

European Union | European Regional Development Fund

### Interreg Europe: state of play

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18-19 June 2019 | Peer review, Sofia





# Interreg Europe...

**Exchange of experience** to improve regional development policies, in particular **Structural Funds** (SF) programmes

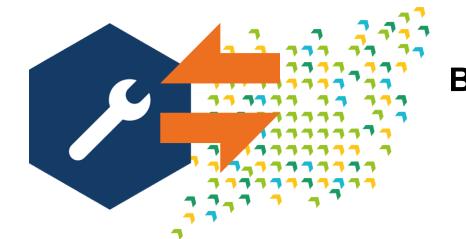
An accelerator for regional development



# 2 actions



A. Policy Learning Platform

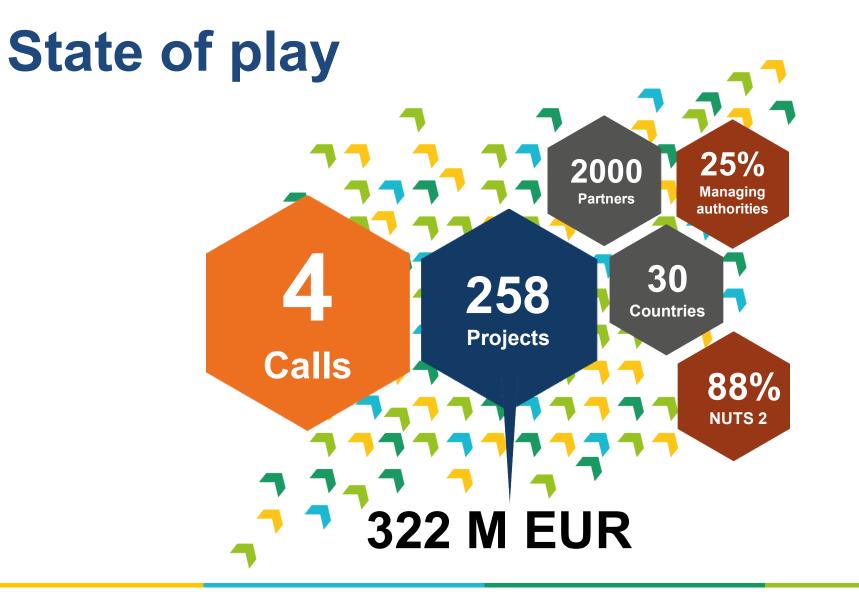


**B. Projects** 

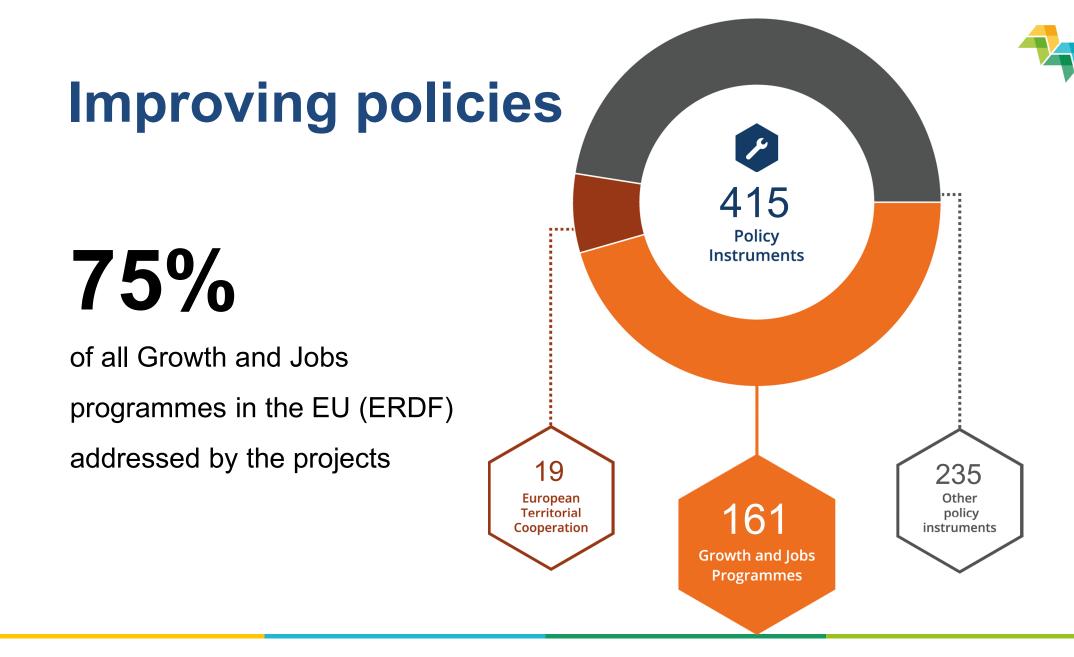
# Interregional cooperation projects

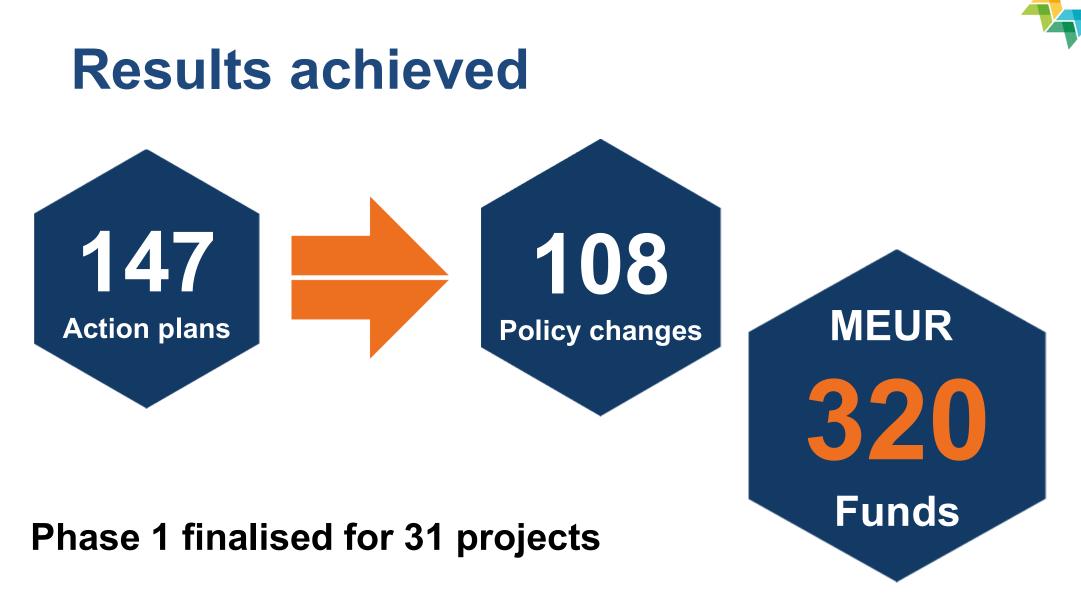














# A unique programme

### At the heart of EU cohesion policy

Improving regional development policies

in particular Structural Funds programme

- Mix of more and less advanced regions
- High participation of peripheral regions



#### **Interreg Europe secretariat**

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### Take the shortcut to smart policy solutions The Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform



Peer reviews for better policymaking

Thorsten Kohlisch Project Manager of the Policy Learning Platform



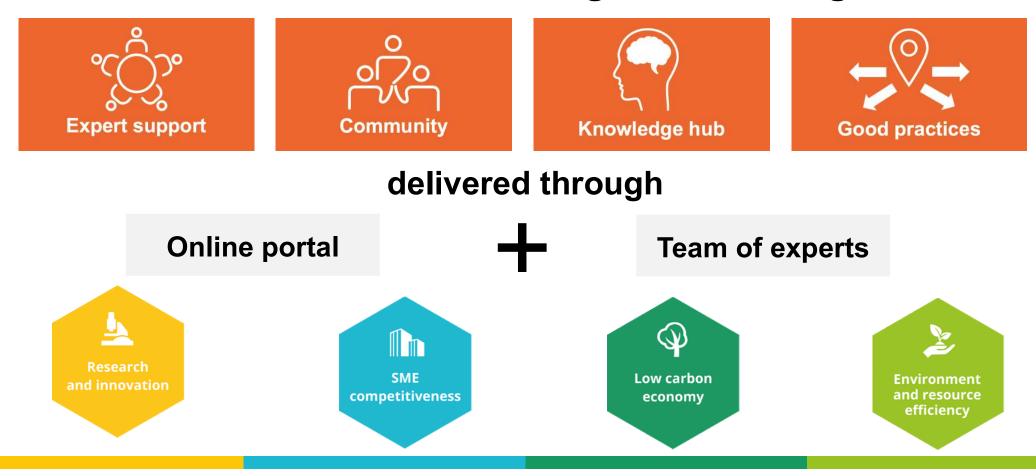


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# What is the Platform about?



### **4** services for interregional learning





# **A truly European community**



# **16,000+** Members

**99%** NUTS2

### Good practice database Inspire and get inspired



https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/good-practices/

# Get the support you need



Individual support serving your needs:

- Policy helpdesk ask the experts and receive policy advice online
- Targeted matchmakings (1,5 hours, during events) get together with relevant partner regions to share your challenges and good practices
- Peer reviews (2 days onsite visits)
  Team up with other European regions to get their feedback and recommendations

# Call 1 – approved peer reviews



ТО	Submitting organisation	Addressed policy challenge	Timing
Research and innovation	Executive Agency for Science and Education Smart Growth Operational Programme, Ministry of Education and Science (BG)	ERDF support for the establishment and development of Centers of Competence and Centers of Excellence	18-19 June 2019
	Region of Gävleborg (SE)	Innovation and stakeholder governance	29-30 Jan 2019
SME competitiveness	Berlin Senate Department for Economics, Energy and Public Enterprises (DE)	Start-up support measures supported by the regional operational programme	3-4 July 2019
	Government Agency Catalonia Trade & Investment/ Generalitat de Catalunya (ES)	SME internationalisation support	October 2019
Cow carbon economy	Ministry of the German-speaking community of Belgium (BE)	Governance and implementation of an inter- municipal SECAP	8-9 May 2019
Environment and resource efficiency	Regional Council of Provence-Alpes-Côte d´Azur (FR)	Corporate Social Responsibility/ circular economy	27-28 June 2019
	Nature Park Our/ National Nature Conservation Agency (LU)	Governance and implementation of Natura 2000 management plan	September 2019



# **Success stories**

RESS







#### Mastering the art of innovation governance:

- Learning nugget I "what" develop co-ownership before you get started
- Learning nugget II "how" to ensure successful stakeholder governance
- Learning nugget III "how" to lead the process successfully
- Learning nugget IV "how" to manage the windows for innovation
- Learning nugget V "how" to use evaluations and peer learning

Manage complex development projects by systematically looping through nuggets, creating a positive spiral



#### An insight into the set of policy recommendations:

- Identify, invite and engage relevant stakeholders share responsibilities
- Be ready to grant successes (Angela Merkel vs. Donald Trump)
- Identify "problem owners" and "solution procurers" do not be afraid of addressing conflicts
- Start with low-hanging fruits to achieve first results and impacts
- Inject positive energy and "fun" to handle complex situations

https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/event/2381/leadership-and-governance-of-regional-innovation-processes/

### Gävleborg Region, Sweden What did the host say?





"The peer review tool was well-suited to our needs. We knew already 'WHAT' to do, and the financing was in place. What we needed to answer was the question of 'HOW' to do it. We didn't have time to develop a project lasting several years. We needed knowledge quickly, and on very specific issues. This is why the peer review process was an attractive opportunity for us, and ultimately one that has significantly changed they way we work."

Magnus Ernström, Strategist and Project Owner, Region Gävleborg

### Gävleborg Region, Sweden Follow-up



#### **Excerpt from the final report:**

- "We are considering to launch a joint project with the peer regions" focus on innovative mobility solutions or steps towards closer business cooperation (interregional value chains)
- "Peer experiences and projects with solar cells from Noord-Brabant will be brought into the Gävleborg planning for cycle roads and noise barriers"
- "Lessons learned regarding 'innovation windows' were already used and applied in March 2019, in a meeting with regional industry, to focus the innovation process towards operational engagement in climate smart transportation"
- Lessons learned from the peer review shared with Swedish regional innovation stakeholders at the annual conference of the Swedish regional development forum 'RegLab' on 27 March 2019 in Västerås
- **•** (...)

### German-speaking community, Belgium May 2019

### East Belgium, Belgium May 2019



# Implementing an inter-municipal Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP):

- Governance structures
- Scope and support tools for local authorities
- Monitoring data and reporting
- Financing SECAP

https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/news/5606/a-meeting-with-eu-policymakers-helps-the-belgiangerman-speaking-community-to-better-coordinate-their-secap/

### **East Belgium, Belgium** What did the host say?





"We would like to thank all participants of the peer review and in particular the four peers for their valuable input. The peer review was perfect with regard to the timing and the many interesting approaches that have been shared. In our speeches, we often talk about the added value of European cooperation. With the peer review, we could implement that concretely in our region. A big thank you also to Interreg Europe for offering this policy learning tool."

Daniel Hilligsmann, Advisor to the Minister President of the German speaking Community, Belgium

"This has been a very good, **very practical exchange and I had the feeling that I can make a real contribution with my experience**. Now that we have met in person, we can better collaborate in the future."

Nathalie Garré from the West-Vlaamse Intercommunale

### **East Belgium, Belgium** Key features and follow-up



#### **Observations and first follow-up actions:**

- Perfect policy timing (transfer of energy policy competences to East Belgium)
- Timely and transparent involvement of key stakeholders (municipalities, local associations)
- Presentation of the peer recommendations at the next SECAP Steering Group meeting
- Further analysis of the discussed monitoring and evaluation tools
- Continuation of the launched cooperation (deepening of exchanges, joint projects)



#### www.interregeurope/policylearning

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#### EXECUTIVE AGENCY "OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME "SCIENCE AND EDUCATION FOR SMART GROWTH"



#### PA 1 of SESG OP

**Centers of Excellence and Centers** 

of Competence

Challenges

18 June 2019 Novotel Sofia





EXECUTIVE AGENCY "OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME "SCIENCE AND EDUCATION FOR SMART GROWTH"



### STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS FOR R&D&I SECTOR IN BULGARIA

- 1. ISSS 2014-2020 (revised 2017) by 2020: from "modest" to "moderate" innovator:
  - Informatics and ICT
  - Mechatronics and Clean Technologies
  - Industry for healthy living and biotechnology
  - New technologies in creative and recreational industries
- 2. National Strategy for Development of Scientific Research 2017-2030 "Better Science for better Bulgaria"
- 3. National Research Infrastructure Roadmap 2017-2023
  - CoE & CoC will become part of it;
  - State will allocate public funding to ensure sustainability





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#### **POLICY MAKING BODIES**

National Assembly

### **Council of Ministers**

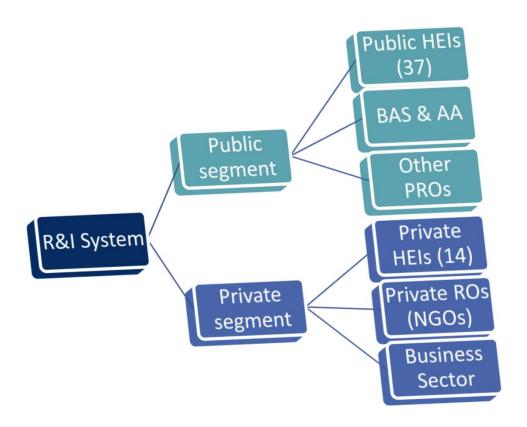
Ministry of Economy	Ministry of Education and Science		
National Innovation Fund	OPIC	National Science Fund	OP SESG



#### EXECUTIVE AGENCY "OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME "SCIENCE AND EDUCATION FOR SMART GROWTH"



### **R&D&I** SYSTEM SEGMENTS IN BULGARIA



- non very well integrated public and private segments
- highly centralized system (regulation and control)
- MES oriented toward public sector
- ME oriented toward private sector
- policies are devised and implemented separately;

- funding and support – depend on the type of beneficiary not the R&D field or opportunities for joint projects;



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### **MAIN POLICY CHALLENGES**

- 1) Lack of integrated policy instruments
- 2) Lack of managerial capacity managers vs. scientists
- **3)** Lack of instruments for shared research infrastructure
- 4) Better integration and Europeanization of the Bulgarian science, research and innovation





#### EXECUTIVE AGENCY "OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME "SCIENCE AND EDUCATION FOR SMART GROWTH"



#### SCIENCE AND EDUCATION FOR SMART GROWTH OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME





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#### SCIENCE AND EDUCATION FOR SMART GROWTH OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME





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# PRIORITY AXIS 1 OF SESG OP 2014-2020

Increase the investment in R&D and innovation

Market-oriented research for increased innovation capacity

Investment in advanced research infrastructures and equipment

# **EXPECTED RESULTS**

Connectivity and interaction between R&D centres, schools of higher education and businesses

Business investment in R&D

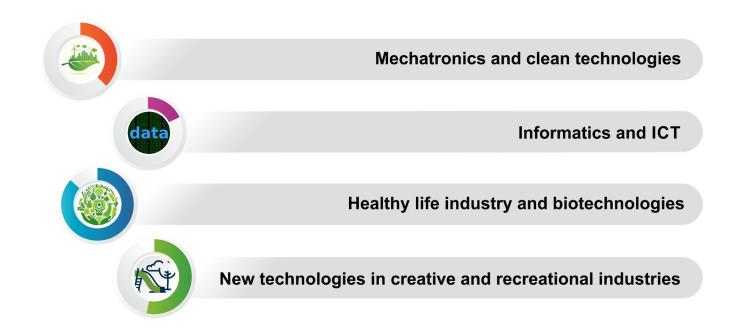
Creation of networks and clusters



# EXECUTIVE AGENCY "OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME "SCIENCE AND EDUCATION FOR SMART GROWTH"



# THE BULGARIAN INNOVATION STRATEGY FOR SMART SPECIALISATION (ISSS) 4 THEMATIC AREAS





# EXECUTIVE AGENCY "OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME "SCIENCE AND EDUCATION FOR SMART GROWTH"



# CREATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE (COE) AND CENTERS OF COMPETENCE (COC)

- to improve the capacity for generation of research excellence and innovation capacity
- to improve significantly the potential for applied research, experimental development and innovations
- to increase the scientific impact of the Bulgarian research organizations
- to produce internationally recognized publications and other applied research results in the priority areas of ISSS

to increase the marketorientation of their research and innovation agendas, and their ability to attract private investments to conduct top level research at European scale in the priority areas of the Innovation strategy for smart specialization (ISSS)



# EXECUTIVE AGENCY "OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME "SCIENCE AND EDUCATION FOR SMART GROWTH"



# **ACTIVITIES ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING**

- Modernization of existing scientific infrastructure and/or building of new infrastructure including construction activities;
- Purchase and upgrade of equipment, needed for implementation of research programmes;
- Implementation of research and development activities;
- Conducting market-oriented research at highest international level in the priority areas of ISSS
- Attracting researchers and top experts for conducting high level research in the priority areas of ISSS;
- Establishment of strategic partnerships and joint research programs with leading European research centres;
- Establishment of sustainable partnerships with business and conducting joint projects with private investors;
- Dissemination of the research results; knowledge and technologies transfer and supply of research services for the business.





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# **Project proposals for CoE and CoC**

#### **IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING** STATE AID Where, after the completion European of a project, revenue has The funding does Regional been generated, which was not constitute not previously determined in Development State aid as it is the financial analysis, the net awarded in Fund and revenue generated will be accordance with National codeducted from the project item 20 of the expenditure declared to the financing Framework for Commission and will be State aid for recovered by the beneficiary research and development and innovation

does not

constitute State aid

100% grant funding for procedures / contracts

net revenue that will be generated which was not previously determined will be reduced

Financial analysis according to the Guide to Cost-Benefit Analysis

**FINANCIAL ANALYSIS** 

• The financial analysis

are prepared in

accordance with

**Annex III Regulation** 

(EU) 2015/2074 and

the Guide to Cost-

Benefit Analysis of

of the EC

investment projects

# ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

 Economic activities which are purely ancillary and limited in scope do not exceed 20% of the relevant overall annual infrastructure capacity are eligible under the procedure

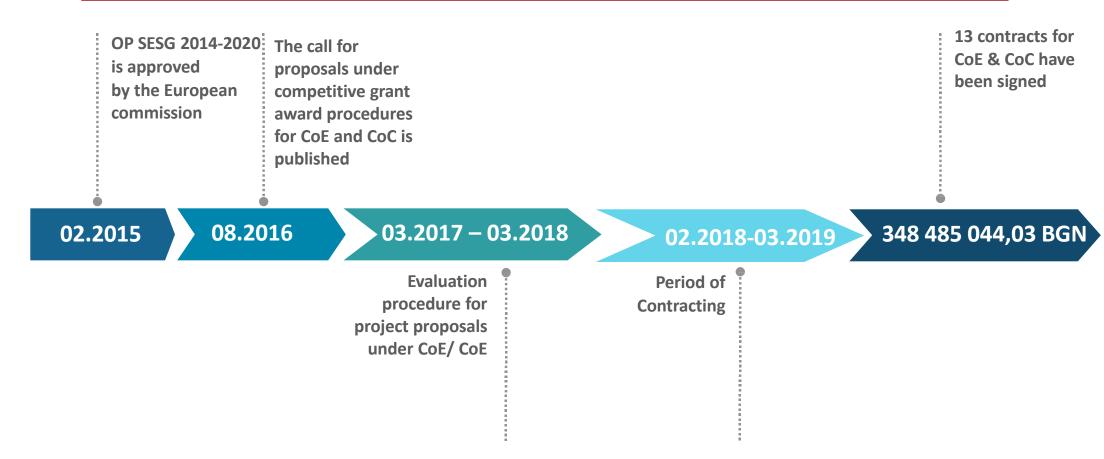
economic activities do not exceed 20%



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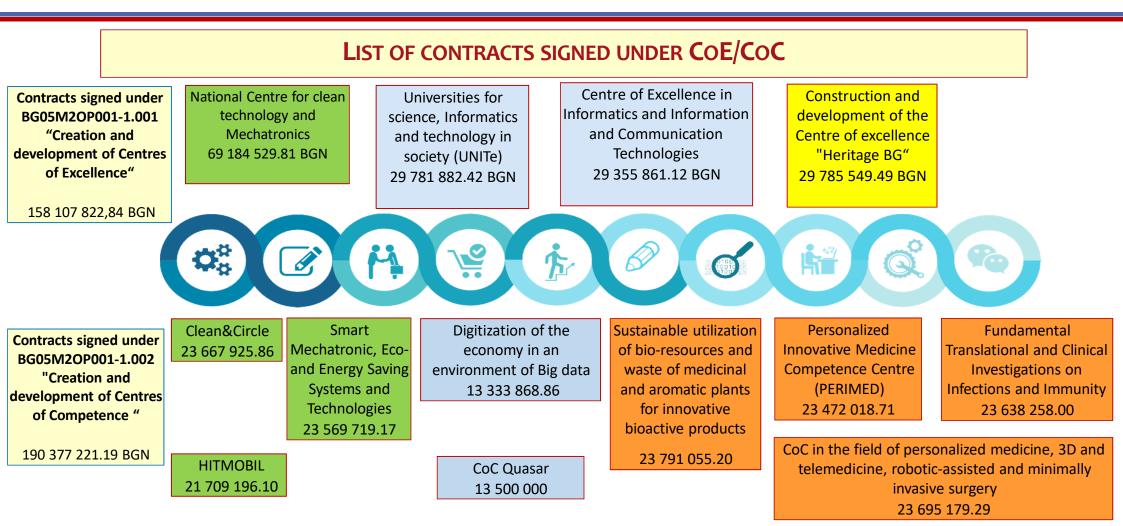


# **REVIEW OF THE PROGRESS FOR CREATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF COE/COC**



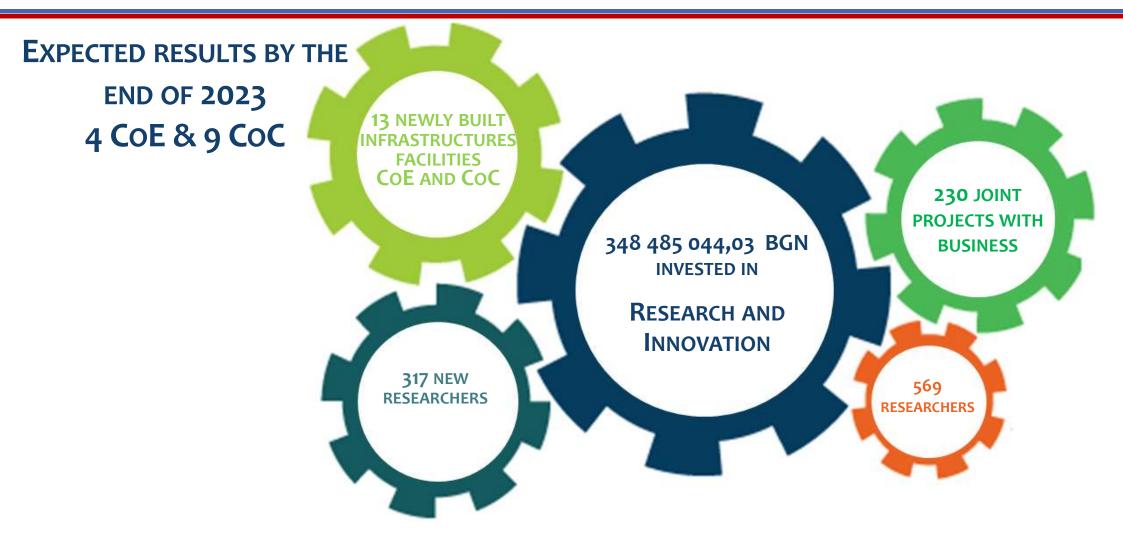














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# **TERRITORIAL BALANCE AND SHARE OF FUNDS UNDER COE/COC**





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# **DEFICIENCIES IN THE PHASE OF IMPLEMENTATION**



## Implement

Some scientific organizations/universities are involved in more than one project.

Lack of administrative experience in implementation of projects of such complexity

Some project positions are still vacant.

Low level of project readiness.

#### Monitor

Lack of capacity on state aid issues and mechanism for knowledge transfer.

Difficulties in defining methods for dealing with revenues from patents, licences, know-how or other intellectual property as well as from research contracts, and fees paid by user companies.

## GO LIVE

No clear vision about future legal framework of the established CoE/CoC (nonprofit making legal bodies, bodies governed by the public law, state companies, etc.)

No clear vision about future management bodies/body (steering committees, management boards, etc.) of the newly created structures. Sustain

No clear vision about future capitalization of project results.

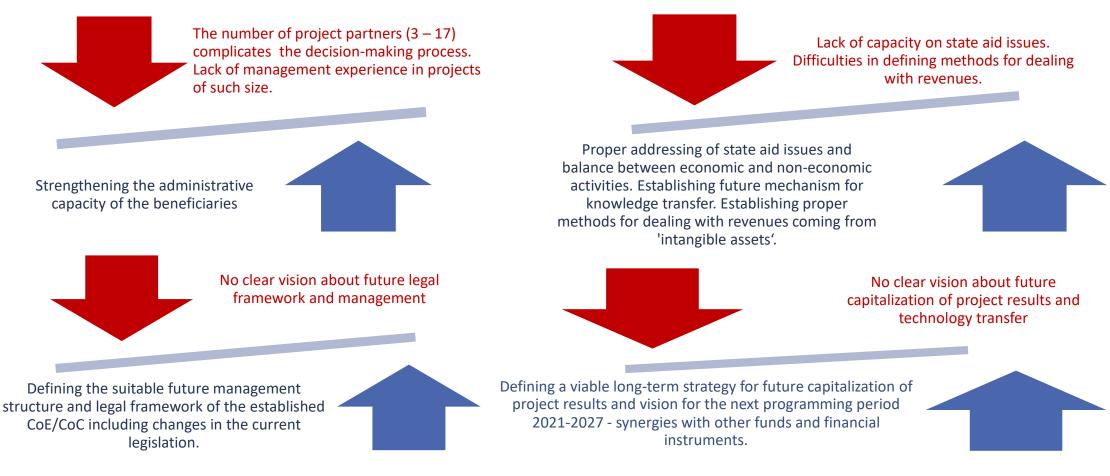
Technology transfer.



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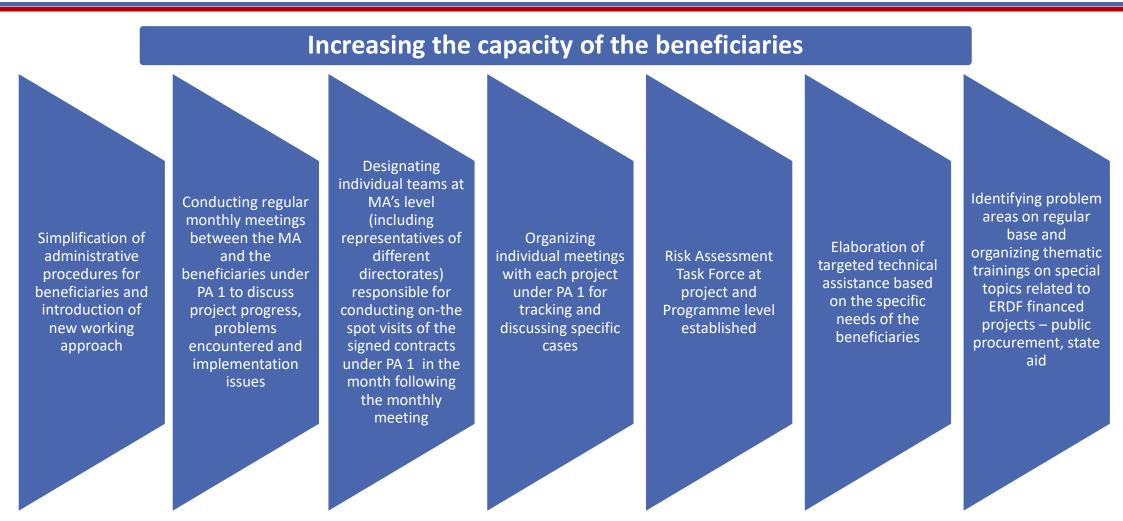


# **TURNING THE DEFICIENCIES INTO EFFICIENCIES**







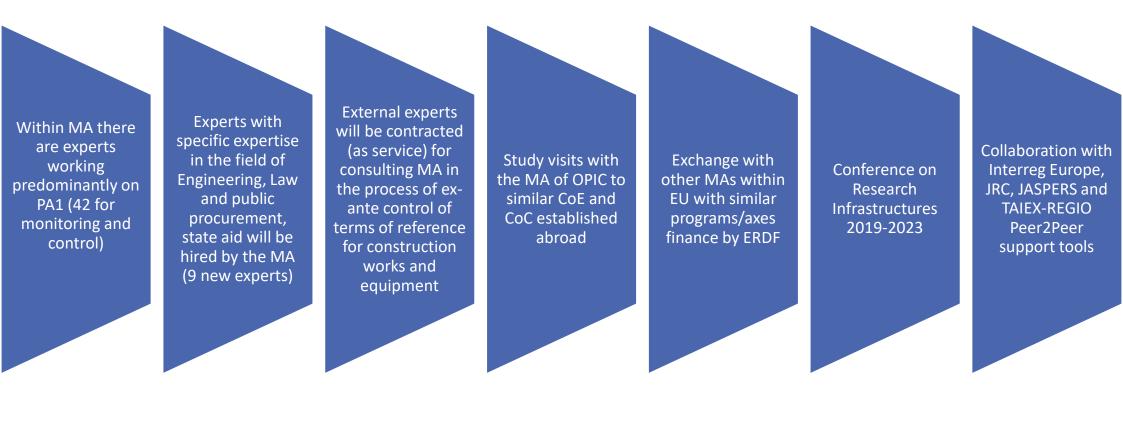




#### EXECUTIVE AGENCY "OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME "SCIENCE AND EDUCATION FOR SMART GROWTH"



# Increasing the MA's capacity





#### EXECUTIVE AGENCY "OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME "SCIENCE AND EDUCATION FOR SMART GROWTH"



# ANNUAL FORUM/ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES 2019-2023



Regular communication and mutual understanding between the participants within the process of planning, approval, financing, execution of ERDF projects within the research and innovation area are essential for the beneficial resulting.

ANNUAL FORUM/ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES 2019-2023

The Annual forum/Annual conference will be held in cooperation with Sofia Tech Park in 2019 – 2023 with the intention to bring together participants who finance, manage, evaluate and execute research infrastructure projects namely:

EC: DG REGIO, DG R&I, JRC, Interreg Europe, JASPERS; Other European CoE/CoC;

CCU, Managing authorities, FMFIB, Sofia Tech Park; CoE&CoC Beneficiaries; Business organizations, etc.



#### EXECUTIVE AGENCY "OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME "SCIENCE AND EDUCATION FOR SMART GROWTH"



# WHAT IS A CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE ?



## Definition

top-level research complexes conducting research in accordance with best international standards and practice and are evaluated in terms of the quality, quantity and impact of their research output. Such complexes should possess an extensive pool of top-level researchers, a well-defined organisational structure and an own research agenda.

## Objective

The activities under the procedure must lead to the development of excellent and market-oriented research in accordance with the priority areas of the ISSS

## Added value

- Internal networking /Interdisciplinary teams
- ✤ Acquired / raised researcher qualification
- New projects initiate projects or become partners of new international projects.



#### EXECUTIVE AGENCY "OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME "SCIENCE AND EDUCATION FOR SMART GROWTH"





Project name: National center of mechatronics and clean technologies Contract: BG05M2OP001-1.001-0008-C01, Start/end date: 28.02.2018 - 31.12.2023



BENEFICIARY Institute of General and inorganic chemistry-Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

#### PARTNERS

- 11 Institutes which belong to the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
- Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

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- Technical University Sofia
- Technical University Varna
- Technical University Gabrovo
- University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy



**BUDGET** 69 184 529.81 BGN

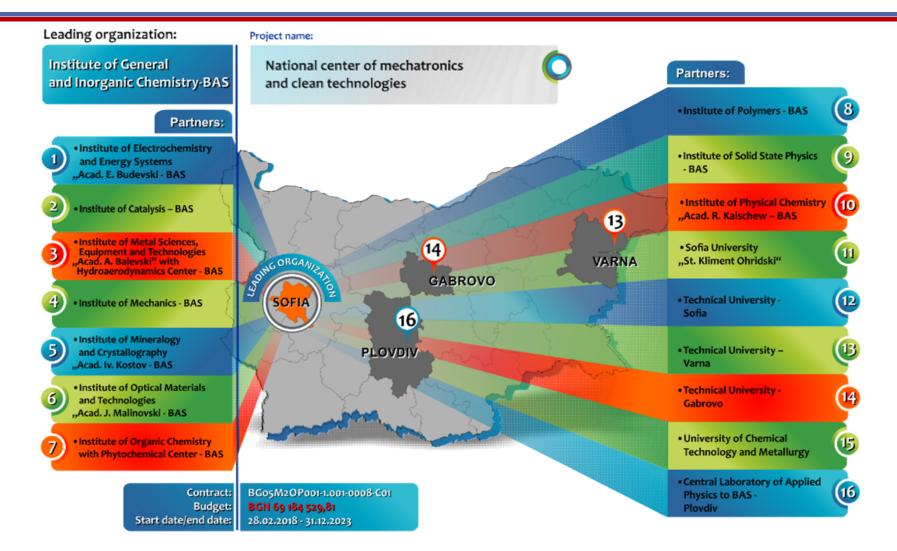
**DURATION** 70 MONTHS



#### **EUROPEAN UNION**

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND







1

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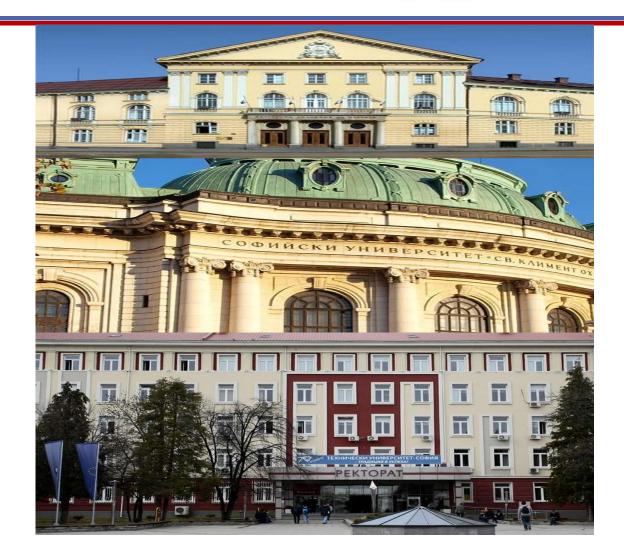
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#### EUROPEAN UNION EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND



- Number of newly built infrastructure facilities in the CoE
- Newly established scientific laboratories and units
- Number of new researchers in supported entities
- Number of researchers working in improved research infrastructure facilities
- Number of joint research projects between centres and businesses





#### EXECUTIVE AGENCY "OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME "SCIENCE AND EDUCATION FOR SMART GROWTH"



# WHAT IS A CENTRE OF COMPETENCE ?



## Definition

top-level research complexes where research, technological development and innovation are fully integrated in accordance with best international standards and practice. The performance of CoCs will be evaluated in terms of their measurable research output and technological innovation. These research complexes should bring together an extensive pool of toplevel researchers and technological developers and a well-defined organisational structure and own research and innovation agendas

## Objective

- Orientation towards faster technology transfer
- Faster and more efficient way to the market

## Added value

- Internal networking /Interdisciplinary teams
- ✤ Acquired / raised researcher qualification and competence
- New projects initiate projects or become partners of new international projects.



#### EXECUTIVE AGENCY "OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME "SCIENCE AND EDUCATION FOR SMART GROWTH"





Project name: Clean technologies for sustainable environment – water, waste, energy for circular economy Contract: BG05M2OP001-1.002-0019-C02 Start/end date: 30.03.2018 - 30.11.2023



BENEFICIARY Sofia University 'St. Kliment Ohridski'

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#### PARTNERS

- University of architecture, civil engineering and geodesy
- University of forestry Sofia
- University "Prof. Asen Zlatarov" Burgas
- Institute of Physical Chemistry at BAS
- ✤ Institute of organic chemistry CF of BAS
- Institute of Microbiology
- Foundation "Cleantech Bulgaria"

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**BUDGET** 23 667 925,86 BGN



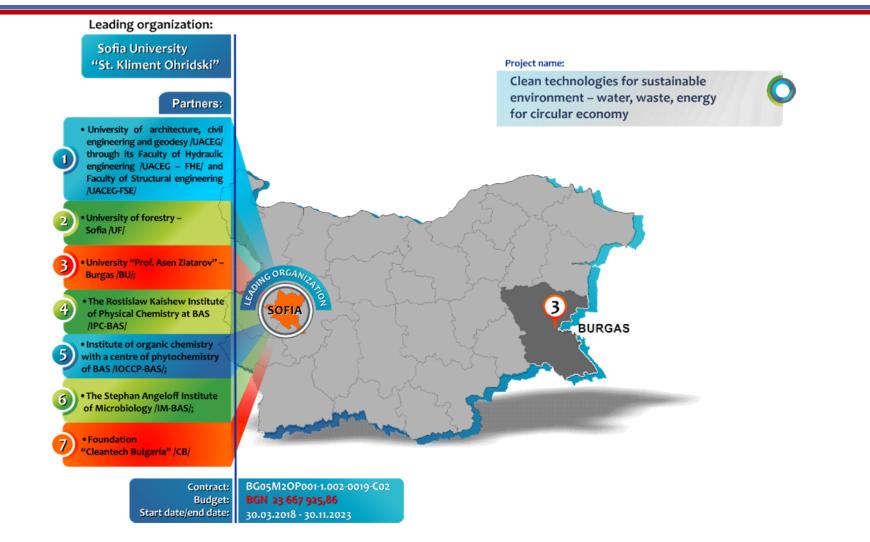
**DURATION** 68 MONTHS



#### EUROPEAN UNION

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND







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EUROPEAN UNION EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

# EXECUTIVE AGENCY "OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME "SCIENCE AND EDUCATION FOR SMART GROWTH"



Number of newly built infrastructure facilities in the CoC

Newly established scientific laboratories and units

Number of new researchers in supported entities

Number of researchers working in improved research infrastructure facilities

Number of joint research projects between centres and businesses







#### EXECUTIVE AGENCY "OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME "SCIENCE AND EDUCATION FOR SMART GROWTH"





# **THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**

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