members of the target group; Activity 5: Delivery, maintenance for one year and training for working with specialised software; Activity 6: Information and publicity; Activity 7: Project organisation and management.
Establishment of a network of judges as coordinators of European law Създаване на мрежа от съдии – координатори по европейско право	2009	2011	2	333.01	141.90	120.62	Strengthening the capacity of the Bulgarian courts to implement EU law by creating a network of judges – coordinators of European law. Activity 1: Forming an expert (work) group of magistrates. The work group is established as an advisory body to NIJ for creating a network of judges-coordinators on EU law; Activity 2: Study of good practices in creating a network of judges-coordinators to offer expert help from judges to judges in the area of EU law; Activity 3: Preparation of draft rules for selection, status and functions of the judges-coordinators; Activity 4: Creating a network of judges-coordinators on EU law; Activity 5: Training of the judges-coordinators; Activity 6: Developing rules and criteria for evaluation of the judges-coordinators' activity; Activity 7: Developing and introducing an electronic system for storage and use of information; Activity 8: Information and publicity; Activity 9: Audit.
Enhancement of Employee Qualifications, Development and Improvement of Human Resources Management at the Registry Agency Повишаване на квалификацията на служителите, развитие и подобряване на управлението на човешките ресурси в Агенцията по вписванията	2009	2013	4	600.58	323.98	275.39	Enhancement of the qualifications of the Registry Agency employees and improvement of the human resources management process in order to optimise work processes, create a strong motivational environment within the RA and provide better services to citizens and businesses. Activity 1: Creating a team and management of the project; Activity 2: Review of the human resources management policies in the Registry Agency and developing a human resources management policy of the RA for the 2009–2014 period, which includes the current European standards and practices; Activity 3: Work visit of RA management in Estonia and Portugal for experience exchange and studying the best practices for human resource management in structures similar to the RA; Activity 4: Creating an e-register for human resources management; Activity 5: Organising and conducting specialised trainings for RA employees; Activity 6: Developing a platform for e-training of the RA employees; Activity 7: Developing a programme, training modules, video lessons and tests for online trainings for new employees; Activity 8: Developing a programme, training modules, video lessons and tests for online trainings for work with specialised software; Activity 9: Developing a programme, training

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							modules, video lessons and tests for online trainings for conflict of interests prevention for employees working in the public procurements field; Activity 10: Organisation and conduction of a start and a final conference; Activity 11: Audit; Activity 12: Information and publicity.
Efficiency, accountability and coordination of the justice system Ефективност, отчетност и координация в съдебната система	2009	2011	2	715.50	433.64	368.60	Increase efficiency, transparency and accountability in the work of the judicial system through integrated measures for cooperation and coordination; create conditions for the implementation of updated strategy for using information technology to improve the efficiency of the judiciary, transparency and accountability to the public. Activity 1: Update Information Strategy of the judicial authorities of the Republic of Bulgaria; Activity 2: Introduction of mechanisms for coordination and cooperation within and between the judicial authorities in connection with cases of high public interest; Activity 3: Analysis of the possibility of using videoconferencing in criminal proceedings; Activity 4: Develop criteria for statistical analysis of the workload and reporting activities of the judiciary authorities; Activity 5: Establishment of a unified system for receiving complaints and other activities to prevent corruption; Activity 6: Information and publicity activities. Activity 7: Audit; Activity 8: Organisation and project management.
Publicity and effectiveness of insolvency proceedings Публичност и ефективност на производството по несъстоятелност	2009	2013	4	293.06	212.29	180.45	The project objective was to promote public confidence in the judiciary by introducing measures to improve the interaction between the Ministry of Justice, Supreme Court, appellate and regional courts and increase efficiency and transparency in the application of the material and procedural law on insolvency. Activity 1: Creating conditions for the uniform application of substantive and procedural law on insolvency. Monitoring of the application of Part IV of the Commercial Law on 'Insolvency'; Activity 2: Ensuring transparency of insolvency proceedings by updating the Information system for Insolvency Proceedings (ISIP) and ensuring the completeness of its databases. 2.1. analysis of the specification for required changes in the ISIP and in the exchange of data between ISIP and case management systems. 2.2. development of updates of the ISIP and of the case management systems and the implementation of the data exchange. 2.3. initial data entry for bankruptcy proceedings. 2.4. updating the integration between the ISIP and the Commercial register. 2.5. tests for deployment in a real operation of implemented changes. 2.6 implementation of accompanying training for working with the updated systems. 2.7 preparation of draft normative act for maintaining in electronic format the book required by art. 634b of the Commercial Law; Activity 3: Developing criteria for measuring workload of trustees and providing reference tools. 3.1. developing criteria for measuring workload of trustees. 3.2. preparation of regulatory changes regarding the planning of competitions for trustees. 3.3. update of ISIP with data about the workload of trustees based on the developed criteria. 3.4. initial data entry for the trustees' activities on bankruptcy proceedings completed in the last three years. 3.5. supporting training; Activity 4: Activities for information and publicity; Activity 5: Audit; Activity 6: Organisation and project management activities for the organisation and management.

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<p>Strengthening the capacity of the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria in cooperation with the supervisory bodies to counter offences and crimes in protecting the public interest and the rights of the citizens</p> <p>Укрепване на капацитета на Прокуратурата на Република България при взаимодействие с контролните органи за противодействие на закононарушенията и престъпленията в защита на обществения интерес и правата на гражданите</p>	2009	2011	2	438.69	374.98 **	318.73 **	The objective of the project was to activate prosecutorial supervision over the legality of the work of various state control authorities, in order to make full use of their control powers in their respective professional fields, and to strengthen the role of the prosecutor's office as a coordinator and corrective of the control institutions' activity. Activity 1: Studying state of art of the joint work of the Prosecutor's Office with four groups covering 15 state control bodies. It included a study of the regulatory framework regarding the control bodies involved in this project and their territorial units and how they cooperate on local level with the appellate, district and regional prosecution offices. The study focused on identifying possible regulatory gaps in specific areas of control activities that hinder the effective exercise of the functions of the Prosecutor's Office in cooperation with the control bodies; Activity 2: Conducting a study to identify two European countries with best practices in the specific area; Action 3: Analysis of the problems identified in the interaction of prosecution with the selected control bodies and analysis of the causes of the problems identified; Action 4: Visits to two established and recommended Member States, preparing a list of Bulgarian participants for each visit, coordinating the logistics and administrative activities of the visits, preparation of questionnaire for completion by participants for feedback regarding the visits. Each of the groups will visit two Member States with 16 people, including two translators; Activity 5: Organisation of four focus group discussions by representatives of the Prosecutor's Office and experts of respective control bodies to assess the results of the previous project activities, and to formulate topics for discussion at a round-table on the introduction of sustainable mechanisms for improving communication; Activity 6: A round-table and publication of the report from the round-table; Activity 7: Preparation of a procedure for interaction between the prosecution and the control bodies. Printing 3,000 copies of the methodology; Activity 8: pilot training in the form of seminars conducted in six three-day workshops for 30 participants each in five appellate districts of the country; Activity 9: Activities for Information and publicity; Activity 10: Project organisation and management; Activity 11: Audit.
<p>Introduction of modern, reliable and efficient procedures for planning and implementing the budget of the judiciary power</p> <p>Въвеждане на модерни, надеждни и ефикасни процедури за планиране и изпълнение на бюджета на съдебната власт</p>	2012	2014	2	305.69	200.78	170.67	Improving the work processes in the judicial system, and improving effectiveness and transparency in the development, coordination and management of the judiciary budget. Activity 1: Organisation and Management of the project; Activity 2: Analysis of the existing budgetary practices in the judicial bodies; Activity 3: Introducing the approach to programming and results-oriented budget of the SJC and its test in three bodies of the judiciary; Activity 4: Conducting supporting trainings; Activity 5: Activities for information and publicity; Activity 6: Audit.
<p>Developing the capacity of the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria for cooperation with civil society</p>	2012	2014	2	306.44	0.0	0.0	NOTE: The project did not start and no activities were implemented. According to the project proposal, foreseen activities were: Improving the effectiveness, transparency and public trust in the Prosecutor's Office through development of a sustainable communication policy and implementation of measures to improve the general coordination and professional practices

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Изграждане на капацитет на Прокуратурата на Република България за взаимодействие с гражданското общество							of the PO for cooperation with the civil society; Activity 1: Project management; Activity 2: Public procurement procedures for subsequent activities; Activity 3: Study of the state-of-art and existing good practices for cooperation with society; Activity 4: Study visit to two EU MS to explore good practices; Activity 5: Nationwide surveys and other studies of the public image of the PO, organisation of a round-table with 50 participants and publication of a reader with identified good practices for cooperation with the society; Activity 6: Working meetings between the project team and other stakeholders; Activity 7: Training of prosecutors and courts' officials; Activity 8: Audit of the project.
Improving the work of the Central Register of the Not-for-profit Legal Entities through effective coordination with the district courts Подобряване организацията на работа на Централния регистър на юридическите лица с нестопанска цел, в ефективна координация с окръжните съдилища	2012	2015	3	327.79	296.06	251.65 **	Improving the effectiveness of the Central Register and improving the trust of citizens and business in the activities performed by it. Activity 1: Analytical activities on legal framework and business processes of the Central Register and SWOT analyses; Activity 2: Development of new internal regulations and, if necessary, drafting amendments to the respective laws; Activity 3: Development of coordination mechanisms for automatic exchange of information between the Central Register for Not-for-profit Legal Entities (CRNLE) and the district courts and National Register BULSTAT, and optimisation of existing administrative procedures for the work of the Central Register; Activity 4: technological work to upgrade the existing technical functionalities; Activity 5: Training of employees; Activity 6: Certification of the information system of the Central Register according to the requirements of the Law on E-Governance; Activity 7: Audit of the project; Activity 8: Communication and dissemination activities; Activity 9: Project management.
Ensuring full openness and transparency in the work of the Administrative Court – Yambol Осигуряване на пълна публичност и прозрачност в работата на Административен съд – Ямбол	2012	2014	2	31.45	29.36	24.95	The overall project objective was to improve the work organisation and increase the work efficiency processes in the Administrative Court – Yambol. This objective includes the improvement of the organisation of the working processes in the court, an increase in the efficiency of the court, publicity and transparency in the work of the court, an improvement in the professional competence of judges and court clerks, raising the awareness of citizens and institutions on administrative justice, including people with disabilities, and increasing public trust in the judiciary. Activity 1: Analysis and evaluation of the case management system; Activity 2: Training workshop on 'State of the case management system in AC-Yambol. Measures for its improvement'; Activity 3: Upgraded and improved case management system 'E-file'; Activity 4: Analysing and assessing the information system of the AC-Yambol; Activity 5: Training seminar on 'Opportunities for optimising the information system in AC-Yambol. Measures for its improvement'; Activity 6: Upgrade of the information system for complete access to judicial acts in AC-Yambol; Activity 7: Update of the website of AC-Yambol; Activity 8: Information and publicity.
Improving the transparency and the effectiveness of the work of the Supreme Administrative Court	2012	2014	2	294.92	195.49	166.17	The project aimed at improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the work of the Supreme Administrative Court (SAC) through the implementation of good governance principles and through improved transparency, which would result in an improved public image of the judiciary. Activity 1: Management of the project and preparation and implementation of public procurement procedures for selection of sub-contractors for the subsequent activities; Activity

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Повишаване на прозрачността и ефективността в работата на ВАС							2: Preparation of a report on good practices for quality management in the judiciary, good governance and transparency. Organisation of three 5-day study visits for the project team and court's officials to EU Member States. Preparation of a report with good practices identified; Activity 3: conducting detailed analysis and assessment of the internal organisation of the SAC's work and recommendations on how it could be improved; Activity 4: Developing a manual with internal rules and procedures, based on the identified good practices; Activity 5: Improving and updating the SAC website, including developing new functionalities for two-way communication with citizens and business; Activity 6: Developing a Communication strategy for the SAC and organising a series of seminars with representative of all stakeholders; Activity 7: Developing updated methodology and internal rules for communication with the media; Activity 8: Communication and dissemination activities; Activity 9: Final reporting and audit of the project.
Improving the effectiveness of the Sofia City Court Повишаване ефективността на работата на Софийски градски съд	2012	2014	2	354.61 **	255.04	216.78	The project objective was to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the work of the SCC by developing clear rules on the way the Court is working, to ensure security in the work of the Court, to improve the working environment, and to improve the level of transparency and the implementation of good European practices. Activity 1: Start of the project, organisation of a series of workshops for the project team; Activity 2: Research and analysis of best practices, including a study of best practices in two other Member States; Activity 3: Research, evaluation and improvement of internal organisational environment of the court; Activity 4: Making a programming interface for communication between the existing information case management systems in SCC and updating the SCC website; Activity 5: Organisation of round-tables and trainings; Activity 6: Information and publicity; Activity 7: Conclusion of the project.
Further development and improvement of the Unified Information System for Countering Crime (UISCC) and integration of departmental information systems with the UISCC Доизграждане и усъвършенстване на ЕИСПП и интегриране ведомствените системи с ядрото на ЕИСПП	2011	2013	2	2,785.29	2,528.95 **	2,149.61 **	Completion, putting into operation, maintenance, use and development of the UISCC as a nationally integrated database providing complete and reliable information on the actual state of crime and providing information needed to counteract crime. Activity 1: Preparation of procurement documents and conducting public procurement procedure for selection of a consultant and contractors on the project activities; Activity 2: Building, maintenance and development of the application software of the core of UISCC; Activity 3: Research of the EU Member States' experience, good practices and hiring of foreign lecturers; Activity 4: Developing and building of convertors, filters and an information system, as part of the departmental communication component for connecting the Mol system for registration of events and objects of the criminal proceedings to the core of UISCC; Activity 5: Connecting of the Prosecutor's Office's system – Unified information system /UIS/ for registration of events and objects in the criminal procedure to the core of UISCC, including development and building of convertors and filters, as an element of the departmental communication component; Activity 6: Improvement of the service of the Prosecutor's Office through enhancement of the functions of the existing UIS; Activity 7: Connecting the existing record-keeping information system type JAS /Judicial Administrative System/ to the core of UISCC; Activity 8: Connection of the existing record-keeping information system type CMS /Case Management System/ to

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							the core of UISCC; Activity 9: Connecting of the existing record-keeping information system type EMSG /Case Management System/ to the core of UISCC; Activity 10: Connecting of the existing record keeping information system type ACMS /Automated Case Management System/ to the core of UISCC; Activity 11: Connection of the existing record-keeping information system type DIS /of Military Court of Appeal – Sofia, Military court – Sofia and Military Court – Pleven/ to the core of UISCC; Activity 12: Updating of the existing check-ups and development of additional check-ups (type, topical, statistical and subscription) and exits from the core of UISCC through development environment; Activity 13: Organisation and conducting of seminars and training in the application of the regulatory framework of UISCC and a targeted training for the new functionalities of UIS; preparation of an e-handbook for UISCC; Activity 14: Specialised training for the exploitation teams of the core and departmental automated information systems, responsible for their integration in the UISCC; Activity 15: Updating the technical and system infrastructure of the central component (core) and the communication components in relation to the core of UISCC with the departmental automated information systems; Activity 16: Publicity; Activity 17: Audit.
Effective application of the principles of human rights protection by the institutions of the judiciary and the executive Ефективно прилагане на принципите за защита на човешките права от институциите на съдебната и изпълнителната власт	2011	2013	2	163.75	0.0	0.0	NOTE: Projects cancelled due to inactivity. Described activities have not been implemented. According to the project proposal, foreseen activities were: Strengthening the efficiency of the judiciary and the executive in the sphere of human rights protection by improving the qualification of magistrates and civil servants in the 'Procedural representation of the Republic of Bulgaria before the European Court of Human Rights' Directorate at the Ministry of Justice for the implementation of the European Convention For the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms (ECHR) and the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR). The foreseen activities are: Activity 1: Project organisation and management; Activity 2: Procedures for selection of contractors for the project activities; Activity 3: Conducting English and French language courses for the employees of the 'Procedural Representation of the Republic of Bulgaria to the European Court of Human Rights' Directorate of the MoJ; Activity 4: Study and evaluation of the training needs in the human rights area of the target groups; Activity 5: Conducting training amongst the employees of the 'Procedural Representation of the Republic of Bulgaria to the European Court of Human Rights' Directorate by representatives of the ECtHR in Strasbourg; Activity 6: Developing a human rights protection training programme and materials for magistrates; Activity 7: Conducting specialised training seminars on human rights protection and the ECtHR case-law for magistrates; Activity 8: Preparation and publication of a collection of 'Human rights' materials; Activity 9: Developing and introducing a web-based system for human rights distance training; Activity 10: Audit; Activity 11: Information and publicity.
Completion, improvement and preparation for integration with the UISCC of the information	2011	2014	3	652.16	544.97	463.22	Improvement of the efficiency and modernisation of the Information System of the General Directorate 'Execution of punishments' at the Ministry of Justice and preparation for its

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<p>system of the General Directorate 'Execution of Punishments'</p> <p>Доизграждане, усъвършенстване и подготовка за интегриране с ЕИСПП на информационната система на Главна дирекция „Изпълнение на наказанията“</p>							integration with the UISCC for better administrative service. Activity 1: Project administration and management; Activity 2: Analysis of the amendments to the normative acts regulating the execution of punishments that give rise to changes and new requirements for the Information System for Execution of Punishments (ISEP); Activity 3: Analysis of the existing components and functionalities of ISEP and specifying the requirements for its changes and supplementations; Activity 4: Analysis and design of the communication connection of the regional sections of GD 'Execution of punishments'; Activity 5: Defining detailed terms of reference for improving and modernising ISEP and its integration with UISCC; Activity 6: Developing the components of the system, according to the specifications and requirements defined in the terms of reference; Activity 7: Development of a new module in ISEP for dealing with the document-flow; Activity 8: Licensing of the specialised software products used in the system; Activity 9: Configuration of the network equipment according to the prepared design for communication connection; Activity 10: Pilot test of the system and preparation for its integration into UISCC; Activity 11: Conducting training and a seminar for users and administrators of the system; Activity 12: Information and publicity; Activity 13: Audit.
<p>Competent and transparent management of the administrative courts in Bulgaria</p> <p>Компетентно и прозрачно управление на административните съдилища в България</p>	2012	2013	1	320.51	247.63	210.49	To increase the competence in managing administrative courts through the development of management staff who are familiar with modern management theories and practices and work transparently, facing the public. Activity 1: Starting the project; Activity 2: Preparation of an analysis of good European practices in quality management of the justice system; Activity 3: Conducting 'Strategic planning and project management' seminars for presidents of administrative courts; Activity 4: Conducting a national seminar on 'Problems of human resource management in the justice system' for presidents of administrative courts; Activity 5: Conducting training on quality management for court clerks; Activity 6: Conducting interactive seminars on working with the media for representatives of SAC and the administrative courts; Activity 7: Information and publicity; Activity 8: Final financial and technical report and audit of the project.

Project Name	Start of project (year)	End of project (year)	Duration of project	Budget allocated ⁴⁸ in thousand EUR ⁴⁹	Budget spent ⁵⁰ in thousand EUR *	Actual EU contribution in thousand EUR *	Summary of activities undertaken
<p>Strengthening the capacity of the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria to set up specialised structures for counteracting organised crime and the crimes related to it</p> <p>Укрепване капацитета на Прокуратурата на Република България при изграждане на специализирани структури за противодействие на организираната престъпност и свързаните с нея престъпления</p>	2012	2013	1	290.93	245.06	208.30	Increasing the professional qualification and specialisation of those working cases of organised crime and crimes related to it. The idea of creating specialised structures in the judicial system of the Republic of Bulgaria was focused on the need to achieve serious and lasting results in the fight against organised crime and crimes related to it. In this sense, it was about structuring specialised criminal courts and specialised prosecution offices to investigate and deal with relevant cases. Creating an independent unit – a specialised prosecutor's office in the unified system of the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria – and increasing the professional qualification and specialisation of the prosecutors working there would serve to 'upgrade' the existing joint teams of the Prosecutor's Office, the Ministry of Interior and the State Agency 'National Security', and institutionalise them in a separate body in the judiciary, which would undoubtedly increase the effectiveness of investigation of cases of organised crime and the crimes related to it. Activity 1: Project management; Activity 2: Preparation of public procurement documentation and conducting public procurement procedures; Activity 3: Development of a structural and functional analysis of the effectiveness of the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria in counteracting organised crime; Activity 4: Study and analysis of EU Member States. Preparation of recommendations for improving the work of the Prosecutor's Office in counteracting organised crime; Activity 5: Exploratory training in an EU Member State; Activity 6: Creating a training strategy and a guide for counteracting organised crime; Activity 7: Pilot training; Activity 8: Information and publicity; Activity 9: Audit.
<p>Improving the capacity and efficiency of court officials through training</p> <p>Компетентна съдебна система и повишаване на капацитета и ефективността в правораздаването чрез обучение</p>	2012	2014	2	1 018.65	798.43	678.67	Strengthen the capacity of magistrates and court clerks to effectively apply EU law. Activity 1: Project management; Activity 2: Preparation and conducting of public procurement procedures; Activity 3: Analysis of the training needs of magistrates and court clerks in Bulgaria; Activity 4: Drawing up a training plan for magistrates and court clerks for the project purposes; Activity 5: Creating a methodology for selection of magistrates and court clerks to participate in the trainings; Activity 6: Conducting trainings/internships for magistrates and court clerks; Activity 7: Foreign language courses for magistrates and court clerks; Activity 8: A round-table for the European law training; Activity 9: Information and publicity; Activity 10: Audit.
<p>Administrative judges – advancing competence in the application of European law</p> <p>Административните съдии – компетентни в прилагане на Европейското право</p>	2012	2013	1	65.33	55.17	46.90	To increase the qualification of judges and court clerks in the application of European law in Bulgaria and the new requirements and standards for work in the Administrative Court in Dobrich and in the administrative courts located in the Northeast region of the country. Activity 1: Training of administrative judges in the fundamentals and principles of applying EU law; Activity 2: Work meeting in Administrative court – Koblenz, Germany. Experience exchange; Activity 3: Practical application of EU law; Activity 4: Training for court clerks; Activity 5: Working meeting on requests for preliminary rulings in the administrative proceedings; Activity 6: Information and publicity.

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Strengthen the capacity of initial training by consolidating the network of magistrates mentors and updating the model of mandatory initial training Укрепване на капацитета на началното обучение чрез консолидиране на мрежата на магистратите наставници и актуализиране на модела на задължителното първоначално обучение	2012	2014	2	425.20	303.62	258.08	Strengthen the capacity of initial training by improving the work organisation of magistrates mentors (magistrates who are serving as mentors of other magistrates) and updating the activity of mandatory initial training. Activity 1: Project management; Activity 2: Preparation and conducting of procedures for selection of contractors; Activity 3: Comprehensive analysis of the work organisation of the magistrates-mentors; Activity 4: Preparation of a training programme for newly appointed magistrates-mentors; Activity 5: Updating the model of the mandatory initial training; Activity 6: Improving the system for evaluation and selection of the permanent NIJ lecturers; Activity 7: Information and publicity; Activity 8: Audit.
A comprehensive and sustainable training programme for magistrates in the context of full EU membership Комплексна и устойчива програма за обучение на магистратите, в контекста на пълноправното членство в ЕС	2012	2014	2	441.33 **	362.38	308.02	Strengthening the role of the Bulgarian magistrate in the legal system of the European Union by enhancing the qualification, skills and competencies for the application of EU law in criminal, civil and administrative proceedings. Activity 1: Project management; Activity 2: Preparation and conducting procedures for selection of contractors; Activity 3: Studying the needs of the judges and representatives of the pre-trial authorities for specialised training in cases of organised crime, corruption and serious economic and financial crimes; Activity 4: Studying the needs of magistrates for specialised and practical EU law training, regarding criminal, civil and administrative cases; Activity 5: Studying good European practices in the area of specialised training of magistrates in cases of organised crime, corruption and serious economic and financial crimes; Activity 6: Studying good European practices in the area of practical EU law training for magistrates; Activity 7: Conducting trainings for trainers; Activity 8: Conducting a specialised training for Studying good European practices in the area of specialised training of magistrates in cases of organised crime, corruption and serious economic and financial crimes; Activity 9: Conducting a practical training for magistrates on priority areas of EU law; Activity 10: Conducting a specialised training for the magistrates of the supreme courts and prosecutor's offices; Activity 11: Preparation of training materials and textbooks; Activity 12: Purchase of a device for simultaneous translation; Activity 13: Information and publicity; Activity 14: Audit.
Improving practices and increasing the capacity for international cooperation in cases in the Bulgarian courts Подобряване на практиките и повишаване на капацитета за международно сътрудничество по дела в българските съдилища	2012	2014	2	140.12	100.98	85.84	To increase the capacity of judges of the Bulgarian courts for international cooperation on specific cases of various kinds. Activity 1: Project management; Activity 2: Analysis of the training needs of the judges in the Pazardzhik judicial region and the judicial regions with which it most often cooperates regarding specific cases with an international element; Activity 3: Preparation of a module training programme for the needs of the Pazardzhik judicial region and the judicial regions with which it most often cooperates; Activity 4: Conducting 12 module trainings, monitoring and evaluation, publication of the lectures in a handbook; Activity 5: Creating a platform for experience exchange with judges from other judicial regions, regarding solving of particular types of cases with an international element and participation in the National Institute of Justice network of judges-EU law coordinators; Activity 6: Establishing

Project Name	Start of project (year)	End of project (year)	Duration of project	Budget allocated ⁴⁸ in thousand EUR ⁴⁹	Budget spent ⁵⁰ in thousand EUR *	Actual EU contribution in thousand EUR *	Summary of activities undertaken
							cooperation with the European networks for training of magistrates and promoting knowledge of the legal systems and the law of the other Member States; Activity 7: Information and publicity.
Increasing the competence of magistrates and court officials from the Administrative Court – Veliko Turnovo, the Administrative Court – Lovech and the Administrative Court – Vratsa in accordance with the contemporary European tendencies Повишаване на компетентността на магистрати и съдебни служители от Административен съд Велико Търново, Административен съд Ловеч и Административен съд Враца съобразно съвременните европейски тенденции	2013	2014	1	74.02	57.56	48.92	Strengthening the capacity of the Veliko Turnovo, Lovech and Vratsa Administrative Courts. Activity 1: Work visit to the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg or in another EU Member State to discuss current legal issues of importance to the work of the administrative courts, including discussing specific cases; Activity 2: Creating a mechanism for regular discussion of current legal issues (between the administrative courts, with a court from an EU Member State or with the European Court of Justice or with representatives of the state or municipal administrations); Activity 3: Conducting a specialised training on the application of Directive 2006/12 and the case-law of the ECJ, related to it; Activity 4: Conducting a specialised training about the procedural and substantive aspects of the cassation proceedings before the administrative courts. Criteria for determining the access to justice, regarding the unappealable minimal administrative punishments in Bulgarian legislation and the case-law of EU in this regard; Activity 5: Conducting an English language course (I and II level); Activity 6: Conducting specialised training for court clerks – practical guidelines for the preparation and the form of documents in the judicial system; Activity 7: Information and publicity.
Strengthen the capacity of the MoI investigating authorities and increase the effectiveness of the investigation Укрепване на капацитета на разследващите органи в МВР и повишаване на ефективността на разследването	2013	2015	2	509.95 **	470.89 **	400.25 **	Enhancing the professional competence and efficiency of investigative bodies' work. Activity 1: Training for police authorities under Art. 52, par. 1, p. 3 of the Criminal Procedure Code; Activity 2: Study visits in EU Member States for experience exchange in the area of investigation methods; Activity 3: Specialised trainings for investigating police officers on investigating different types of crimes; Activity 4: Trainings for trainers; Activity 5: English language courses for beginners; Activity 6: Information and publicity; Activity 7: Audit.
Competent judges and court clerks – guarantees for quality justice Компетентни съдии и съдебни служители – гаранции за качествено правораздаване	2013	2014	1	73.38	45.99	39.09	Strengthening the capacity of magistrates and court clerks from the Haskovo, Pazardzhik and Smolyan Administrative Courts. Activity 1: Organising and conducting four 2-day seminars for magistrates and legal secretaries on 'Current problems of the case-law on administrative-penal procedures under the Labour Code, the Law on health and safety at work, the Law on excise duties and tax warehouses, Law on the customs, the Law on road traffic, the Law on road transport, the Law on VAT, the Law on fishery and aquacultures, the Law on consumer protection, the Law on gambling, the Law on the forests and others'; 'Judicial procedures of appealing administrative acts under the Law on the property and use of agricultural lands and the Rules on its application'; 'Practical guidance for preparation of references for a preliminary ruling to the Court of Justice of the European Union – form, requirements, necessary content, procedure'; 'Current case-law of the ECtHR in applying the ECHR on cases against the Republic of Bulgaria'; Activity 2: Creating a mechanism for regular discussion of current legal problems

Project Name	Start of project (year)	End of project (year)	Duration of project	Budget allocated ⁴⁸ in thousand EUR ⁴⁹	Budget spent ⁵⁰ in thousand EUR *	Actual EU contribution in thousand EUR *	Summary of activities undertaken
							in the field of work of Haskovo, Pazardzhik and Smolyan Administrative Courts on cases where they rule as a cassation instance; Activity 3: Organising and conducting two 2-day specialised trainings for court clerks on 'Standards for quality service of foreign citizens and disabled people'; Activity 4: Organising and conducting two specialised trainings for judges and court clerks on 'Law for protection of personal data'; Activity 5: Organising and conducting computer training for judges and court clerks on 'Working with Microsoft Office 2007'; Activity 6: Organising and conducting a specialised training for system administrators on 'Server Administrator on Windows Server 2008'; Activity 7: Information and publicity.
Improvement of the qualifications of SJC members and SJC administration staff Повишаване на квалификацията на членовете на ВСС и служителите на администрацията на ВСС	2013	2015	2	579.65	502.95	427.50	The overall objective of this project proposal was to improve the work of the judiciary by enhancing qualifications and skills through specific training for new management skills. The planned activities are: Activity 1: Start of the project; Activity 2: Preparation of a detailed analysis for assessing the training needs of the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) and its administration; Activity 3: Organising specialised training for making appraisals and holding competitions; Activity 4: Organising and conducting of 'Strategic planning' trainings; Activity 5: Organising and conducting training for better management in the justice system; Activity 6: Organising and conducting specialised training regarding the functions of SJC – professional ethics and best anti-corruption practices; Activity 7: Organising training for key competences ('Effective team management', 'Public presentation and communication'); Activity 8: Information and publicity; Activity 9: Completing the project.
Competent Judicial System and Effective Human Resource Management at the Administrative Court – Pleven and Administrative Court – Gabrovo Компетентна съдебна система и ефективно управление на човешките ресурси в Административен съд- град Плевен и Административен съд –град Габрово	2013	2015	2	54.00	47.34	40.24	Improvement of the qualification of magistrates and court clerks and development of a comprehensive policy for human resources management in AC-Pleven and AC-Gabrovo. Activity 1: Conducting specialised training for judges, legal secretaries, court clerks and administrators and presidents of courts from AC-Pleven and AC-Gabrovo in eight main subjects: 1. EU law; 2. Book-keeping and audit; 3. Finance control; 4. Human resources management; 5. Information technologies; 6. Two specialised computer trainings (6419A Configuring, Managing, and Maintaining Windows Server 2008 Servers and 6425C Configuring and Troubleshooting Windows Server 2008 Active Directory Domain Services (HV)); 7. Computer equipment and technologies; 8. Administrative service; Activity 2: Organising and conducting work meetings and seminar for discussions of current legal problems; Activity 3: Information and publicity.
Establishing Efficient Administration of the Ministry of Justice by Development of the E-Justice System	2013	2015	2	426.84	267.78	227.61	Improving the quality of services provided to citizens and businesses by improving and developing the system and the centralised portal of e-Justice. Activity 1: Forming a team and project management; Activity 2: Preparation and conducting of a procurement procedure under the Law on public procurements for selection of contractors for development and introducing e-registers in directorates 'Bulgarian citizenship' and 'International child protection and international adoptions'; Activity 3: Analysis and a study of the existing information systems of directorates 'Bulgarian citizenship' and 'International child protection

Project Name	Start of project (year)	End of project (year)	Duration of project	Budget allocated ⁴⁸ in thousand EUR ⁴⁹	Budget spent ⁵⁰ in thousand EUR *	Actual EU contribution in thousand EUR *	Summary of activities undertaken
Изграждане на ефективна администрация на Министерството на правосъдието чрез развитие на системата за е-правосъдие							and international adoptions'; Activity 4: Preparation and certification of terms of reference of e-registers to directorates 'Bulgarian citizenship' and 'International child protection and international adoptions'; Activity 5: Development and introduction of an e-register for directorate 'Bulgarian citizenship'; Activity 6: Development and introduction of an e-register for directorate 'International child protection and international adoptions'; Activity 7: Purchasing of hardware necessary for the functioning of the developed and introduced registers; Activity 8: Development and introduction of a quality management system (QMS) according to international standard ISO 9001:2008; Activity 9: Certification of the Quality management system according to international standard ISO 9001:2008; Activity 10: Accompanying training for work with the new information systems and QMS; Activity 11: Information and publicity; Activity 12: Financial audit.
Increasing the competence of judges, court clerks and court clerks from the Supreme Administrative Court and the Administrative Courts Повишаване на компетентността на съдии, съдебни помощници и съдебни служители от ВАС и административните съдилища	2013	2014	1	277.57	265.27	225.48	The overall objective of the project was to improve the work of the judiciary by acquiring specific expertise. It was aimed to be achieved through the realisation of the following specific objectives: Increasing the capacity of the representatives of the target groups in specific areas according to their needs; Acquisition of up-to-date knowledge and practice in European law. The objectives of the project proposal directly corresponded to one of OPAC's strategic objectives, namely 'Raising professionalism, transparency and accountability in the judiciary'. Achieving the results set in the project would ensure an increase of the competence, knowledge and skills of the target group – representatives of the judicial system that directly contributes to Sub-priority 2.4: 'Competent Judicial System and Effective Human Resource Management'. The project was in line with all the strategic documents underlying OPAC.; Activity 1: Starting the project; Activity 2: Conducting 17 trainings for legal secretaries of SAC and the 28 administrative courts on predefined topics (including tax law; environmental law; anti-discrimination law; competition law; foreigners, refugees and migration; civil service; the Law on spatial planning; reference for a preliminary ruling; EU citizenship and human rights; state and municipal property and others); Activity 3: Conducting specialised training for judges of SAC and the administrative courts on predefined topics (including conflict of interests; regulation of Competition law in the energy sector; administrative procedure and others); Activity 4: Conducting trainings for the administration of SAC, SJC and the administrative courts (including on the Law on public procurements, the Law on access to public information, internal control, keeping current and business correspondence, practical aspects of working with normative acts); Activity 5: Evaluation of the effectiveness of the training conducted for SAC and the administrative courts; Activity 6: Information and publicity; Activity 7: Completing the project.
Increasing the competence and professional qualification of judges, prosecutors and investigators, as well as of the presidents of the	2013	2015	2	332.28	297.22	252.64	Increasing the qualifications of judges, prosecutors, investigators and presidents of the judiciary bodies, the need for which cannot be achieved through the initial and ongoing training at the National Institute of Justice. Activity 1: Preparation of public procurement document packages; Activity 2: Preparation of an SJC programme for professional

Project Name	Start of project (year)	End of project (year)	Duration of project	Budget allocated ⁴⁸ in thousand EUR ⁴⁹	Budget spent ⁵⁰ in thousand EUR *	Actual EU contribution in thousand EUR *	Summary of activities undertaken
<p>judiciary bodies by organising and providing training by the SJC</p> <p>Повишаване на компетентността и професионалната квалификация на съдии, прокурори и следователи, както и на административните ръководители на органите на съдебната власт чрез организиране и предоставяне на обучения от ВСС</p>							<p>qualification, other than the NIJ; Activity 4: Conducting specialised training for magistrates; Activity 4: Developing and printing guidelines, a handbook and a textbook, in relation to the training; Activity 5: Information and publicity activities; Activity 6: Audit of the project.</p>
<p>Building and Implementation of an Automated Information System 'Criminal Record Office'⁵²</p> <p>Изграждане и внедряване на Автоматизирана информационна система „Бюра съдимост“</p>	2013	2015	2	804.78	0.0	0.0	<p>NOTE: Projects cancelled due to inactivity. Described activities have not been implemented.</p> <p>According to the project proposal, the foreseen activities were: Improving the quality of the services provided to citizens and businesses by improving and developing the system and the centralised portal of e-Justice. Activity 1: Forming a team and project management; Activity 2: Preparation and conducting of a procurement procedure under the Law on public procurements for selection of contractors for the development and introduction of 'Criminal Record Office' automated information system; Activity 3: Analysis and a study of the existing information systems of the Criminal Record Office; Activity 4: Preparation and certification of terms of reference of automated information system 'Criminal Record Office'; Activity 5: Development and introduction of an automated information system 'Criminal Record Office'; Activity 6: Purchase of hardware necessary for the functioning of the developed and introduced automated information system 'Criminal Record Office'; Activity 7: Development and introduction of a quality management system (QMS) according to international standard ISO 9001:2008; Activity 8: Certification of the quality management system according to international standard ISO 9001:2008; Activity 9: Accompanying trainings for work with the automated information system 'Criminal Record Office' and QMS; Activity 11: Information and publicity; Activity 12: Financial audit.</p>
<p>Strengthening the capacity of the SJC for better communication management processes and more transparency in the judicial system</p> <p>Укрепване на капацитета на ВСС за по-добро управление на комуникационните процеси и</p>	2013	2015	2	249.56	205.97	175.07	<p>Improving the public image and transparency in the work of the judiciary and the Supreme Judicial Council. Activity 1: Project management and organisation; Activity 2: Development of tender documents and tendering for selection of contractors; Activity 3: Develop a communication strategy of the judiciary; Activity 4: Organisation of an accompanying training; Activity 5: Organisation of a National Conference; Activity 6: Organising and conducting an information campaign; Action 7: Organisation of open door days in the SJC; Activity 8: Information and publicity; Action 9: Audit of the project.</p>

⁵² This project was cancelled

Project Name	Start of project (year)	End of project (year)	Duration of project	Budget allocated ⁴⁸ in thousand EUR ⁴⁹	Budget spent ⁵⁰ in thousand EUR *	Actual EU contribution in thousand EUR *	Summary of activities undertaken
повече прозрачност в дейността на съдебната система							
E-Justice – research and development of a single communication and information infrastructure and a single electronic portal for the judiciary Електронно правосъдие – проучване и изграждане на единна комуникационна и информационна инфраструктура и единен електронен портал на съдебната власт	2013	2015	2	630.97	408.57	347.28	Reforming the judiciary through the introduction of e-justice. Activity 1: Forming a team and project management; Activity 2: Analyses and preparation of recommendation for a detailed range of the main requirements for working in the conditions of e-justice; Activity 3: Building and introduction of a single e-justice portal (single centralised access point); Activity 4: Purchase of the hardware necessary for the functioning of the single e-justice portal; Activity 5: Concomitant training for work with the single e-justice portal; Activity 6: Information and publicity; Activity 7: Financial audit.
Development, Configuration and Implementation of the Specialised Management Information System in GD 'Security' and its inclusion in the Unified Information System for Counteraction of Crime Разработка, конфигуриране и внедряване на специализирана информационна система за управление в ГД 'Охрана' и включването ѝ към Единната информационна система за противодействие на престъпността	2014	2015	1	644.95 **	556.58 **	473.09 **	Improving the organisation of work processes in the structure of the General Directorate Security by implementing a Specialised Management Information System (SMIS), as well as carrying out activities for inclusion and exchange of information with the Unified Information System for Counteracting Crime (UISCC). Activity 1: Preliminary analysis of the work processes by GD 'Security' experts and preparation of the terms of reference and the procurement documents for project activities; Activity 2: Developing and introducing a specialised management information system in GD 'Security' /two integrated sub-systems and an active directory/; Activity 3. Building a website of GD 'Security' and an internal email system; Activity 4: Building interfaces for information exchange with the Unified Information System for Counteracting Crime; Activity 5: Project organisation and management; Activity 6: Audit; Activity 7: Information and publicity
Enhancing capacity and efficiency in the justice administration through training Повишаване на капацитета и ефективността в правораздаването чрез обучение	2014	2015	1	527.96	392.24	333.40	Effective implementation of EU law by providing ongoing training for court clerks and enhancing foreign language courses for magistrates and court clerks. Activity 1: Project management; Activity 2: Preparation and performing a contractor selection procedure; Activity 3: Preparing specialised training programmes (1. civil, commercial and criminal cases training; 2. interdisciplinary training; 3. distance training) for court clerks; Activity 4: Conducting specialised training for court clerks in Bulgaria; Activity 5: Conducting foreign language courses for magistrates and court clerks; Activity 6: Analysis and evaluation of the effectiveness of the training conducted; Activity 7: An international conference with the participation of the representatives of the European judicial bodies, who helped the NIJ to conduct the training; Activity 8: Information and publicity; Activity 9: An independent financial audit.
Improvement of the competence of the court clerks – statisticians in the judiciary bodies and of the members of the Commission for Professional	2014	2015	1	134.33	120.10 **	102.08	Enhancement of the competence and professional qualifications of judicial statisticians, court clerks performing statistical work in the courts and members of the CPQITS and the CARWJB. Activity 1: Project organisation and management; Activity 2: Specialised training for court

Project Name	Start of project (year)	End of project (year)	Duration of project	Budget allocated ⁴⁸ in thousand EUR ⁴⁹	Budget spent ⁵⁰ in thousand EUR *	Actual EU contribution in thousand EUR *	Summary of activities undertaken
<p>Qualification, Information Technologies and Statistics (CPQITS) and of the Commission for Analysis and Reporting on the Workload of the Judiciary Bodies (CARWJB)</p> <p>Повишаване на компетентността на съдебните служители – статистици в органите на съдебната власт и на членове на КПКИС и КАОСНОСВ</p>							<p>statisticians and court clerks performing statistical work; Activity 3: Developing a methodology for control and verification of the statistical data, reporting the activities of the judicial bodies and the judges in the Republic of Bulgaria; Activity 4: Evaluation of the effectiveness of the training conducted and a plan for introducing a continuing training; Activity 5: Information and publicity.</p>
<p>Training of MoI officials on the use of specialised automated information systems</p> <p>Обучение на служители на МВР по използване на специализирани автоматизирани информационни системи</p>	2014	2015	1	241.15	0.00	0.00	<p>NOTE: Projects cancelled due to inactivity. Described activities were not implemented. According to the project proposal, the foreseen activities were: Improving the skills of MoI officials with investigative functions for maximally efficient use of automated information systems; Activity 1: Preparation of procurement documentation for selection of a contractor of project organisation and management services and conducting a procedure under the Law on public procurements; Activity 2: Conducting training using MOI-approved training programme; Training for trainers for working with AIS 'Investigation in MoI'; Activity 3: Information and publicity – opening press conference; one-day conference with participants from MoI working with the systems for which the training is conducted, and guests, to present the achieved results; a final press conference for presentation of the project results; printing and distributing promotional materials, brochures and media publications; Activity 4: Audit.</p>
<p>Strengthen the efficiency of the judiciary through training without borders</p> <p>Укрепване на ефективността на съдебната система чрез обучение без граници</p>	2014	2015	1	950.26	590.59	502.00	<p>Strengthen the capacity of magistrates and court clerks to improve the efficiency of the judiciary. Activity 1: Project management and conducting of public procurements procedure; Activity 2: Training/Internships for magistrates and court clerks in EU Member States; training for magistrates and court clerks on specific non-legal topics (strategic, administrative and financial management and diplomatic and protocol courses); Activity 3: Evaluation of the effectiveness of the training for magistrates and court clerks; Activity 4. Information and publicity; Activity 5. Independent financial audit.</p>
<p>An Increase of the Current Qualification in the Field of Civil and Commercial Law</p> <p>Повишаване на текущата квалификация в областта на гражданското и търговското право</p>	2014	2015	1	463.85	384.54	326.86	<p>Enhancing law enforcement in civil and commercial matters by enhancing the current qualifications of magistrates, court and prosecutor's office's clerks, state bailiffs and registrars as well as the presidents of judiciary bodies and their deputies in the judiciary. Activity 1: Project management; Activity 2: Preparation of contractor selection procedures; Activity 3: Development and update of the training modules for the justice system; Activity 4: Conducting training in the field of civil law, based on the developed and updated training modules; Activity 5: Conducting training in the field of commercial law, based on the developed and updated training modules; Activity 6. Conducting interdisciplinary training for magistrates, legal secretaries and state bailiffs, as well as for administrative managers and their deputies in the</p>

Project Name	Start of project (year)	End of project (year)	Duration of project	Budget allocated ⁴⁸ in thousand EUR ⁴⁹	Budget spent ⁵⁰ in thousand EUR *	Actual EU contribution in thousand EUR *	Summary of activities undertaken
							justice system; Activity 7: Publishing activity – publishing a collection of articles and studies in the fields of civil and commercial law; re-publishing of the NIJ textbooks, composed during project K511D 24D1/07.06.2012.; Activity 8: Conducting distance (online) training for magistrates, legal secretaries, state bailiffs and registrars; Activity 9: Ensuring required technical support for conducting the training; Activity 10: Information and publicity.
Effective and transparent enforcement by building a Judicial Enforcement Portal, integrated with national and European electronic legal systems Ефективно и прозрачно принудителноизпълнение чрез изграждане на Портал на съдебното изпълнение, интегриран с националните и европейските електронни правни системи	2013	2015	2	724.29 **	0.00 **	0.00 **	NOTE: Projects cancelled due to inactivity. Described activities have not been implemented. According to the project proposal, the foreseen activities were: Improving the quality of services provided to citizens and businesses by improving and developing the system and the centralised portal of e-Justice. Activity 1: Forming a team and project management; Activity 2: Analysis and a study of the existing information systems related to enforcement, and the interaction between them; Activity 3: Analysis and a study of the legal regulations in force and the work processes in EU Member States; Activity 4: Study and analysis of the existing systems for judicial enforcement in EU Member States, research and exchange of good European practices related to the building of a judicial enforcement portal; Activity 5: Preparation of public procurement documentation for selection of a contractor to develop and introduce a judicial enforcement portal; Activity 6: Development and introduction of 'E-Judicial Enforcement' portal; Activity 7: Preparation of the documentation necessary for introducing the portal; Activity 8: Re-engineering of the business processes in the institutions related to the judicial enforcement in connection to the functioning of the portal ; Activity 9: Training of the target groups; Activity 10: Providing computer equipment; Activity 11: Financial audit; Activity 12: Information and publicity.
Establishing a Reliable Environment for the Data Exchange and Communication Between the Administrative Courts in Bulgaria and Establishing a Unified Record-Keeping Information System (EURKIS) for Implementation in the Administrative Courts in the Republic of Bulgaria Създаване на надеждна среда за обмен на данни и комуникация между административните съдилища в Р. България и създаване на единна деловодно-информационна система /едис/ за	2013	2015	2	1159.58 **	1064.56 **	904.88 **	Improving the efficiency and transparency of Administrative justice by introducing integrated automated information systems to ensure the implementation of e-Justice. Activity 1: Itemisation of the requirements for building a comprehensive Unified Record-Keeping Information System (URKIS) and the environment for collaboration; Activity 2: Design and realisation of the comprehensive Unified Record-Keeping Information System (URKIS) and the environment for collaboration; Activity 3: Introduction of the Unified Record-Keeping Information System (URKIS) and the environment for collaboration in SAC and 28 Administrative courts; Activity 4: Training for work with the Unified Record Keeping Information System (URKIS) for judges and court clerks; Activity 5: Guaranteeing the professional training of system administrators for work with, administration and maintenance of the basic software and the application software on it; Activity 6: Providing licenses for basic software of the Unified Record Keeping Information System (URKIS) and the environment for collaboration and a unified environment for knowledge exchange and user help. Activity 7: Providing the equipment for building a protected environment for collaboration, data and

Project Name	Start of project (year)	End of project (year)	Duration of project	Budget allocated ⁴⁸ in thousand EUR ⁴⁹	Budget spent ⁵⁰ in thousand EUR *	Actual EU contribution in thousand EUR *	Summary of activities undertaken
внедряване в административни съдилища в Р. България							knowledge exchange and help for users; Activity 8: Building a protected environment for collaboration, data and knowledge exchange and help for users; Activity 9: Information and publicity; Activity 10: Audit

Out of 52 projects relating to justice, seven were cancelled during their lifecycle due to inactivity or, in a single case⁵³, due to the initiation of court proceedings against the beneficiary.⁵⁴ The remaining 45 projects are closed. The 'budget spent' and the 'actual EU contribution' for the aforementioned seven projects are reported in the above table as 'EUR 0' because either they have not received funding, or the initial funding was returned after the project cancellation. The total value of the budget spent on all projects funded through the ESF amounted to EUR 17,374,855 as can be seen in Table 4.

Table 4: Number and budget spent (in thousand EUR) of projects supporting justice, funded by ESF and ERDF in the programming period 2007–2013⁵⁵

Project Name	Number of projects supporting justice	Budget allocated in thousand EUR	Budget spent in thousand EUR	Actual EU contribution in thousand EUR
ESF	52	25,272.418	17,374.855	14,768.620
ERDF	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Both	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
TOTAL	52	25,272.418	17,374.855	14,768.620

Project beneficiaries

All project beneficiaries, identified through the project-level documents correspond to the potential beneficiaries identified in the programme-level documents:

- Prosecution Office (EUR 4.0 million spent on 6 projects),
- Supreme Judicial Council (EUR 3.4 million spent on 9 projects⁵⁶),
- National Institute of Justice – a specialised training institution in the judiciary (EUR 3.0 million spent on 7 projects),
- Ministry of Justice (EUR 1.6 million spent on 9 projects),
- Supreme Administrative Court (EUR 1.0 million spent on 5 projects), and
- Ministry of Interior (EUR 0.9 million spent on 2 projects).

The rest of the beneficiaries have spent less than EUR 0.3 million each. Except for the single projects of the Bulgarian Registry Agency (EUR 0.3 million) and the Inspectorate to the Supreme Judicial Council (EUR 0.2 million) all other projects were implemented by different Bulgarian courts.⁵⁷

Table 5 reports the number of projects (including the cancelled ones) that featured the categories related to the beneficiaries above. For example, Courts and Tribunals have the highest number of projects (17), followed by the Relevant Ministries (11).

⁵³ Project No 1 on 'Information system for transparency in the military courts'. Project code (contract No) C08-15-3

⁵⁴ Information obtained from the MA through written comments received during the review of the Country report. According to the publicly available documents and the online centralised project database, three projects were cancelled, while for another three projects there is no information about their status.

⁵⁵ Data from the Unified management information system for the EU structural instruments in Bulgaria, 2007–2013, <http://umispublic.government.bg/Default.aspx> and OPAC official webpage, <http://www.opac.government.bg/bg/home>. For separate project documents, please see the country MS Summary Table.

⁵⁶ Another project with EUR 0.2 million has been implemented by the Inspectorate to the Supreme Judicial Council.

⁵⁷ An exception is a project of the National Investigation Service at the MoI, which did not start and did not spend a single euro.

Table 5: Number of times the following entities were the beneficiary of a project supporting justice, by Fund⁵⁸

Project Name	Relevant ministries	Courts and tribunals	National prosecution offices	Professional association of magistrates and bar associations	Registry offices	Regional administration	Specialised training or research institutions	Specialised governance bodies of the judiciary	Others
ESF	11	17	7	0	1	0	7	9	1
ERDF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Both	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	11	17	7	0	1	0	7	9	1

The majority of the projects (49 out of 52) have only a single beneficiary (49 out of 52 projects in total) but, if there were more than one beneficiary per project, the beneficiaries belong to the same type of institution (e.g. beneficiaries are several courts).

Project activities undertaken related to support to justice

The majority of projects included multiple types of activities. Even projects which focused on a given type of activity (e.g. training or development of information systems), include various supporting activities (e.g. conducting studies, organising events, etc.). However, two types of activities are central for all projects related to justice – training of magistrates, administrative and technical staff of the judicial institutions and development and implementation of automated information systems in the judiciary (including update and upgrade of existing ones). The majority of the projects did not include evaluations or assessments of the effectiveness of the project activities but were focused on the administrative and financial reporting for the completion of the activities. Activities undertaken are:

- Training of magistrates, administrative officials and technical staff (e.g. system administrators);
 - Training on specialised justice-related topics / separate law branches;
 - Training on foreign language courses (mainly English language);
 - Training on the use of specialised information systems implemented in the judicial bodies (including case management systems, HRM systems, electronic document flow systems, etc.) and on the use of general software (e.g. Office applications);

⁵⁸ Data from the Unified management information system for the EU structural instruments in Bulgaria, 2007–2013, <http://umispublic.government.bg/Default.aspx> and OPAC official webpage, <http://www.opac.government.bg/bg/home>. For separate project documents, please see the country MS Summary Table.

- Training on business process related topics (e.g. use of specialised information systems, administrative procedures, etc.);
- Development and implementation of specialised information systems in different judicial bodies (including case management systems, HRM systems, electronic document flow systems, etc.), including integration between existing and newly developed information systems;
 - Development and update of websites and related platforms for e-services for citizens / business;
- Development of standards and procedures for measuring workload of judges, trustees, prosecutors and other judicial staff and of procedures for reporting of workload;
- Studies, analyses, monitoring and evaluation of business processes, procedures and legal and institutional framework of the judiciary, including studies of good practices in the EU Member States;
 - Developing action plans, concepts, standards, methodologies, manuals, internal regulations, etc. for improving business processes, procedures and legal and institutional framework of the judiciary;
 - Developing training curricula for specialised law-related topics, as well as for management of various business processes;
- Organisation of conferences, round-tables, seminars and other events aiming at training, dissemination of projects' results, sharing of knowledge and experience on specialised topics, etc.;
- Information and publicity activities, including awareness campaigns;
- Delivery of hardware equipment and software applications for the bodies of the judiciary;
- Evaluation / assessment of the effectiveness of the project activities that have been undertaken.

The reporting of the activities undertaken as presented in the available summaries of the project reports follows the description of the planned activities and often there is no additional or detailed information about the actual implementation – e.g. how many people have been trained, how many new functionalities have been developed during the upgrade of the information systems, etc.

As described above, almost all projects have multiple activities, but two types of activities are central – training of magistrates, administrative and technical staff of the judicial institutions and development and implementation of automated information systems in the judiciary, which usually included an element of analysis or research, therefore explaining the large number of activities categorised under 'Evaluations and studies'. Out of 52 projects in total, seven have been cancelled.

Table 6: Number of times a type of activity was undertaken as part of a project supporting justice, by Fund⁵⁹

⁵⁹ Data from the Unified management information system for the EU structural instruments in Bulgaria, 2007–2013, <http://umispublic.government.bg/Default.aspx> and OPAC official webpage, <http://www.opac.government.bg/bg/home>. For separate project documents, please see the country MS Summary Table.

Project Name	Training	Activities relating to ADR/ODR	Developing/upgrading business processes at courts	Developing/upgrading HR management processes within the judiciary	Introduction of case management system	Digitalisation of court services	Purchase of ICT systems (hardware and software)	Putting in place/upgrading the cooperation and communication with in the judiciaries	Development and circulation of best practices	Evaluations and studies	Support to reform initiatives	Upgrading physical infrastructure at courts	Others
ESF	47		4	11	1	10	13	9	19	31		2	
ERDF													
Both													
TOTAL	47		4	11	1	10	13	9	19	31		2	

Project final recipients related to support to justice

As the majority of the projects supporting justice focused on improving the effectiveness of the beneficiaries' institutions through training and/or the development of new/updated information systems, the main final recipients were the professionals in the respective institutions.⁶⁰ Among them, two main sub-groups could be distinguished: i) magistrates, and ii) administrative and technical staff of the judicial institutions. In addition, several projects have identified citizens and legal entities in Bulgaria as their final recipients. No discrepancies were noted between the potential recipients as described in OPAC and the reported data.

⁶⁰ In a few cases, the final recipients are not described in terms of different groups of employees (e.g. magistrates, technical staff, court clerks, etc.) but using the name of the institution (e.g. project BG11 on 'Improving the work of the Central Register of the Not-for-profit Legal Entities ineffective coordination with the district courts' refers to the following beneficiaries: Ministry of Justice, Registry Agency, SJC Inspectorate, Supreme Court of Cassation, Supreme Administrative Court, Prosecutor's Office).

Table 7: Number of times the following entities were the final recipient of a project supporting justice, by Fund

	Courts and Tribunals	Relevant ministries	Registry offices	Regional administration	National prosecution offices	Professional association of magistrates and bar associations	Specialised governance bodies of the judiciary	Others	No information available
ESF	38	14	2	5	19	0	8	1	0
ERDF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Both	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	38	14	2	5	19	0	8	1	0

Project outputs, results and impacts related to support to justice

The reviewed documents did not provide information under the heading 'outputs'. However, based on the description of 'results' and 'activities'⁶¹ as reported in the project-level documents, the following categorisation can be made of the types of outputs as corresponding to the planned output indicators:⁶²

- **Number of trained magistrates, administrative officials and technical staff and/or number and type of trainings conducted.**⁶³ With few exceptions, the share of trained women is not reported. Often, the reporting does not allow to find out how many persons have been trained in total, because there could be overlapping between different trainings;
- **Number of newly developed training modules for the judiciary.** In the majority of projects, these are reported as 'newly developed training programmes'. About one-quarter of the projects did not report the exact number of modules/programmes that were developed but, based on the available information, 113 training modules/programmes have been developed within the projects;
- **Number of developed / upgraded information systems in the judiciary bodies** (including case management systems, HRM systems, electronic document flow systems, etc.), including integration between existing and newly developed information systems. In the majority of cases, the name of the given information system is reported;
- **Number of the bodies of judiciary** which introduced a case management system.

Table 8 summarises the information from the project-level documents about the reported project outputs according to the output indicators groups, as predefined in the methodology of this review.

Table 8: Project output indicators and data

Aggregate indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline, if available	Target, if available	Reported value, if available	N=
Operational Programme Administrative capacity 2007–2013					
<i>I. Good Governance</i>					
<i>1.5. Transparent and Effective Judicial System</i>					
No of courts receiving support to introduce ICT tools for case management and communication between courts and parties	No of bodies	2	190	3	3
<i>II. Human Resources Management</i>					
<i>2.4. Competent Judicial System and Effective Human Resources Management</i>					
No. of staff participating in training ⁶⁴	No of staff ⁶⁵	3000	21000	9623	35
No. of judges, prosecutors and non-judge court staff participating in training related to quality or	No of staff	N/A	N/A	7299	25

⁶¹ The available documents do not report specific outputs but only 'activities' and 'results'. The description of outputs is done by the researcher, based on an analysis of reported activities and results as aligned with the definition of 'outputs indicators' as reported in the AIRs in Task 1.

⁶² The order in which the outputs are presented here corresponds to the frequency of reporting of the respective outputs and not to the administrative division of priority axis and sub-priorities as in Table 8.

⁶³ Often the results are reported as number and type of conducted trainings and not as number of employees who have been trained during the project.

⁶⁴ The category of 'No. of staff participating in training' comprises two sub-groups: 'No. of judges, prosecutors and non-judge court staff participating in training related to quality or efficiency or independence of justice', and all other trained staff, e.g. employees outside the courts, prosecution offices and the SJC (e.g. National Registry Agency, MoJ and MoI), specialised trainings of IT staff in the justice bodies such as system administrators, all trainings of the total staff on general computer skills (e.g. work with MS Office), as well as all trainings conducted by the MoJ where no information about the target group of trainees is available.

⁶⁵ No. of staff trained could be different from number of persons, because a single person could be reported as a participant in more than one training in the same project.

Aggregate indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline, if available	Target, if available	Reported value, if available	N=
efficiency or independence of justice					
<i>III. Quality Administrative Service Delivery and E-Governance Development</i>					
<i>3.3. Improving service delivery by the judiciary through the development of information technology</i>					
No of courts supported to implement new tools/systems/measures	No of bodies ⁶⁶	N/A	N/A	399	96

In total, 27 out of 52 projects reported their results under the heading of 'expected results' and not as 'achieved results'. However, the level of detail and the wording allow one to conclude that at least part of the provided information and data corresponds to the 'achieved' and not to the 'expected' results. Still, the rest of the reported 'results' could not be firmly allocated to what has been actually achieved.

Only 3 out of these 27 projects contain information on result indicators, as they have been predefined in the OPAC description:

- Under the project 'Competent and motivated magistrates and court clerks' the SJC introduced a centralised HRM system, which serves all courts in the country, and under the project 'Enhancement of Employee Qualifications, Development and Improvement of Human Resources Management at the Registry Agency', the Agency also introduced a HRM system. Both results refer to the output indicator 'Bodies of the judiciary, which introduced HRM system' of axis 2: Human Resources Management, sub-priority 2.4 Competent Judicial System and Effective Human Resources Management.
- Under the project 'Effective and transparent enforcement by building a Judicial Enforcement Portal, integrated with national and European electronic legal systems', the MoJ developed and introduced 11 e-services for citizens and business in the e-Justice portal. This result refers to the result indicator 'four services, included into the e-justice portal' of axis 3: Quality Administrative Service Delivery and E-Governance Development, sub-priority 3.3 Improving service delivery by the judiciary through the development of information technology. In fact, the AIRs stated that the target value of this indicator is 10 services, but only for have been developed under projects funded by OPAC. (See Section 2.4.1 below). As of today, the national e-justice portal (<https://portal.justice.bg>) offers two e-services to citizens.

As mentioned in section 2.4.1, Programme indicators, the target for the first indicator could be assessed as fully reached because the centralised HRM system, introduced and maintained by the SJC, is used for all judicial bodies in the country (according to an Amendment to the Judicial System Act as of 11 September 2015, which states that the HRM of the justice system is centralised within the SJC).

Under the second indicator, project BG50⁶⁷ reported 11 e-services as developed and included in the centralised national e-justice portal (<https://portal.justice.bg>); however,

⁶⁶ In project No. 50, 'Effective and transparent enforcement by building a Judicial Enforcement Portal, integrated with national and European electronic legal systems' a centralised portal for the judiciary was developed and implemented. It allows all courts in Bulgaria to use it and for that reason the reported value is 190 (number of courts in the country in 2015).

In project No 52 'E-Justice – research and development of a single communication and information infrastructure and a single electronic portal of the judiciary', a centralised e-justice portal was developed and implemented. It allows all courts in Bulgaria to use its e-services and for that reason the reported value is 190 (number of courts in the country in 2015). However, as of June 2017 only 20 courts use it to publish their e-cases, while the other courts use it mainly for e-services, related to issuing of documents (e.g. criminal court certificate).

⁶⁷ Ibid.

the pre-defined target for the respective result indicator is 'four e-services' (see section 2.4.1 Programme indicators).⁶⁸

Many projects reported as results the material deliverables from the project activities, e.g. '4 banners; 600 promotional materials; 3 press conferences; 5 round-tables; 12 media publications; 1 audit report; 16 duly submitted technical reports'.⁶⁹ Besides this, the following results have been reported most often:

- Different documents that have been elaborated and published (including analyses, guidelines and handbooks, methodologies, internal documents, training modules/programmes, etc.). In all projects, project management reports (e.g. audit report, technical and financial reports, final project report, etc.) are included into the reported 'results';
 - In some projects, the analytical activities for the preparation of the respective documents are reported as 'results' without specifying whether the documents have been elaborated (published) or not.⁷⁰
- Conducted specialised and general trainings and/or number of trained persons. In some cases, not only the number and type of trainings is reported but also the improved level of qualification of the employees that have been trained;
- Conducted different events (conferences, training seminars, round-tables, etc.);
- Implemented travels / visits to other Member States (mainly for exchange of knowledge or for studying purposes);
- Improvements in internal business processes and procedures;
- Purchased hardware equipment.

Table 9: Result/ impact indicators and data

Aggregate indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline, if available	Target, if available	Reported value, if available	N=
Operational Programme Administrative capacity 2007–2013					
<i>I. Good Governance</i>					Not available
<i>1.5. Transparent and Effective Judicial System</i>					Not available
<i>II. Human Resources Management</i>					Not available
<i>2.4. Competent Judicial System and Effective Human Resources Management</i>					Not available
<i>III. Quality Administrative Service Delivery and E-Governance Development</i>					Not available
<i>3.3. Improving service delivery by the judiciary through the development of information technology</i>					Not available

Neither the desk research on publicly available documents, nor the request for information to the beneficiaries, has found any information about project-level evaluation or any follow-up on the impact. The only information available online was several news items in the 'News' sections of the beneficiaries' websites, stating that the respective project has been completed successfully.

2.4. Relevant programme output and result indicators

2.4.1. Programme indicators

The outputs, results and impacts from the implementation of OPAC 2007–2013 related to support to the justice system were reviewed by using two different information sources – the general programme documents and the final summary reports of the respective projects. For the need of Task 1 of the current assignment, the sub-sections below present the outputs, results and impacts as reported in the OPAC general programme-level

⁶⁸ As of 27.07.2017, the centralised e-justice portal offers six e-services – five for citizens and business (e-case system of selected courts, online database of anonymised courts' acts, e-criminal record certificate, system for filling in signals for corruption in the judicial system and information system for the random allocation of court's cases) and one for the judiciary (e-voting system for SJC members).

⁶⁹ Project BG7 on 'Publicity and effectiveness of insolvency proceedings', implemented by the MoJ.

⁷⁰ See for example, project BG45 on 'Development, Configuration and Implementation of the Specialised Management Information System in GD 'Protection' and its inclusion in the Unified Information System for Counteraction to Crime', implemented by the MoJ.

documents. All outputs, results and impacts cover only the national level as it is defined in the OPAC scope.

As per the programme indicators that were set up for monitoring progress of the priority axes of the OPAC, the planned outputs related to supporting the justice system are outlined as follows⁷¹:

Outputs related to support to justice as reported.

Sub-priority	Output indicators as reported by the OPAC Annual implementation reports (AIRs) ⁷² and OPAC Final implementation report ⁷³	Base line (beginning of 2007)	Target (2013)	Achieved (end of 2015) / implementation ratio
Sub-priority 1.5.	Bodies of the judiciary, introduced a case management system	2	174/190 ⁷⁴	153 / 89.5%
Sub-priority 2.4.	Newly developed (and updated) training modules for the judiciary; Total number of trained magistrates and court clerks Trained women out of the total number of trained magistrates and court clerk	5	25	151 / 624%
		3,000	21,000	15,834 / 90%
		NA	55% (11,550)	10,587 / 92%
Sub-priority 3.3.	Newly developed / upgraded information systems for the judicial bodies	9	15	8 / 113%

Results related to support to justice as reported.

⁷¹ Ibid., p. 122

⁷² Annual progress report on the OPAC for 2007, OPAC MC, 2008, <http://www.eufunds.bg/archive/documents/1326360858.pdf>

Annual progress report on the OPAC for 2008, OPAC MC, 2009, <http://www.eufunds.bg/archive/documents/1326360979.pdf>

Annual progress report on the OPAC for 2009, OPAC MC, 2010, http://www.opac.government.bg/userfiles/pages/files/annual_reports/1/%D0%93%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D1%88%D0%B5%D0%BD_%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%BA%D0%BB%D0%B0%D0%B4_2009.doc

Annual progress report on the OPAC for 2010, OPAC MC, 2011, http://www.opac.government.bg/userfiles/pages/files/annual_reports/1/%D0%93%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D1%88%D0%B5%D0%BD_%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%BA%D0%BB%D0%B0%D0%B4_2010.doc

Annual progress report on the OPAC for 2011, OPAC MC, 2012, http://www.opac.government.bg/userfiles/pages/files/annual_reports/1/%D0%93%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D1%88%D0%B5%D0%BD_%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%BA%D0%BB%D0%B0%D0%B4_2011.doc

Annual progress report on the OPAC for 2012, OPAC MC, 2013, http://www.opac.government.bg/userfiles/pages/files/annual_reports/1/%D0%93%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D1%88%D0%B5%D0%BD_%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%BA%D0%BB%D0%B0%D0%B4_2012.pdf

Annual progress report on the OPAC for 2013, OPAC MC, 2014, http://www.opac.government.bg/userfiles/pages/files/annual_reports/1/%D0%93%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D1%88%D0%B5%D0%BD_%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%BA%D0%BB%D0%B0%D0%B4_2013.pdf

Annual progress report on the OPAC for 2014, OPAC MC, 2015, http://www.opac.government.bg/userfiles/pages/files/annual_reports/1/%D0%93%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D1%88%D0%B5%D0%BD_%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%BA%D0%BB%D0%B0%D0%B4_2014.pdf

⁷³ Final progress report on the implementation of OPAC, OPGG MC, 2016, http://www.eufunds.bg/images/eu_funds/files/OP_Good_Governance/Monitoring_Commettee/%D0%A8%D0%B5%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B0_%D0%BF%D0%B8%D1%81%D0%BC%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B0_%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%BE%D1%86%D0%B5%D0%B4%D1%83%D1%80%D0%B0/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B8%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B6%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%B51_OPAC_Final_Report.docx

⁷⁴ As of 2007, there were in total 176 courts and 153 prosecution offices in Bulgaria, while in 2015 the number of courts increased to 190. The target value is defined as 'all courts' and therefore the number of the target has changed during the years.

Priority axis / Sub-priority	Results indicators as reported in the Annual implementation reports (AIRs) and OPAC Final implementation report	Base line (beginning of 2007)	Target (2013)	Achieved (end of 2015) / implementation ratio
Sub-priority 1.5.	Projects of normative documents, accompanied by an impact assessment. ⁷⁵	3	80	116 / 150%
	Legislation adopted after consultation with stakeholders. ⁷⁶	18	All adopted	646 / 100% (all adopted)
Sub-priority 2.4.	Bodies of the judiciary, which introduced HRM system.	0	200	16 / 8% ⁷⁷
Sub-priority 3.3.	4 services, included into the e-justice portal	0	10	4 / 40%

2.4.2. Annex XXIII data

The reviewed documents do not include any information on the Annex XXIII output indicators.

Table 10: Annex XXIII output indicators and data

Annex XXXIII output indicator	Project (or OP) indicator relates to	Priority axis indicator relates to	Reported value
Total number of participants	N/A	N/A	N/A
Employed participants	N/A	N/A	N/A
Participants with tertiary education (ISCED 5 and 6)	N/A	N/A	

2.5. Budget information

Overall budget information for projects supporting the justice system funded through the ESF and ERDF was generally available. However, there is no universally accepted taxonomy for project budget owners to classify budgets according to type of activity or final recipient. Moreover, many projects involve multiple activities and/or multiple final recipients. Whether and how budgets for these complex projects are analysed by activity or final recipient varies across project owners and countries. This militates against using reported data to make meaningful comparisons between projects and Member States.

For the purpose of this study, the researchers have therefore created a high-level taxonomy in order to enable an analysis of budget allocations for activities and final recipients of the identified projects funded through the ESF and ERDF supporting the justice system. Information from interviews and documents has been used to apply this taxonomy and allocate budgets based on the main focus of the projects as well as the final recipients.

In cases where it has not been possible to determine budget allocations for projects with **multiple final recipients**, these have been classified as 'multiples' (further details and

⁷⁵ There is no information what share of the normative documents are related to the judiciary.

⁷⁶ There is no information what share of the adopted legislative documents are related to the judiciary.

⁷⁷ The target is evaluated as completely fulfilled because, due to an Amendment to the Law on Judiciary as of 11 Sep 2015, the HRM of the whole judiciary is centralised within the SJC and, as a result, all bodies of the judiciary benefit from the introduction of centralised HRM system at the SJC.

explanations have been provided in the text below). Where a project had **multiple activities** and/or included activities which did not fall under one of the focus categories, the categorisation of that project reflects its aim and not necessarily all individual activities undertaken in the context of this project. This approach is further explained in the Final Report.

Table 11: Budget spent in thousand EUR by project focus category undertaken

Project Name	Improving internal processes	Digitalisation & ICT	Training & Raising awareness	Research and evaluation	Activities related to ADR/ODR	Upgrading physical infrastructure	No information available
ESF	3,911.41	5,667.47	7,600.48	195.49			
ERDF							
Both							
TOTAL	3,911.41	5,667.47	7,600.48	195.49			

There is no official information about the cost of different activities within the overall budget of a given project, as confirmed by the project beneficiaries. The most widespread s of activities in Bulgaria include 'Training and Raising awareness', 'Digitalisation & ICT' as well as 'Improving internal processes'.

Table SEQ Tnt category

Project Name	Courts and Tribunals	Relevant ministries	Registry offices	Regional administration	National prosecution offices	Professional association of magistrates and bar associations	Specialised governance bodies of the judiciary	Others	No information available	Multiple
ESF	2,464.34	267.78	323.98		924.04		930.67			12,464.04
ERDF										
Both										
TOTAL	2,464.34	267.78	323.98		924.04		930.67			12,464.04

As demonstrated in Table 12, there were a variety of final recipients in the projects, and most of the project budgets were targeted at 'Multiple' final recipients. However, most of ombinations of final recipients per eparate project includes the major categories of the staff in the judicial bodies, namely: court administration, judges, prosecutors, other courts' staff and officials from the relevant ministries (most of them – Ministry of Justice officials).

3. Funding Period 2014–2020

3.1. The needs of the Member State relating to the national justice system

Undertaken needs assessments related to the Bulgarian justice system are incorporated into several programme and strategic documents, including the Partnership Agreement, the National Reform Programme (updated) of 2016, the 2015–2018 Convergence Programme and the National Development Programme: Bulgaria 2020.

The Partnership Agreement states that the “quality of the Judiciary should be identified as an essential element both in the area of human rights enforcement and in terms of creating a favourable business climate”. It refers to several documents, most importantly the CVM reports⁷⁸, which identify the following needs of the Bulgarian justice system:

- fighting corruption;
- legal cases related to organized crime and corruption at high political levels;
- **the disciplinary practice and the integrity of magistrates;**
- **attestation, promotions and appointments in the Judiciary;**
- **the consistent case law of the judiciary bodies;**
- **workload and delays in legal cases;**
- **weaknesses in the coordination of the separate judiciary bodies and separation of functions;**
- need for improving the capacity for financial investigations of organized crime;
- **need for continuation of the work on introduction of e-justice.**

or greater effectiveness of public services for citizens and businesses. The government adopted plans in view of a reduction in the administrative burden for businesses, regular review of laws with a view to avoiding an increase in the number of laws, as well as better coordination among the territorial units of the central administration that deliver services. The quality of the justice system is expected to be improved through better interaction among the individual units within the structure and extensive application of ICT.

The National Development Programme: Bulgaria 2020 includes one sub-priority related to justice, sub-priority 6.1: ‘Improving the institutional environment’, in particular focusing on development of accountability and transparency of the justice system; and electronic systems and databases. Preventive actions against corruption in the justice system are also to be supported. The target group covered by these measures includes the institutions in the justice system. The expected results include an increased transparency and reduced corruption in the justice system. The National Reform Programme (updated) of 2016 aims at improving the investment climate through a comprehensive reform of the insolvency framework.

The OPGG 2014–2020 related particularly to the justice system, as did its ex-ante evaluation report,⁷⁹ which addressed the needs and challenges for the continuation of the justice system reform, as assessed and described by the Updated Strategy and the corresponding Action plans, the Roadmap for Implementation of e-Governance and e-Justice in the Justice Sector 2014–2020, and the Roadmap for the Implementation of the

⁷⁸ Report of the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on Bulgaria’s progress under the Cooperation and verification mechanism from January 22, 2014 ((COM(2014) 36 final)

⁷⁹ Final version of the ex-ante evaluation, approved by the Thematic working group on OPGG programme on the meeting 28.11–01.12.2014, online at <https://www.eufunds.bg/index.php/bg/programen-period-2014-2020/operativni-programi-2014-2020/operativna-programa-dobro-upravlennie-2014-2020/tematichna-rabotna-grupa-za-op-dobro-upravlennie/protzedura-po-nepriastveno-vzemane-na-reshenie-28-11-01-12-2014-g> (accessed 31.01.2018).

Final version of the ex-ante evaluation report is available at: https://www.eufunds.bg/images/eu_funds/files/OP_Good_Governance/%D0%A2%D0%A0%D0%93/EXANTE_final_final.pdf (in Bulgarian language only)

Appendixes, indicating the particular needs and corresponding planned activities, specific goals and expected results according to the ex-ante evaluation are available at: https://www.eufunds.bg/images/eu_funds/files/OP_Good_Governance/%D0%A2%D0%A0%D0%93/%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%B8%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B6%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%B5_4.rar

e-Governance Strategy in the Republic of Bulgaria for the period 2014-2020. The ex-ante evaluation report and its Appendixes⁸⁰ specify the particular needs and corresponding planned activities, specific objectives and expected results regarding the priority axis 3: 'Transparent and Effective Justice System' as follows:

Needs	Specific objective	Results
<p>Need for introduction of new models for elaboration and effective management of the justice system budget</p> <p>Need for adequate system for monitoring and assessment of the justice system and for qualitative, unified statistical information</p> <p>Decreasing the duration of the criminal proceedings and tackling the lack of effective means for legal defence in non-criminal and administrative court cases</p> <p>Application of alternative dispute resolution cases – mediation and arbitration</p> <p>Design and elaboration of HR policies</p> <p>Empowering and developing the mechanisms for involvement of civil society and the professional associations of magistrates in the support to the justice system</p> <p>Improving coordination with the institutions for prevention of and fight against corruption and organised crime</p> <p>Need for implementation of the e-justice elements for improving the effectiveness and the transparency of the justice system</p> <p>Improving the exchange of information and increasing the e-communication between the courts and the third parties in the court cases</p>	<p>Specific goal 1: Improving the quality and speeding up the proceeding, as well as modernisation of the justice system through a reform in their structures, procedures and organisation.</p>	<p>Degree of decreasing the duration of criminal and civil cases</p> <p>Proportion between the number of newly started and finished cases</p> <p>Share of cases filled in electronically</p>
<p>Improving the accessibility to trainings for magistrates, particularly regarding the vocational training</p> <p>Support to training for improved proficiency of the investigative authorities in the application of the Code of Criminal Procedure</p> <p>Need for training for improved effectiveness of magistrates regarding cases of youth justice</p>	<p>Specific goal 2: Enlarging the scope and improving the quality of the trainings in the justice system</p>	<p>Increasing the share of the magistrates and the investigative authorities, working on the Code of Criminal Procedure, who are included in trainings</p>

Source: Appendixes, indicating the particular needs and corresponding planned activities, specific goals and expected results according to the ex-ante evaluation report of the OP GG2014-2020⁸¹

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹

https://www.eufunds.bg/images/eu_funds/files/OP_Good_Governance/%D0%A2%D0%A0%D0%93/%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%B8%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B6%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%B5_4.rar

3.2. **Planning stage:** The extent to which the Member State programmed support to the justice system through ESF and ERDF

3.2.1. High-level objectives related to justice set in the programming documents

The Partnership Agreement (PA) outlining the ESIF support for the 2014–2020 period covers ESIF Thematic Objective 11 (Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration).

The strategic PA priority for financial support related to the judiciary covers good governance and access to quality administrative services, with the following sub-priorities:

- Administrative efficiency and e-governance;
- Effective judicial system and e-justice, including interventions such as ensuring accessible, reliable and unified judicial statistics; building the necessary capacity for strategic planning and programme budgeting, management of judicial processes, including adequate judicial map and unification of jurisprudence; operation of quality systems for management of human resources and workload, including promotion of alternative dispute resolution methods (mediation, arbitration); improving coordination among judicial bodies and law enforcement bodies; improving interaction with the civil society and its active involvement in policy-making regarding the justice system, including transparency and communication; capacity building for management of projects financed with EU funds and other financial sources; expanding the scope and improving the quality of training (including mandatory) as part of the professional and career development of magistrates and court officials; expanding the scope and improving the quality of training for investigatory authorities, as well as legal practitioners.

According to the PA, the expected results related to justice include:

- Reduced time for providing administrative services with 50% compared to 2013;
- Increased share of electronic registers and increased data sharing between them of 20% compare to 2013;
- New e-services for citizens and business transaction level – 210 up to 2023;
- Implemented mechanisms for civil control -10 up to 2023;
- Improved competence and effectiveness of the administration – increased share of trained staff by 10% compared to 2012;
- Reducing the average duration of criminal and civil proceedings with 10% compare to 2013;
- Further building of e-Justice;
- Share of court cases filed electronically to 25% in 2023.

The PA identifies the Operational Programme 'Good Governance' (OPGG) (2014BG05SFOP001) as the sole OP related to the justice sector within the framework of the 2014-2020 ESIF period. The vision of OPGG is based on the understanding that strong, effective and transparent state administration and justice system have a direct horizontal impact on achieving all objectives defined in the Europe 2020 strategy, as they are interrelated. Strategic Priority 4 of the Partnership Agreement (PA): Good governance and access to quality administrative services was consciously established as a horizontal priority, i.e. it has an impact on achieving the objectives of all other priorities. OPGG covers investment priority 1: Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance.

The main conclusion of the SWOT analysis of the PA reveals that the country experiences key weaknesses, to be addressed by the OPGG and related to the 'Relatively unattractive administrative environment and judiciary, including share of shadow economy and corruption', and 'Incomplete reforms in the sectors ..., judiciary, public administration'.

Two of the OPGG Priority Axes in particular set out specific objectives to support reforms and improvements in the justice sector:

- PA1 'Administrative service delivery and e-governance', with:
 - SO 1: Reduction of administrative and regulatory burden on citizens and business and introduction of services based on 'life events' and 'business events';
 - SO 2: Increase of e-services available to citizens and businesses.
- PA3 'Transparent and efficient judiciary', with
 - SO 1: Increase of transparency and acceleration of judicial proceedings through structural, procedural and organisational reforms in the judiciary;
 - SO 2: Improve the accessibility and the accountability of the judiciary through the introduction of e-justice;
 - SO 3: Extension of the scope and improvement of the quality of training in the judicial system.

Support to the justice system is highlighted in priority axis 3, which is exclusively dedicated to this topic and includes interventions pursuant to the six strategic objectives of the Updated Strategy to Continue the Reform of the Judicial System, as well as the Roadmap for its implementation, until 2020:

- Ensuring the independence of the court and the other judicial authorities through effective measures against corruption, political and economic influence and other dependencies;
- Human capital of the judiciary – major asset and focus of the reform: status of the judges, prosecutors and investigators;
- Effective administration of the judiciary;
- Modern and effective penal policy;
- Guarantees for the rule of law;
- Increasing the public confidence in the judiciary through public participation and transparency.

In terms of foreseen budget, priority axis 3 receives 10,6% of the total OPGG budget, or EUR 30 195 500.⁸² Still, in terms of budget, this is the smallest priority axis, except the priority axis 5 "Technical assistance", which receives 3,6% of the OPGG total budget.

Indicative/planned activities for Priority Axis 1

- Inventory (audit) analyses and assessments of the state of IT and communication infrastructure information systems in the administration and in the judiciary, including their technical security;
- Inventory (audit) analyses and assessments of modes and services in the administration and in the 'Justice' sector
- Inventory of information arrays (electronic and / or paper) and systems involved in the work processes in the administration and the judiciary;
- A thorough review of the registry system;
- Optimisation and reengineering of the working processes in order to introduce complex administrative services.

Indicative/planned activities for Priority Axis 3

Specific objective 1: Increase of transparency and acceleration of judicial proceedings through structural, procedural and organisational reforms in the judiciary:

⁸² OPGG 2014-2020, p. 27.

- Analyses, studies, methodologies and evaluations, supporting the implementation of a reform in the justice sector;
- Analysis and evaluation of the existing system and creation of a new statistical reporting model for the bodies in the justice sector;
- Judicial map optimisation;
- Build-on and expansion of the scope, as well as introduction of programme budgeting in all judicial bodies;
- Measures to balance the workload of magistrates;
- Evaluating and reforming the procedures for recruitment, individual performance assessment and career development of magistrates and the court staff;
- Developing set of tools to evaluate the efficiency of the Supreme Court of Cassation and the Supreme Administrative Council to uniform the courts' practice for achieving predictable and quality justice;
- Restructuring of the disciplinary proceedings in line with the international standards and recommendations;
- Preventing the conflict of interests and corruption within the judiciary through the creation of electronic registers for disclosure of a broader range of circumstances and through efficient control mechanisms, including regular checks for the existence of corruption risks;
- Developing and widening the implementation of alternative dispute resolution methods, including through information campaigns;
- Reforming the penalty and penitentiary policy to limit the criminal repression through administrative penalties;
- Developing new system and organisation of the expert reports;
- Developing mechanisms and tools for citizen feedback on the use of services provided by the judicial bodies;
- Joint activities of the judicial bodies and the executive bodies involved with regard to specific topics of the penal and administrative jurisdiction (e.g. tax and customs offences, trafficking of people and valuables, laundering and forgery of money, etc.);
- Activities to improve the interaction with non-governmental and professional organisations for more active inclusion in the process of development, monitoring and evaluation of the reform strategies and of the proposals for judiciary improvement.

Specific objective 2: Improve the accessibility and the accountability of the judiciary through the introduction of e-justice:

- Inventory taking and the analysis of the IT and the communication infrastructure, the information systems and the services;
- Delivery and installation of communication equipment to further develop the virtual private network covering the buildings in the sector, ensuring reliable and secure exchange of information;
- Migration of the existing resources, systems and services to the e-governance hybrid private cloud;
- Development and implementation of paperless Single information system of courts (SISC), training of magistrates and employees to use the system;
- Development of new and upgrade of existing e-services delivered by the justice sector;
- Further development of the Unified Information System for Combating Crime and its interface with e-governance and e-justice systems, including the institutional Automated Information Systems, which ensure data and information exchange;
- Applying videoconferencing technologies in the justice sector.

Specific objective 3: Extension of the scope and improvement of the quality of training in the judicial system:

- Improvement and expanding the scope of NIJ syllabuses, including regional and distance training, training of trainers, and adoption of best European practices;
- Exchange programmes for magistrates and court staff, including on-the-spot visits, internships at European judicial institutions;
- Research and analytical activities and publications in the field of justice for the needs of the training;
- Development and improvement of 'e-learning' technological and IT systems, including improvement of the electronic registers;
- NIJ organisational development, including introduction of judicial training quality management and control system and development of judicial training communication strategy;
- Development and establishment of institutional relations with European and national networks and institutions in the field of judicial training;
- Enhancing NIJ capacity for management and implementation of European judicial training instruments;
- Preparation, organisation and delivery of trainings (including distance and other innovative training forms), seminars, round-tables, etc. for magistrates, court staff and investigating bodies pursuant to the Penal Procedure Code (PPC), as well as for MoJ employees and for legal practitioners.

Proposed beneficiaries include magistrates, court staff, ISJC inspectors⁸³, investigating bodies pursuant to the PPC, employees of the MoJ, legal practitioners, citizens, business, members of the Programme Council and NIJ teaching staff.

Target groups include magistrates, court staff, members of the Supreme Administrative Court (SAC), ISJC inspectors, investigating bodies pursuant to the PPC, employees of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), legal practitioners, citizens, business, members of the Programme Council and NIJ teaching staff

Expected results:

The OPGG 2014–2020 sets particular expected results and output indicators for each of the specific goals, as follows⁸⁴:

⁸³ ISJC inspectors include not only magistrates but also other specialized staff.

⁸⁴ Operational Programme Good Governance 2014–2020, as approved by the EC on 19.02.2015, p. 75 and next, online at [https://www.eufunds.bg/images/eu_funds/files/common/ %D0%9E%D0%9F %D0%94%D0%BE%D0%B1%D1%80%D0%BE %D1%83%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%B2%D0%BB%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%B5_2014-2020 - %D1%84%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%BD%D0%B0 %D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%80%D1%81%D0%B8%D1%8F %D0%91%D1%8A%D0%BB%D0%B3%D0%B0%D1%80%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%B8 %D0%B5%D0%B7%D0%B8%D0%BA.pdf .pdf](https://www.eufunds.bg/images/eu_funds/files/common/%D0%9E%D0%9F_%D0%94%D0%BE%D0%B1%D1%80%D0%BE_%D1%83%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%B2%D0%BB%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%B5_2014-2020_-_%D1%84%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%BD%D0%B0_%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%80%D1%81%D0%B8%D1%8F_%D0%91%D1%8A%D0%BB%D0%B3%D0%B0%D1%80%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%B8_%D0%B5%D0%B7%D0%B8%D0%BA.pdf_.pdf)

Specific objective 1: Increase of transparency and acceleration of judicial proceedings through structural, procedural and organisational reforms in the judiciary

Common result indicators for which a target value has been set and **programme specific result indicators** corresponding to the specific objective (by investment priority and category of region) (Art. 96 (2) (b) (ii) of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013)

ID	Indicator	Category of regions	Measurement unit	Common output indicator used as basis	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Data source	Reporting frequency
R3-1	Introduction of new and improvement of existing tools for modernisation of the judiciary	Less developed regions	number	Not applicable	13	2014	43	Reports and monitoring	Annually
R3-2	Number of cases led electronically	Less developed regions	number	Not applicable	0	2014	250,000	SJC statistics	Annually
R3-3	Magistrates, court staff and employees of the investigating authorities under CPC who successfully completed training with a certificate	Less developed regions	number	Not applicable	9101	2013	29,101	Reports	Annually

Common and programme-specific **output indicators** (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF):

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of regions	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Reporting frequency
CO20	Number of projects fully or partially implemented by social partners or non-governmental organisations	number	ESF	Less developed regions	50	Reports	Annually
O3-1	Analyses, research, studies, methodologies and assessments related to the operation of the judiciary supported	number	ESF	Less developed regions	50	Reports	Annually
O3-2	Projects for the implementation of joint actions	number	ESF	Less developed regions	7	Reports	Annually
O3-3	Judicial authorities supported for the introduction of program budgeting	number	ESF	Less developed regions	180	Reports	Annually
O3-4	Projects for the promotion and development of alternative dispute resolution methods	number	ESF	Less developed regions	5	Reports	Annually

O3-5	Number of institutions with IT and communication infrastructure audits	number	ESF	Less developed regions	180	Reports	Annually
O3-6	Number of supported e-services of the judiciary	number	ESF	Less developed regions	5	Reports	Annually
O3-7	SISC designed	number	ESF	Less developed regions	1	Reports	Annually
O3-8	Trained magistrates, court officials, officials of the investigating authorities under the CPC	number	ESF	Less developed regions	25,000	NIJ reports	Annually

No Action Plans existed for the period 2014–2020. However, two roadmaps dedicated to particular domains in the support to justice were elaborated and approved by the Council of Ministers. With regard to the planned judicial reform the interventions stem from the Updated Strategy to Continue the Reform of the Judicial System the specific measures under the six objectives of the Strategy until 2020. Priority axis 3 of OPGG includes interventions pursuant to the Roadmap, which contribute to all six strategic objectives of the Strategy (with their corresponding specific objectives):

1. Ensuring the independence of the court and the other judicial authorities through effective measures against corruption, political and economic influence and other dependencies;
2. Human capital of the judiciary - major asset and focus of the reform: status of the judges, prosecutors and investigators;
3. Effective administration of the judiciary;
4. Modern and effective penal policy
5. Guarantees for the rule of law;
6. Increasing the public confidence in the judiciary through public participation and transparency.

For the successful implementation of the e-justice a Strategy for the introduction of e-governance and e-Justice in the "Justice" sector 2014-2020 was developed and adopted. The Strategy reviews the introduction of e-governance and e-justice in the sector as a set of mutually connected tools, enabling:

- The operation with e-cases and documents by the judiciary authorities;
- Online real-time access to the national registers;
- Improving the interface between and integration of the information systems of the legislative, judicial and executive powers in the Republic of Bulgaria;
- Interfacing national legislation and registers with their EU counterparts;
- Delivery of e-administrative services;
- Increasing the general judicial culture of citizens;
- Technological and semantic interoperability;
- Accessible justice in favour of citizens and businesses.

The specific measures in the implementation of the ambitious aims, set by the Strategy, are covered by the Roadmap for its implementation outlining tasks and resources needed until 2020. OPGG is the main financial instrument for the implementation of the Roadmap and of the commitments of the Republic of Bulgaria, resulting from the EU e-Justice Strategy.

In addition, OPGG 2014-2020 keeps the focus on one of the most significant horizontal challenges facing the administration in general and particularly - the judiciary – prevention and counteraction of corruption and conflict of interest. This issue is addressed in Council Specific Recommendation No 5 and in the report under the Co-operation and Verification

Mechanism 2014⁸⁵. In this respect, the OPGG includes a wide range of activities, being built on the understanding that the biggest anti-corruption effect is that of the measures for “opening” the judicial system, process optimization for the purpose of minimizing the subjective factor, and particularly the e-justice introduction and development. For example strategic objective 1, specific objective 3 “Systematic policy on prevention of corruption in the judiciary” of the Updated Strategy to Continue the Reform of the Judicial System of specific OPGG-financed activities, which should produce tangible results in this area.

The existing Indicative Annual Work Programmes, the Evaluation Plan for the OPGG and the available Monitoring Committee documents (e.g. decisions, minutes, reports) do not give any additional information related to justice as compared to documents already reviewed.

3.2.2. Planned projects listed in the programming documents aiming to support justice

A review of the Indicative Working Programmes of OPGG gives an overview of relevant calls for procedures, thus setting the priorities and indicative activities highlighted by the Programmes in the initial years of implementation. The majority of the indicative activities are identical or similar to those described in section 3.2.1.

- Call procedure for direct allocation of a financial grant: ‘Structuring of data and analytical activities for the implementation of the strategic documents for the development of public administration, development of e-governance and introduction of e-governance in the “Justice” sector’;
- Call procedure for direct allocation of a financial grant: Strategic projects for implementation of the Updated Strategy to Continue the Reform of the Judicial System and of the Strategy for the introduction of e-governance and e-justice in the “Justice” sector 2014–2020;
- Call procedure for direct allocation of a financial grant: Improvement of the competence of magistrates and court employees through effective training at the NIJ;
- Call procedure for direct allocation of financial grant: Civil control over the reform in the judiciary.

The general selection criteria at call procedure level apply as obligatory for all projects under the respective call. The selection criteria of the two call procedures that have been issued until now and are related to justice are presented below:

- **Procedure BG05SFOP001-1.001** ‘Structuring of data and analytical activities for the implementation of the strategic documents for the development of public administration, development of e-governance and introduction of e-governance in the Justice sector’;
 1. Specific eligibility criteria:
 - a. To support the procedure’s goals:
 - i. Ensuring data, analyses and conditions for future strategic projects under the OPGG in fulfilment of the Strategy for introducing e-governance and e-justice in the justice sector
 - ii. Supporting the development of reliable, effective and secure e-environment for the implementation of e-justice.
 - b. Eligible applicants:
 - i. Ministry of justice

⁸⁵ Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on Progress in Bulgaria under the Co-operation and Verification Mechanism of 22.01.2014, COM(2014) 36 final

- ii. Any other public administration, approved by the MC as eligible for the Programme
- c. Eligible partners:
 - i. Supreme Judicial Council
- d. Requirements to applicants and partners – to have enough administrative capacity
- e. Eligible target groups: units of the judiciary
- f. Eligible activities:
 - i. Inventory (audit), analyses and assessments of the state-of-art of IT and communication infrastructure, information systems, procedures and services in the administration and in the 'Justice' sector;
 - ii. Inventory (audit), analyses and assessments of regimes and services in the administration and the 'Justice' sector;
 - iii. Inventory of the information (on paper and in electronic format) and of the systems participating in the business processes in the administration and the courts system;
- g. Eligible expenditures:
 - i. For analyses, studies, methodologies, assessments, technical and financial investigations;
 - ii. For development or purchase of software, including information systems;
 - iii. For purchase of hardware;
 - iv. For business trips;
 - v. For management and logistics;
 - vi. For communication and dissemination;
 - vii. Other expenditures related to approved eligible activities according to the Regulation of the Council of Ministers No. 189 / 2016;
- h. Minimal amount of grant: BGN 200,000 (EUR 102,258)
- 2. Obligatory indicators: the activities must support the implementation of the obligatory output and result indicators, as described in the OPGG (see section 3.4.1 below)
- 3. Proof of the need for the operation.

Procedure BG05SFOP001-3.001 'Strategic projects in the implementation of the Updated Strategy to Continue the Reform of the Judicial System and the Strategy for implementation of e-government and e-justice in the "Justice" sector 2014-2020'

- 1. Specific eligibility criteria:
 - a. To support the procedure's goals:
 - i. Ensuring the independence of the court and other judicial authorities through effective measures against corruption, political and economic pressure, and others;
 - ii. Developing the HR potential of the judiciary and ensuring high motivation, competence and social responsibility of judges, prosecutors and investigators;
 - iii. Good governance of judicial authorities and high efficiency of their functioning;
 - iv. Implementing a modern and effective criminal policy;
 - v. Endorsing the principles of the rule of law, protection of human rights, access to justice and the humanity of justice;
 - vi. Increasing confidence in the justice system through public participation and transparency;
 - vii. Improving the functioning of the justice sector by implementing e-justice, as well as optimising the e-services.

- b. Eligible applicants:
 - i. Supreme Judicial Council
 - ii. Ministry of Justice
 - iii. Inspectorate at the SJC
 - iv. Supreme Cassation Court
 - v. Supreme Administrative Court
 - vi. Prosecutor's Office
 - vii. General Directorate 'Execution of punishments'
 - viii. National Legal Aid Bureau
 - ix. State Agency for Child Protection
 - x. Other administration/organisation, approved by the MC as a specific beneficiary under this procedure
- c. Requirements to applicants and partners – to have enough administrative, financial and operational capacity:
 - i. Administrative – the team for the implementation and management of the project must be in accordance with the specifics and the scope of the planned activities;
 - ii. Financial – the beneficiary is able to ensure the budget required for the implementation of the project activities;
 - iii. Operational – the beneficiary should have experience in implementing activities similar to the planned project activities, and/or experience in the implementation of projects funded by different donors.
- d. Eligible partners:
 - i. Supreme Judicial Council
 - ii. Ministry of Justice
 - iii. Inspectorate at the SJC
 - iv. Courts
 - v. Prosecutor's Office
 - vi. National Investigation Service
 - vii. General Directorate 'Execution of punishments'
 - viii. National Legal Aid Bureau
 - ix. State Agency for Child Protection
 - x. Ministry of Finance
 - xi. State Agency for National Security
 - xii. Ministry of Interior
 - xiii. National Revenue Agency
 - xiv. Commission for prevention and establishment of conflict of interests
 - xv. Commission for the Forfeiture of Illegally Acquired Property
 - xvi. Commission for Protection of Competition
 - xvii. Public Procurement Agency
 - xviii. Other central government bodies or control bodies at national level
- e. Eligible projects:
 - i. Eligible for this procedure are only projects included in the officially approved roadmaps to the Updated Strategy to Continue the Reform of the Judicial System and the Strategy for Implementation of e-Government and e-Justice in the Justice Sector 2014–2020, or projects related to the fulfilment of obligations of the Republic of Bulgaria in relation to key European strategic or normative documents;
 - ii. The project for development of Centralised Automated Information System 'Court Status', included in the Roadmap for implementation

- of the Strategy for development of e-Governance in the Republics of Bulgaria 2016-2020, is eligible;
- iii. Projects that consist only of **training** activities are **not**⁸⁶ eligible for this procedure. Inclusion of training activities in the projects is eligible only if they are related to the main project activities and if similar trainings could not be offered by the National Institute of Justice.
 - f. Indicative eligible activities – as described above in the list of activities under the Specific objective 1, 2 and 3.

Procedure BG05SFOP001-3.002 'Enhancing the competence of magistrates and court staff through effective training at the National Institute of Justice'

1. Specific eligibility criteria:

- a. To support the procedure's goals:
 - i. Providing quality vocational training, information, research, international and other activities aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of justice;
 - ii. Sustainable enhancement of the quality and services offered by the National Institute of Justice in accordance with the best European and world standards;
 - iii. Improving and enriching the NIJ's activities by creating and developing new products and services.
- b. Eligible applicants – National Institute of Justice
- c. The applicant could apply with more than one proposal under this procedure;
- d. Under this procedure only trainings that are not obligatory according to the law and are not financed by the Bulgarian state budget will be financed;
- e. Requirements for applicants and partners – to have enough administrative, financial and operational capacity:
 - i. Administrative – the team for the implementation and management of the project must be in accordance with the specifics and the scope of the planned activities;
 - ii. Financial – the beneficiary is able to ensure the budget required for the implementation of the project activities;
 - iii. Operational – the beneficiary should have experience in implementing activities similar to the planned project activities, and/or experience in the implementation of projects funded by different donors.
- f. Eligible partners:
 - i. Regional, district, appellate, administrative, military and specialised courts;
 - ii. Supreme Administrative Court, Supreme Cassation Court, Prosecutor's Office, Supreme Judicial Council, and the Inspectorate at the SJC;
 - iii. Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finance, State Agency for National Security, State Agency for Child Protection, Ministry of Interior, the Academy at the MoI, National Revenue Agency, Customs Agency, Commission for prevention and establishment of conflict of interests, Commission for the Forfeiture of Illegally Acquired Property, Commission for Protection of Competition, Public Procurement Agency, Commission for Personal Data Protection, Commission for Protection against Discrimination, State Agency for Refugees;
- g. Indicative eligible activities – as described above in the list of activities under the Specific objective 1, 2 and 3.

⁸⁶ Italics in the original

Procedure BG05SFOP001-3.003: 'Civil control over the reform of justice system'

1. Specific eligibility criteria:
 - a. To support the procedure's goals:
 - i. Implementing civil control over the reform in the justice system through more active involvement of Civil society organisations and professional organisations in the processes of development, monitoring and assessment of the reform strategies;
 - ii. Formulating recommendations for improvements in the justice system;
 - iii. Promotion and development of alternative dispute resolution methods.
 - b. Eligible applicants:
 - i. Not-for-profit legal entities, working in public benefit, as registered in the Centralised Register of the Not-for-profit Legal Entities (CRNLE) under the Ministry of Justice;
 - ii. Professional organisations of persons working in the judiciary and in the justice system, registered according to the Law on not-for-profit organisations.
 - c. Eligible partners:
 - i. Units of the judiciary;
 - ii. Ministry of Justice;
 - iii. Not-for-profit legal entities, working in public benefit, as registered in the Centralised Register of the Not-for-profit Legal Entities (CRNLE) under the Ministry of Justice;
 - iv. Professional organisations of persons working in the judiciary and in the justice system, registered according to the Law on not-for-profit organisations;
 - v. Social-economic partners (national associations of employers and employees);
 - vi. National Institute of Justice;
 - vii. National Legal Aid Bureau at the Minister of Justice.
 - d. Requirements to applicants and partners – to have enough administrative capacity
 - e. Eligible target groups:
 - i. Ministry of Justice;
 - ii. Units of the judiciary;
 - iii. Not-for-profit legal entities, working in public benefit, as registered in the CRNLE;
 - iv. Professional organisations of persons working in the judiciary and in the justice system, registered according to the Law on not-for-profit organisations;
 - v. Social-economic partners (national associations of employers and employees);
 - vi. Citizens;
 - vii. Business enterprises.
 - f. Eligible activities:
 - i. Performing / development of analyses, research, studies, methodologies, models and assessments related to the judicial system, to support the modernisation of the system and the monitoring of judicial reform;
 - ii. Research and transfer of good practices and innovative solutions;

- iii. Data collection and database development to assist the process of modernisation of the system and monitoring of judicial reform;
 - iv. Information campaigns to promote the legal aid system among citizens; alternative methods for resolving disputes;
 - v. Development of mechanisms and tools for feedback and assessment by judges, prosecutors and investigators on the administration of the judiciary;
 - vi. Development of mechanisms and tools for assessment and feedback from citizens and businesses about their relationship with the judicial authorities;
 - vii. Organisation of conferences, public hearings, round-tables, etc. with the stakeholders;
 - viii. Organisation of seminars and trainings for expert witnesses, jurors, lawyers, mediators, arbitrators;
 - ix. Monitoring and preparation of recommendations on cases of corruption, organised crime and cases involving persons occupying high state positions (including Magistrates);
 - x. Formulating proposals for the introduction and promotion of restorative justice approaches;
 - xi. Organising and conducting training for employees of the beneficiary; participation of beneficiaries in networks, including NGO networks at European level.
- g. Eligible expenditures:
- i. Personnel cost;
 - ii. Other eligible expenditures up to 40% of the personnel cost.
- h. Minimal and maximal amount of grant: BGN 30,000–100,000 (EUR 15,338–51,129)
2. Obligatory indicators: the activities must support the implementation of the obligatory output and result indicators, as described in the OPGG (see section 3.4.1 below).

Proof of the need from the operation.

3.3. Implementation stage: Support to the justice system through ESF and ERDF

3.3.1. Support to the justice system: reported at programme level

At the time of the preparation of this report some of the project proposals were still in the evaluation phase, while the projects already started were in the early stages and their initial results will be reported in 2018. As a result, there are no implementation, monitoring or evaluation documents for the current programming period –either general, or related to justice.

3.3.2. Support to the justice system: reported at project level (Task 2)

All 11 projects related to support to justice in the current programming period 2014–2020 are implemented under a single OP, namely the OP Good Governance 2014–2020 (OPGG). All projects are funded only through the ESF and are ongoing. The available project-level documents included in the centralised project database **do not include any information about undertaken activities, actual outputs, results or impacts.**

All calls for proposals, issued under the OPGG and related to support to justice, followed fully and comply with the description and requirements set up by the respective operations (procedures) as described in section 3.3.1. For each operation (procedure), a single call for proposals was issued. Each operation (procedure) includes its particular project selection criteria, as described in section 3.3.1.

Table 12: Overview of projects supporting justice 2014–2020⁸⁷

Project name in English	Start of project (year)	End of project (year)	Duration of project	Budget allocated ⁸⁸ in thousand EUR ⁸⁹	Budget spent ⁹⁰ in thousand EUR	Actual EU contribution in thousand EUR	Summary of activities planned ⁹¹
<i>Operational Programme Good Governance 2014–2020, BG05SFOP001, ESF</i>							
Inventory and Status Analysis of the Information and Communication Infrastructure (ICI), Information Systems, Services and Registers in the 'Justice' Sector Инвентаризация и анализ на състоянието на информационната и комуникационната инфраструктура, информационните системи, услуги и регистри в сектор 'Правосъдие'	2016	2017	1	479.71	23.99	20.39	The planned activities include: During the review (inventory) detailed structured information will be gathered about the ICI, the information systems, services and the processes related to them; the IT inventory data will be entered in a structured way in a new information system (IS). An analytical report, based on the review, will identify the current status, the existing risks for the infrastructure and the information resources and an assessment of the future risks, considering the phases of introduction of e-government and e-justice in the sector. It will also include an assessment of the necessary human resources for maintenance and development of the information resources, assessment of the operating costs and recommendations for the necessary resource security. The second activity includes a comprehensive review and analysis of the registry system in the justice sector and in the judiciary bodies – SJC, courts and prosecutor's offices. The analysis will include an evaluation of their technological security and their degree of connectivity, as well as recommendations for redesigning existing registers or creating new ones, the connectivity between registers, the service automated information systems and databases, as well as recommendations for meeting internal and international commitments and public needs.
Development of a model for the optimisation of the court map of the Bulgarian courts and prosecutor's offices and development of the Unified Information System of the Courts	2016	2018	2	3 072.25	102.26	86.92	The planned activities include: Activity 1: Creating a model for the optimisation of the court map of the regional courts and prosecutor's offices and providing a roadmap for reforming the territorial structure of the other courts; Activity 2: Recommendations for the optimisation and reorganisation of the work processes in the regional, district and appellate courts; Activity 3: Development of a unified court information system;

⁸⁷ Information system for management and monitoring of EU funds in Bulgaria 2020, <http://2020.eufunds.bg/en>

⁸⁸ Planned/ committed

⁸⁹ Conversion rate of the Bulgarian National Bank EUR 1 = 1.95583 BGN (conversion rate is fixed due to the Monetary Board).

⁹⁰ Budget actually paid/ disbursed

⁹¹ There is no information about undertaken activities for all the projects.

Project name in English	Start of project (year)	End of project (year)	Duration of project	Budget allocated ⁸⁸ in thousand EUR ⁸⁹	Budget spent ⁹⁰ in thousand EUR	Actual EU contribution in thousand EUR	Summary of activities planned ⁹¹
Създаване на модел за оптимизация на съдебната карта на българските съдилища и прокуратури и разработване на Единна информационна система на съдилищата							Activity 4: Analysis of the regulatory framework, the existing technological processes, and the means for collection and aggregation of statistical information. Analysis of the initiatives in the field of e-justice and the existing strategic and regulatory documents at EU level; Activity 5: Developing a specialised information system for monitoring and analysis of socio-economic development of courts and workload of courts and prosecution offices; Activity 6: Publicity; Activity 7: Purchasing the necessary communication, server and information and data storage equipment.
Improving attestation procedures and disciplinary practice in the judiciary Подобряване на процедурите по атестация и дисциплинарната практика в съдебната система	2016	2017	1	315.52	15.78	13.41	The planned activities include: Activity 1: Developing a new Ordinance for the personal attestation procedure of magistrates and a unified attestation form and five trainings on the implementation of the Ordinance for attestation, developed by the SJC; ⁹² Activity 2: Introduce methods for evaluating the motivation of magistrates and introducing measures for its improvement; Activity 3: Study and analysis of the policies, practices and the methodologies used in EU MS for formulating the remuneration and the additional benefits of magistrates; Activity 4: Introducing clear and traceable standards for implementation of the disciplinary activity of the SJC; Activity 5: Information and communication.
Quality professional training to improve the efficiency of justice Качествено професионално обучение за повишаване ефективността на правосъдието	2016	2018	2	1 502.24	132.65	112.75	The planned activities include: Activity 1: Preparation, conducting, reporting and evaluation of person trainings for magistrates, legal secretaries, state bailiffs, registrars, court clerks, inspectors from the Inspectorate to the Minister of Justice and other MoJ experts, as well as MoJ and SANS employees; Activity 2: Conducting regional trainings in the courts and prosecutor's offices; Activity 3: Preparation, conducting, reporting and evaluation of distance training for magistrates, legal secretaries, state bailiffs, registrars, court clerks, inspectors from the Inspectorate to the Minister of Justice and other MoJ experts, as well as MoJ and SANS employees; Activity 4: Publishing an EU law textbook for the needs of the National Institute of Justice; Activity 5: Publicity of the project;
Ensuring software and methodological provision, and building administrative	2016	2018	2	357.90	0.00	0.00	The planned activities include: Activity 1: Developing a public register of e-declarations for circumstances relating to the

⁹² This activity has been dropped from the project because the Ordinance for attestation was developed with own budget. (Comment from the MA)

Project name in English	Start of project (year)	End of project (year)	Duration of project	Budget allocated ⁸⁸ in thousand EUR ⁸⁹	Budget spent ⁹⁰ in thousand EUR	Actual EU contribution in thousand EUR	Summary of activities planned ⁹¹
<p>capacity of the ISJC to Prevent Corruption in the Judiciary</p> <p>Осигуряване на софтуерна и методическа обезпеченост, и изграждане на административен капацитет на ИВСС за превенция на корупцията в съдебната власт</p>							prevention and detection of conflicts of interest and property declarations; Activity 2: Developing a public e-register of the charges made against judges and their motivations, accepted or not, for each judge, and the judgment of the higher instance; Activity 3: Developing internal rules for conducting integrity checks on magistrates; Activity 4: Developing internal rules for checks on the property declarations of magistrates; Activity 5: Conducting trainings for work with the new internal rules and work with the registers; Activity 6: Purchasing computer equipment and other hardware; Activity 7: Information and communication activities.
<p>Modernisation of the penitentiary system in Bulgaria</p> <p>Модернизиране на пенитенциарната система в България</p>	2016	2018	2	961.23	48.06	40.85	The planned activities include: Activity 1: Strategy for the development of the penitentiary system in Bulgaria 2025; Activity 2: Purchased, installed, tested and introduced system for electronic surveillance of offenders; Activity 3: Information and communication.
<p>Introduction of e-Justice in the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria through electronic document circulation, provision of open data and electronic services for complex administrative services to citizens and institutions</p> <p>Въвеждане на електронното правосъдие в ПРБ чрез електронен документооборот, предоставяне на отворени данни и електронни услуги за КАО на гражданите и институциите</p>	2017	2018	1	1 277.96	No information	No information	The planned activities include: Activity 1: Gradual transition to electronic document circulation in the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria by upgrading its information system of – UIS, including conducting trainings for magistrates and employees for a paperless work process; Activity 2: Enhancement of the UISCC functionalities, including in the field of security for authentication and authorisation of access to resources of the UISCC core, public access to information and a clear, fast and easy access to administrative e-services; Activity 3: Publicity.
<p>Developing the potential of the human resources of the judiciary by building an effective model for acquiring legal capacity</p> <p>Развиване на потенциала на човешкия ресурс на съдебната власт, чрез</p>	2017	2018	1	102.26	No information	No information	The planned activities include: Activity 1: Desk research of the regulatory framework and good practices of at least eight EU Member States, including new members from Eastern Europe; Activity 2: Developing different models for the basic phase and the professional phase of the internship in the judicial system; Activity 3: Defining selection criteria for the case study given at the practical exam; developing an algorithm for solving the case

Project name in English	Start of project (year)	End of project (year)	Duration of project	Budget allocated ⁸⁸ in thousand EUR ⁸⁹	Budget spent ⁹⁰ in thousand EUR	Actual EU contribution in thousand EUR	Summary of activities planned ⁹¹
изграждане на ефективен модел за придобиване на юридическа правоспособност							study and a methodology for grading the case study; developing a methodology for selection of the test questions; Activity 4: Information and communication activities.
Enhancement of guarantees for a just process in enforcement proceedings by creating an information system Повишаване гаранциите за справедлив процес в изпълнителните производства чрез изграждане на информационна система	2017	2018	1	204.48	No information	No information	The planned activities include: Activity 1: Creating a unified information system for enforcement (UISE); Activity 2: Evaluation of the control activities of the Minister of Justice and the Inspectorate to the Minister of Justice over enforcement and developing a methodology for conducting control activities over enforcement using the created system; Activity 3: Purchasing the necessary equipment.
Implementation of Centralised Automated Information System 'Judicial Status' Реализиране на Централизирана автоматизирана информационна система 'Съдебен статус'	2017	2018	1	705.00	No information	No information	The planned activities include: Activity 1: Analysis of the processes and the regulatory framework regarding the judicial status of citizens with recommendation for optimisation of the processes of compilation and storage of criminal records, application and issuance of criminal records and references, as well as connection with external systems and registers; Activity 2: Developing and introducing a Centralised automated information system (CAIS) 'Judicial status'; Activity 3: Purchasing the necessary hardware; Activity 4: Publicity.
A New Concept of Criminal Policy Нова концепция за наказателна политика	2017	2018	1	203.44	No information	No information	The planned activities include: Activity 1: Analysis of criminal activity in the country by type of crime, types of penalties for the same type of crimes as well as the profile of the offender; Activity 2: Analysis of the implementation of the Criminal Policy Concept 2010–2014 and of the current Criminal Code; Activity 3: Developing a new Criminal Policy Concept; Activity 4: Information and communication activities.

For all projects that have information regarding 'budget spent', the data corresponds to the project's advance payments and interim financial report and the difference with the 'allocated' budget could not be attributed to a specific reason, as confirmed by the beneficiaries.

There is no information about the spent budget for six out of 11 projects in total,⁹³ even though all the projects provide information about the allocated budget.

Table 13: Number and budget allocated (in thousand EUR) of projects supporting justice, funded by ESF and ERDF in the programming period 2014–2020⁹⁴

Fund	Number of projects supporting justice	Budget allocated in thousand EUR	Actual EU contribution in thousand EUR
ESF	11	9,181.99	274.32
ERDF	0	0.00	0.00
Both (ESF and ERDF)	0	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	11	9,181.99	274.32

Project beneficiaries

In 6 out of the total 11 ongoing projects, the MoJ is the beneficiary, while the second most common beneficiary is the SJC.

Table 14: Number of times the following entities were the beneficiary of a project supporting justice, by Fund⁹⁵

	Relevant ministries	Courts and tribunals	National prosecution offices	Professional association of magistrates and bar associations	Registry offices	Regional Administration	Specialised training or research institutions	Specialised governance bodies of the judiciary	Other
ESF	6	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	0
ERDF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Both (ESF and ERDF)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	6	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	0

⁹³ The beneficiaries have not claimed any expenditures as of the time of data collection. (Comment from the MA)

⁹⁴ Information system for management and monitoring of EU funds in Bulgaria 2020, <http://2020.eufunds.bg/en>

⁹⁵ Ibid.

Activities of projects in tendering process and of ongoing projects related to support to justice

Due to the fact that all projects related to justice, included into the current review, are ongoing, and there is no information about their progress, the only available data is for the planned activities, as summarised below. At the same time, there were no projects in tendering phase as of September 2017, when the collection of data and information finished. The current projects planned to focus on highly specialised activities related to very specific problems/needs of the judicial bodies. A summary is provided below:

- Inventory and technical audit of the existing information systems, including inventory and comprehensive analysis of the existing registry system in the justice system;
 - Elaborating proposals and recommendations for redesign of existing systems or for development of new ones in order to meet internal and international commitments of the judicial bodies and the public needs;
- Creating a model for the optimisation of the judicial map of the regional courts and prosecutor's offices and providing a roadmap for reforming the territorial responsibility of the courts, including:
 - Elaborating recommendations for the optimisation and reorganisation of the work processes in the regional, district and appellate courts;
 - Development of a unified court information system;
 - Analysis of the regulatory framework, the existing technological processes, the means for collection and aggregation of statistical information in the judicial bodies;
 - Analysis of the initiatives in the field of e-justice and the existing strategic and regulatory documents at EU level;
 - Developing a specialised information system for monitoring and analysis to support the optimisation of the court map and the assessment of the workload of the magistrates;
- Development of new and upgrade/update of existing information systems, registers and databases, incl.:
 - Developing a public register of e-declarations for circumstances relating to the prevention and detection of conflicts of interest and property declarations;
 - Development of a unified information system for enforcement proceedings;
 - Upgrading the Unified Information System of the Prosecution Office of the Republic of Bulgaria;
 - Improving and updating the Unified Information System for Countering Crime, used by all judicial bodies;
 - Developing a Centralised automated information system (CAIS) 'Judicial status' for maintaining criminal records and related references for the judicial status of citizens.
- Developing new internal regulations and the respective methodologies and procedures for personal attestation of the magistrates;
- Elaborating a Strategy for the development of the penitentiary system in Bulgaria up to 2025;
- Training on EU law for magistrates, legal secretaries, state bailiffs, registrars, court clerks, inspectors from the Inspectorate to the Minister of Justice and other MoJ experts, as well as MoI and SANS (State Agency National Security) employees, including preparation of training modules and programmes on EU law;
- Activities for publicity and communication;
- Purchasing of the necessary hardware equipment and software.

The table below provides an overview of the higher-level activity categories.

Table 15: Number of times a type of activity is foreseen/ongoing as part of a project supporting justice, by Fund

	Training	Activities relating to ADR/ODR	Developing/upgrading business processes at courts	Developing/upgrading HR management processes within the judiciary	Introduction of case management system	Digitalisation of court services	Purchase of ICT systems (hardware and software)	Putting in place/upgrading the cooperation and communication within the judiciaries	Development and circulation of best practices	Evaluations and studies	Support to reform initiatives	Upgrading physical infrastructure at courts	Other, please specify
ESF	5		3	2		3	4			9	1		1
ERDF													
Both (ESF and ERDF)													
TOTAL	5		3	2		3	4			9	1		1

Project final recipient related to support to justice

There is no particular information about the final recipients of the ongoing projects. However, based on the available data about the project beneficiaries, projects' target groups and the planned activities, it can be concluded that the recipients in most of the projects are the same organisations. As there is no information about the final recipients in the project level documents,⁹⁶ in Table 17 they are classified under the category 'No information available'.

Table 16: Number of times the following entities were the final recipient of a project supporting justice, by Fund

	Courts and Tribunals	Relevant ministries	Registry offices	Regional administration	National prosecution offices	Professional association of magistrates	Specialised governance bodies of the judiciary	Others	No information available	Total
ESF	4	1			2				7	14
ERDF										
Both										
TOTAL	4	1			2				7	14

Project outputs, results and impacts related to support to justice

As already stated, there is no information yet available with regard to project outputs, results and the respective indicators.

Table 17: Project output indicators and data

Aggregate indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline, if available	Target, if available	Reported value, if available	N=
Operational Programme Good Governance 2014–2020					
<i>Administrative services and e-government</i>					0
<i>Transparent and Efficient Judiciary</i>					0

Table 18: Result/ impact indicators and data

Aggregate indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline, if available	Target, if available	Reported value, if available	N=
Operational Programme Good Governance 2014–2020					
<i>Administrative services and e-government</i>					0
<i>Transparent and Efficient Judiciary</i>					0

There is no information about any planned evaluations or follow-ups on particular project level.

3.4. Relevant programme output and result indicators

3.4.1. Programme indicators

⁹⁶ In their review, the MA commented that the final recipients are indicated in the Operational Programme description and the Procedures application guidelines, and the project-level documents should be considered as an integral part of the whole set of documents, and not as separate one. In any case, the Expert found the relevant information on outputs in the Application Guidelines.

Common and programme-specific output indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF)

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of regions	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Reporting frequency
CO20	Number of projects fully or partially implemented by social partners or non-governmental organisations	number	ESF	Less developed regions	50	Reports	Annually
O3-1	Analyses, research, studies, methodologies and assessments related to the operation of the judiciary supported	number	ESF	Less developed regions	50	Reports	Annually
O3-2	Projects for the implementation of joint actions	number	ESF	Less developed regions	7	Reports	Annually
O3-3	Judicial authorities supported for the introduction of program budgeting	number	ESF	Less developed regions	180	Reports	Annually
O3-4	Projects for the promotion and development of alternative dispute resolution methods	number	ESF	Less developed regions	5	Reports	Annually
O3-5	Number of institutions with IT and communication infrastructure audits	number	ESF	Less developed regions	180	Reports	Annually
O3-6	Number of supported e-services of the judiciary	number	ESF	Less developed regions	5	Reports	Annually
O3-7	SISC designed	number	ESF	Less developed regions	1	Reports	Annually
O3-8	Trained magistrates, court officials, officials of the investigating authorities under the CPC	number	ESF	Less developed regions	25,000	NIJ reports	Annually

Common result indicators for which a target value has been set and programme-specific result indicators corresponding to the specific objective (by investment priority and category of region) (Art. 96 (2) (b) (ii) of Regulation (EU) N° 1303/2013)

ID	Indicator	Category of regions	Measurement unit	Common output indicator used as basis	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Data source	Reporting frequency
R3-1	Introduced new and improvement of existing tools for modernisation of the judiciary	Less developed regions	number	Not applicable	13	2014	43	Reports and monitoring	Annually
R3-2	Number of cases led electronically	Less developed regions	number	Not applicable	0	2014	250,000	SJC statistics	Annually
R3-3	Magistrates, court staff and employees of the investigating authorities under CPC who successfully completed training with a certificate	Less developed regions	number	Not applicable	9,101	2013	29,101	Reports	Annually

Table 19: Summary table programme indicators

Relevant justice Indicator	Unit of measurement	OP it relates to (ICC)

5. Budget information

Overall budget information for projects supporting the justice system funded through the ESF and ERDF was generally available. However, there is no universally accepted taxonomy for project budget owners to classify budgets according to type of activity or final recipient. Moreover, many projects involve multiple activities and/or multiple final recipients. Whether and how budgets for these complex projects are analysed by activity or final recipient varies across project owners and countries. This militates against using reported data to make meaningful comparisons between projects and Member States.

For the purpose of this study, the researchers have therefore created a high-level taxonomy in order to enable an analysis of budget allocations for activities and final recipients for projects funded through the ESF and ERDF supporting the justice system. Information from interviews and documents has been used to apply this taxonomy and allocate budgets based on the main focus of the projects as well as the final recipients.

In cases where it has not been possible to determine budget allocations for projects with **multiple final recipients**, these have been classified as 'multiples' (further details and explanations have been provided in the text below). Where a project had **multiple activities** and/or included activities which did not fall under one of the focus categories, the categorisation of that project reflects its aim and not necessarily all individual activities undertaken in the context of this project. This approach is further explained in the Final Report.

For the 2014–2020 programming period it is also important to note that the majority of projects are still ongoing. The tables below therefore only provide an overview of the **budget allocated** for project activities and final recipients.

object focus category foreseen (EU contribution and national contribution)

Project Name	Improving internal processes	Digitalisation & ICT	Training & Raising awareness	Research and evaluation	Activities related to ADR/ODR	Upgrading physical infrastructure	No information available
ESF	520.01	6,854.05	1,604.50	203.44			
ERDF							
Both							
TOTAL	520.01	6,854.05	1,604.50	203.44			

As Table 21 shows, the majority of project budgets are foreseen for activities related to 'Digitalisation and ICT', followed by 'Training & Raising awareness'.

There is no particular information about the final recipients of the ongoing projects. However, based on the available data about the project beneficiaries, project target groups and the planned activities, it can be concluded that the recipients in most of the projects are the same organisations and the possible users of the services offered by the respective justice system organisations.

Table 20: Budget allocated in thousand EUR by final recipient targeted (EU contribution and national contribution)

Project Name	Courts and Tribunals	Relevant ministries	Registry offices	Regional administration	National prosecution offices	Professional association of magistrates and bar associations	Specialised governance bodies of the judiciary	Others	No information available	Multiple
ESF	102.26								3,227.28	5,852.45
ERDF										
Both										
TOTAL	102.26								3,227.28	5,852.45

4. Overview of existing national and regional data and documentation related to the ESF and ERDF

4.1. Ex-ante evaluations and needs assessments

The ex-ante evaluation report of the OPGG 2014–2020⁹⁷ addresses the needs and challenges as assessed and described by the Updated Strategy to Continue the Reform of the Judicial System and the corresponding Action plans, the Roadmap for Implementation of e-Governance and e-Justice in the Justice Sector 2014–2020, as well as by the Roadmap for the Implementation of the e-Government Strategy in the Republic of Bulgaria for the period 2014–2020. The ex-ante evaluation report and its Appendixes⁹⁸ specify the particular needs and corresponding planned activities, specific objectives and expected results regarding the priority axis 3: 'Transparent and Effective Justice System' as follows:

Needs	Specific objective	Results
<p>Need for introduction of new models for elaboration and effective management of the justice system budget</p> <p>Need for adequate system for monitoring and assessment of the justice system and for qualitative, unified statistical information</p> <p>Decreasing the duration of the criminal proceedings and tackling the lack of effective means for legal defence in non-criminal and administrative court cases</p> <p>Application of alternative dispute resolution cases – mediation and arbitration</p> <p>Design and elaboration of HR policies</p> <p>Empowering and developing the mechanisms for involvement of civil society and the professional associations of the magistrates in the support to the justice system</p> <p>Improving coordination with the institutions for prevention of and fight against corruption and organised crime</p> <p>Need for implementation of the e-justice elements for improving the effectiveness and the transparency of the justice system</p>	<p>Specific goal 1: Improving the quality and speeding up the proceeding, as well as modernisation of the justice system through a reform in their structures, procedures and organisation.</p>	<p>Amount of reduction in duration of criminal and civil cases</p> <p>Proportion of newly started cases compared with finished cases</p> <p>Share of the cases, filled in electronically</p>

⁹⁷ Final version of the ex-ante evaluation, approved by the Thematic working group on OPGG programme on the meeting 28.11–01.12.2014, online at <https://www.eufunds.bg/index.php/bg/programen-period-2014-2020/operativni-programi-2014-2020/operativna-programa-dobro-upravlenie-2014-2020/tematichna-rabotna-grupa-za-op-dobro-upravlenie/protzedura-po-neprisastveno-vzemane-na-reshenie-28-11-01-12-2014-g> (accessed 31.01.2018).

Final version of the ex-ante evaluation report is available at: https://www.eufunds.bg/images/eu_funds/files/OP_Good_Governance/%D0%A2%D0%A0%D0%93/EXAN TE_final_final.pdf (in Bulgarian language only)

Appendixes, indicating the particular needs and corresponding planned activities, specific goals and expected results according to the ex-ante evaluation are available at: https://www.eufunds.bg/images/eu_funds/files/OP_Good_Governance/%D0%A2%D0%A0%D0%93/%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%B8%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B6%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%B5_4.rar

⁹⁸ Ibid.

Improving the exchange of information and increasing the e-communication between the courts and the third parties in the court cases		
Improving the accessibility to trainings for magistrates, particularly regarding the vocational training Support to training for improved proficiency of the investigative authorities in the application of the Code of Criminal Procedure Need for training for improved effectiveness of the magistrates regarding cases of youth justice	Specific goal 2: Enlarging the scope and improving the quality of the trainings in the justice system	Increasing the share of the magistrates and investigative authorities, working on the Code of Criminal Procedure, who are included in trainings

Source: Appendixes, indicating the particular needs and corresponding planned activities, specific goals and expected results according to the ex-ante evaluation report of the OP GG2014–2020⁹⁹

4.2. Programming documents

The majority of the programming documents in Bulgaria regarding OPAC 2007–2013 and OPGG 2014–2020 are available online. All of them are accessible on the specialised centralised websites (including project-level databases for each programming period), which offer information about all the OPs in both programming periods. One of the few challenges for users is to find out which is the latest and official version of a given document as some of them exist in more than one version, and do not have proper information about the date and author. In addition, many of the documents are available in English language but there is no indication which version of the Bulgarian-language documents they correspond to.

4.3. Implementation reports

All annual implementation reports for both programming periods are available.

4.4. Interim and ex-post evaluations

Both the interim and ex-post evaluation reports for the 2007–2013 programming period are available. The interim and ex-post evaluation reports for the current programming period are forthcoming.

4.5. Other non-project level documents

For both OPAC 2007–2013 and OPGG 2014–2020 there are several non-project level documents, e.g. documents from different call procedures related to justice, selection criteria for separate operations, etc.

4.6. Project-level data sources

The Council of Ministers maintains centralised databases for each programming period and all OPs in the country. Both databases offer public online access to data on different levels – OP, priority axis, sub-priority, and project levels, in a structured template-based format. The OPAC Managing Authority has also maintained its own official website. For the OPGG no separate website exists, but the majority of its project-level documents are available on the government website “EUFUNDS.bg”.

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https://www.eufunds.bg/images/eu_funds/files/OP_Good_Governance/%D0%A2%D0%A0%D0%93/%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%B8%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B6%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%B5_4.rar

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