



8th Cooperation Committee Meeting BG Home Affairs Programme

Programme Operator
International Projects Directorate - Mol

14.12.2021



Agenda

10:00 – 10:30 BG
09:00 – 09:30 CET

Information on the call for proposals “Improving the national asylum and migration capacities, especially as regards provision of conditions for vulnerable migrants and in particular for unaccompanied minors”

10:30 – 11:00 BG
09:30 – 10:00 CET

Information on the implementation of pre-defined projects (state of play)

11:00 – 11:30 BG
10:00 – 10:30 CET

Presentation of PDP 4 “Extension of the Communication Infrastructure of MoI” by the beneficiary Communication and Information Systems Directorate and of PDP 12 “Awareness raising of local communities in areas with significant share of Roma population on asylum and migration issues” by the beneficiary International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

11:30 – 11:45 BG
10:30 – 10:45 CET

Discussion on the possibility to launch bilateral activities

11:45 – 12:00 BG
10:45 – 11:00 CET

AOB. Discussions and conclusion



Open call “Improving the national asylum and migration capacities, especially as regards provision of conditions for vulnerable migrants and in particular for unaccompanied minors”

Summary:

- 4 projects proposal ranked and approved for financing
 - total amount of 2 500 097,04 EUR
- 1 project proposal included in the reserve list with amount of 965 555,37 EUR
- Total remaining amount 499 992,96 EUR

Further strengthening of the national capacity in the field of asylum and migration

- **Project promoter**

- International organization for migration

- **Project budget**

- 1 888 433.19 BGN/965 555.37 euro

- **Project activities**

- Project management;
- Increasing the capacity so support unaccompanied minors;
- Increasing the capacity to respond to migration crises in the border area with a focus on unaccompanied minors;
- Information and publicity

Further strengthening of the national capacity in the field of asylum and migration

Project indicators:

- Number of staff of national institutions, NGOs and international organizations trained in the field of asylum and migration – Target value – 200;
- Number of events (seminar, trainings etc.) in the field of asylum and migration Target value- 14;
- Number of specific procedures and standards for referral, reception, care and guardianship/representation of UAMs developed and/or implemented – Target value – 1;
- Annual number of unaccompanied minors receiving services (social support services, language, schooling, legal aid) – Target value – 300;

Project target groups:

- Unaccompanied minors and minors who have applied for international protection, unaccompanied minors and minors who have been denied international protection or those who have not applied for international protection as a special focus, and asylum seekers;
- State institutions, local institutions, local administration working in the field of asylum and migration;
- Employees of non-governmental organizations working in the field of asylum and migration.

Further strengthening of the national capacity in the field of asylum and migration

Project results

- 3 study visits to other Member States to explore and subsequently implement good practices in support of unaccompanied migrant minors, including in the context of a response to address the effects of high migratory pressures in border areas;
- 11 training seminars and events with representatives of public authorities, NGOs and international organizations working in the field of migration and asylum in Bulgaria with a focus on measures to support unaccompanied migrant minors;
- training of at least 200 representatives of public authorities, NGOs and international organizations in trainings and seminars on topics related to the support of unaccompanied migrant minors,
- providing direct support to at least 300 unaccompanied minors for legal advice and information, including by providing translation from languages of the children's countries of origin and facilitating their access to services by public authorities and NGOs.



Lack of overlap on trainings of attorneys in accordance with the Asylum and refugees Act

Article 25 hereof stipulate:

- ✓ *An unaccompanied minor or a junior foreigner, seeking or receiving international protection, who is on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria shall be represented in the proceedings under this Act by a lawyer, entered in the register for legal aid of the National Legal Aid Bureau, appointed by the chairman of the Bureau or by an official, authorized by him.*
- ✓ *The representative must have the necessary knowledge to be able, in accordance with the principle of ensuring the best interests of the child, to assist the unaccompanied minor or junior foreigner to exercise his / her rights and perform his / her obligations provided for in this Act. The representative may not be a person, whose interests are in conflict or may be in conflict with the interests of the unaccompanied minor or junior foreigner*
- Prior to the amendment of Asylum and refugees Act the representation of UAMs was in the prerogatives of the State and Local authorities.
- Working with UAMs is not common within the attorneys entered in the Register for legal aid of the National Legal Aid Bureau. Due to the regulatory framework prior the amendment no specific knowledge on representation of UAMs was common outside the State and local authorities.
- The Register includes more than 8 000 attorneys that can be selected as representatives.

Requested modifications of the programme

Modifications of the Programme Agreement

Modification of the Programme Agreement for the Home Affairs Programme - sent to NFP in November 2021; submitted to FMO on 6 December 2021:

1. Annex I, Results Framework, output 1.2 “Training of government institutions in the area of asylum and migration performed”: removal of the indicator „Number of mayors and deputy mayors trained on selection of legal representatives/guardians”;
2. Annex II, p. 5, pre-defined project 2: “Increasing the administrative capacity of the national authorities in the asylum and migration”: inclusion of new partner – the National Legal Aid Bureau, Bulgaria;
3. Annex II, p. 5, pre-defined project 2: “Increasing the administrative capacity of the national authorities in the asylum and migration”: change in the description of one of the activities as follows: “Representation of unaccompanied children under Art. 25 of the Law of Asylum and Refugees: selection, rights and obligations, responsibilities, interaction and reporting”.

Justification of the Requested Modifications

- The State Agency for Refugees, Project Promoter under PDP 2, requested modification of the project contract due to legislative changes
- Art. 25 of the Asylum and Refugees Act was amended and supplemented: the function of representatives of unaccompanied applicants for protection shall be assigned to lawyers entered in the legal aid register of the National Office for Legal Assistance (previously the representation of unaccompanied minors was performed by mayors)
- The inclusion of the National Legal Aid Bureau as a project partner corresponds with the legislative amendments and will further contribute to the achievement of the project objectives, including through development of a manual for the designated representatives of unaccompanied minors seeking international protection
- All texts in the Programme Agreement related to the representation of unaccompanied minors have to be modified accordingly
- No changes in the budget of the project and the programme are needed (funds for the new partner will be ensured by the initially foreseen expenditures for the State Agency for Refugees)
- The proposed modification will not affect the outputs and the outcomes of the programme
- Discussed with project partners, the Donor Project Partner (POD) and Donor Programme partner (UDI)

State of play of pre-defined projects

PDP 2 : Increasing the administrative capacity of the national authorities in the asylum and migration area

Implementation period: 20.08.2020 -20.08.2023

Project Promoter: State Agency for Refugees at the Council of Ministers (SAR)

Project Partners: National Police Immigration Service (NPIS)

Chief Directorate Border police (CDBP), Migration Directorate (MD) by Ministry of Interior

Main activities under the project

- Increasing the professional knowledge and skills of SAR staff and other competent authorities (study visits (8)/ internships (12) in Norway /EU countries, specialized trainings (14), language trainings
- Elaboration of Manual/Phrasebook/Video clips to deal with unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups
- Development of functional analysis of SAR
- Construction works, delivery of furniture/equipment for seminars rooms (4) in SAR premises
- Seminars (10) for CDBP officers in counteracting trafficking in human beings and working with representatives of vulnerable groups
- Trainings (3) and study visits (2) for MD officers.

Current state of play

- The public procurement procedure for foreign language trainings launched, evaluation completed and contractor selected
- The documentation for public procurement for repair and renovation of SAR premises is elaborated
- The technical specification for training activities are under developing
- Request for amendment of the project contract submitted by the Project promoter. Procedure for amendment of the Programme Agreement is in progress.
- The planned study visits and joint trainings postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions
- An opening event was held on 08.12.2021

PDP 3 : Improving the capacity of General Directorate Combating Organized Crime for more effective investigation of organized and transnational crime

Implementation period: 28.02.2020 — 28.02.2024

Project Promoter: General Directorate Combating Organized Crime

Project Partners: National Criminal Investigation Service and Oslo Police District of Kingdom of Norway

Main activities under the project

- Study visits, workshops and trainings in Norway, EU Member States and in BG (3 activities)
- Procurement of equipment for GDCOC (2 activities)
- Renovation of premises (2 activities)

Current state of play

- 1 workshop for exchange of information and best practice in drug trafficking was held in Albania in October 2021
- 3 trainings were held in the period May-June 2021
- One drone for surveillance, 8 tasers and 6 hidden radio stations were delivered and put into exploitation
- Delivery of IT equipment is forthcoming
- Signature of contract for repair of warehouse for evidence is forthcoming
- Study visits, workshops and trainings were postponed due to COVID-19 restriction
- Website was elaborated: norwaygrants.gdbop.eu

PDP 4: Extension of the Communication Infrastructure of the Ministry of Interior

Implementation period: 14.10.2019 - 14.10.2021

Project Promoter: Communication and Information Systems Directorate

Main activities under the project

- Delivery, installation, integration and testing of communication equipment and software under the project (six new TETRA base station in Blagoevgrad and Smolyan District)
- Training of the Mol technical staff for operation and maintenance of communication infrastructure

Current state of play

- The project is successfully completed
- A new communication equipment was delivered, installed, integrated and put into operation.
- The coverage of the TETRA communication system along the Bulgarian- Greek border was extended
- 15 employees of Mol trained for operation and maintenance of the communication infrastructure
- Closing events held
- Dedicated project webpage: <https://www.mvr.bg/rkimvrnfm/>

PDP 5: Enhancement of the International Police Cooperation and prevention of International Criminal Activities

Implementation period: 15.10.2019 -15.10.2023

Project Promoter: International Operational Cooperation Directorate (IOCD) - Ministry of Interior (MoI)

<p>Main activities under the project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialized trainings of MoI officials for project management and for international police cooperation (2 activities) • Foreign language training and bilateral training between Bulgarian and Greek police officers (2activities) • Delivery of presentation and IT equipment for the IOCD officials
<p>Current state of play</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trainings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - project management – preparation of tender documentation is forthcoming - training of officials from Border Police and District Directorates of MoI - the public procurement procedure will be launched in March 2022 - Foreign language training for employees of the IOCD under preparation • Delivery: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - discussion, interpreter and presentation equipment – public procurement procedure under preparation - IT equipment - public procurement procedure under preparation - promotional materials and website development - public procurement procedure prepared

PDP 6 : Improving the capacity of police and judicial activity dealing with material evidence in pre-trial investigation process

Implementation period: 36 months (as of December, 18 2019)

Project Promoter: General Directorate National Police

Project Partners: 10 Regional Directorates of Mol

Main activities under the project

- Delivery of 10 fully equipped mobile forensic laboratories
- Trainings for police officers
- Renovation of premises for material evidence storage and delivery of equipment
- Development of an automated system for registration and tracking of seized evidence

Current state of play

- Procurement procedure has been completed and contracts signed under each of the lots for vehicles, equipment and 3D scanners. The equipment has been delivered. As for the vehicles and the 3D scanners it is forthcoming.
- All procurement procedures for renovation and delivery of equipment have been launched. One contract for renovations was completed in June 2021.
- Contractor selected for delivery of flight tickets
- The procedure for the Interpretation and translation has been terminated and will be relaunched
- The logistics procedure will be launched by the end of 2021
- Technical specifications and documentation for the automated information system are under preparation

PDP 7: Development of Expert Forensic Examinations and Activities at Research Institute of Forensic Sciences (RIFS-Mol) and Technical Upgrade and Expansion of the Possibilities of Five Basic Regional Forensic Laboratories

Implementation period: 25.10.2019 - 25.10.2022

Project Promoter: National Institute of Forensics

Project Partner: National Criminal Investigation Service (NCIS) (Kripos)

Main activities under the project

- Procurement of equipment for Regional Forensic Laboratories (4 activities)
- Study visits, workshops and trainings in Norway and in BG (13 activities)
- Development and dissemination of a Handbook on Forensic Science

Current state of play

- 8 supply contracts signed for delivery of specialized equipment for the five Regional Forensic Laboratories. The delivery is partially completed or in progress.
- Study visits, workshops and trainings postponed due to COVID 19 pandemic situation
- Public procurement procedures under preparation

PDP 8: Development of the cooperation within the Schengen area

Implementation period: 21.09.2021 - 30.04.2024

Project Promoter: Chief Directorate Border Police (CDBP) - Ministry of Interior

Main activities under the project

- Increasing the efficiency of the border management of the Bulgarian-Romanian and Bulgarian-Greek borders by improving the working conditions of the employees
- Improving the technical capabilities for border control in the areas of the Regional Directorate Border Police Ruse (RDBP) and the RDBP Smolyan
- Capacity building, incl. knowledge and skills of the employees of RDBP Ruse and RDBP Smolyan by conducting specialized trainings
- Strengthening cross-border cooperation and coordination with Romanian and Greek border police institutions

Current state of play

- The project is still in its initial stage of implementation.
- Public procurement procedures are in preparation and are expected to be announced by the beginning of May 2022
- Publications for the project were made in social media and on the website of CDBP

PDP 9: Capacity building of the police officers working in multi-ethnic environment, including Roma communities and prevention of ill-treatment by the police

Implementation period: 07.10.2020-07.10.2023

Project Promoter: Academy of Mol

Project Partner: Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

Main activities under the project

- Needs assessment
- Trainings, baseline assessment, workshop (4 activities)
- Providing the necessary conditions for effective training and Setting up specialized cabinets (2 activities)
- Development of training materials and e-learning platform (2 activities)

Current state of play

- Needs assessment accomplished - 4 online meetings with focus groups held in March 2021
- Trainings, baseline assessment, workshops
 - necessary adjustments to the training of trainers on “Police and Roma - Effective and Human Rights-Compliant Policing” curriculum and training materials made
 - Training of trainers accomplished in June 2021 (36 trainers trained)
 - Trainings of police officers and baseline assessment are on-going
 - Workshops in 2022
- Public Procurement Procedures under preparation: logistics, IT equipment, repair of halls, delivery of furniture

PDP 10: Improvement of the efficiency of the police activity in the field of domestic and gender-based violence (DGBV)

Implementation period: 05.11.2019 – 05.11.2022

Project Promoter: General Directorate National Police (GDNP)

Main activities under the project

- Exchange of information and development of algorithm of risk assessment on recognition of DGBV cases – 2 activities
- Software and hardware delivery for Automated Information System “DGBV”
- Training of police officials – 5 activities

Current state of play

- An algorithm for risk assessment on recognition of DGBV cases was developed
- Three online meetings for discussion of the algorithm are forthcoming
- Development of Automated Information System DGBV is forthcoming
- A public procurement procedure for survey on public opinion among Roma population to determine the trust in the police is under preparation
- The planned study visits, workshops and training postponed due to COVID-19 restriction
- Project website was elaborated: <https://dn-norwaygrants.gdnp.eu/>

PDP 11: Improvement of the coordination and dialogue between Police and Roma society

Implementation period: 18.12.2019 - 18.12.2022

Project Promoter: General Directorate National Police - Ministry of Interior

Project Partners: 10 Regional Directorates of Mol

Main activities under the project

- Study on needs of training and exchange of experience with other EU Member States
- Training of police officers on prevention and detection of radicalism, violent extremism and hate speech against Roma communities
- Improving the conditions for reception of citizens in areas with predominant Roma population
- Conducting information and awareness campaigns, joint local forums with children and their parents and a competition for best student's essay

Current state of play

- Opening conference was held online on 09.02.2021
- Study of training needs and knowledge gaps of national institutions and organizations in the field of prevention of radicalization, violent extremism and hate speech with 4 795 respondents was implemented
- The Study will be used for preparation of a methodology for conducting the envisaged trainings
- The exchange of experience with other EU Member States and the conducting of the trainings are envisaged to start in the beginning of 2022
- Amendment to the Project Contract due to administrative changes at management level at General Directorate National Police and Project Partners (Regional Directorates of Interior)
- Web site of the project was developed: <https://ro-norwaygrants.gdnp.eu/>

PDP 12: Awareness raising of local communities in areas with significant share of Roma population on asylum and migration issues

Implementation period: 30.04.2020 - 30.04.2024

Project Promoter: International Organization for Migration-Mission for Bulgaria

Main activities under the project

- Development of an in-depth analysis/assessment of the situation of the Roma population, in particular with regard to issues related to migration
- Organizing awareness-raising campaigns among Roma communities on the legal aspects, rights and responsibilities of asylum-seekers and undocumented migrants in Bulgaria
- Organization of information sessions, discussions, seminars and other awareness-raising events

Current state of play

- Opening event was held online on 20.05.2021
- A research methodology and a questionnaire for in-depth assessment of the situation of the Roma population, and in particular with regard to the issues related to migration was developed
- A study was conducted in June/July 2021 - in total 396 questionnaires were filled
- Communication strategy was developed based on the study results. Testing of communication messages and other elements of the strategy is forthcoming (January 2022)
- 4 information events were held with 59 participants and community mediators of the Roma population
- The website of the project is fully functional: <https://romamigration.bg/bg>

PDP 13: Prevention and Counteraction to Corruption

Implementation period: 17.01.2020-17.01.2023

Project Promoter: Internal Security Directorate - Ministry of Interior

Project Partner: General Directorate National Police

Main activities under the project

- Development of methodology/ tools for anti-corruption, trainings, seminars, and exchange of experience
- Development of information collection system and “Whistle blower mechanism“
- Purchasing specialized equipment and increasing the capacity of GDNP to prevent and counteract corruption

Current state of play

- Logistics of events, trainings and interpretation are contracted, as well as development of methodologies for assessing the integrity of police officers
- Promotional materials have been delivered
- Specialized equipment (TETRA portable and mobile radios and hands free devices) delivered
- Launch of public procurement procedures for selection of lecturers for trainings and insurance of the equipment is forthcoming
- The preparation of public procurement procedure for development of information collection system is forthcoming

PDP 14: Enhanced capacities of Bulgarian authorities to recover and manage criminal assets

Implementation period: 22.07.2020 – 22.07.2023

Project Promoter: Commission for anti-corruption and illegal assets forfeiture

Main activities under the project

- Specialized trainings (2 activities)
- Creating a regional platform for the recovery of criminal assets
- Information and Technical support
- Development and implementation of a specialized information system for the secured property in CACIAF

Current state of play

- Analysis of foreign institutions performed - exchange of experience with Asset Recovery Services of the Republic of Lithuania and Republic of Poland
- Curriculum of specialized training for recovery of assets from criminal activities is under preparation
- Public procurement documentation for public events and logistics, translation, airline tickets, delivery of office and IT equipment are prepared
- Creating a regional platform for the recovery of criminal assets not started
- Public procurement procedure for development and implementation of a specialized information system for the secured property in CACIAF is under preparation
- A specialized webpage (subpage) is developed: <https://www.caciacf.bg/bg//norvejki-finansov-mehanizym-2014-2021-g>

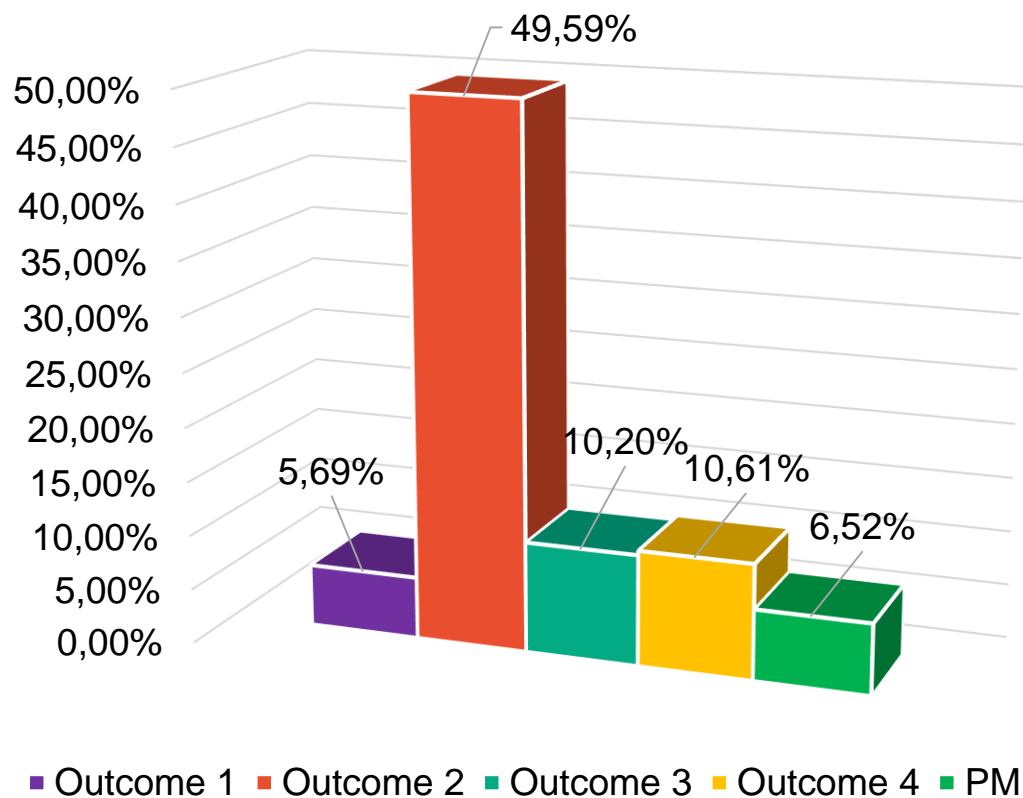


Financial Implementation

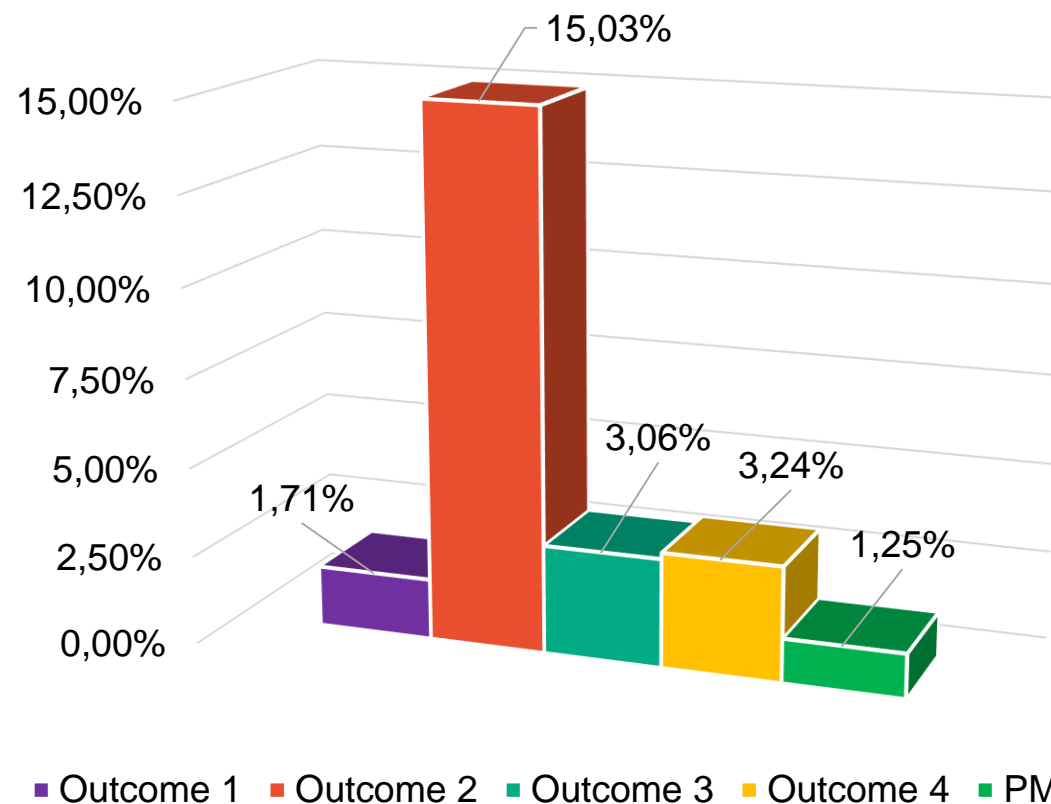
Financial Implementation

Percentage of funds agreed and payed under the Programme

Percentage of funds agreed under the Programme

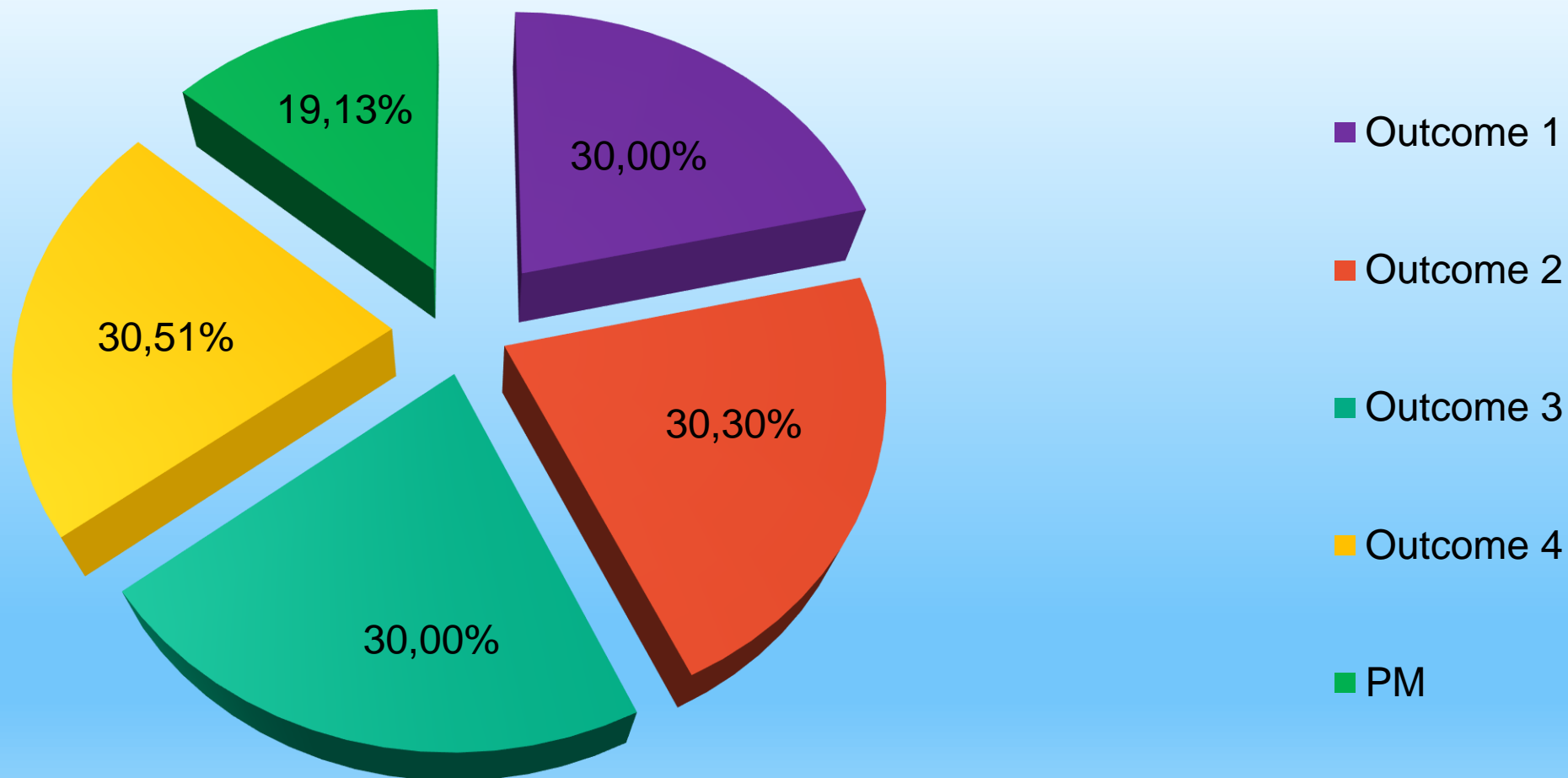


Percentage of funds payed under the Programme



Financial Implementation

Percentage of funds paid out of the contracted





Procurement

PROCUREMENT

Total number of public procurements – 129

- ✓ signed contracts – 20
- ✓ currently published public procurements – 25
- ✓ public procurements in preparation – 84
 - Ex-ante controls performed – 15

Direct awards – 39

PROCUREMENT

	Total Procedures	Procedures with signed contracts	Launched procedures	Under preparation					Direct awards
				Total under preparation	Ex-ante controls performed	2021	2022	2023	
PDP2	13	0	1	12			11	1	4
PDP3	15	2	5	8			8		3
PDP4	1	1		0					1
PDP5	6	0		6	0	1	5	0	0
PDP6	23	2	11	10	3		10		5
PDP7	9	6	2	1	0	0	1		1
PDP8	11	0	0	11	0	0	11		1
PDP9	5	0	0	5	0	0	5		3
PDP10	5	0	2	3	1	1	2		6
PDP11	14	0	2	12	8	0	12		10
PDP12	2	2	0	0	0	0			2
PDP13	15	6	2	7	2	2	5		
PDP14	10	1	0	9	1	1	8	0	3
Total	129	20	25	84	15	5	78	1	39

PROCUREMENT

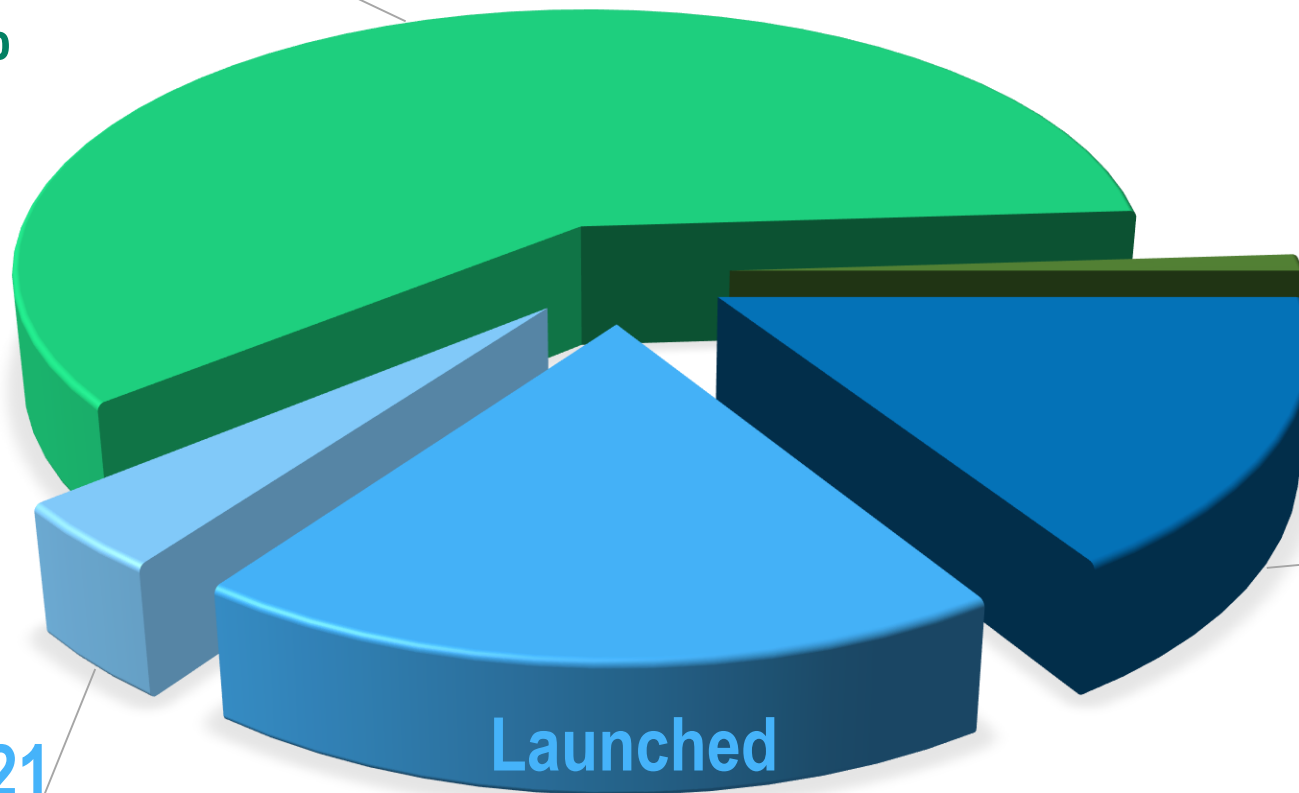
First half of
2022
60%

In preparation
2023
1%

Signed
contracts
16%

By the end of 2021
4%

Launched
19%





Bilateral activities

Bilateral activities approved by the CC

On the meeting held on 14-15 November 2021 the CC agreed on the following:

- Bilateral activities under the HA programme will be pre-defined and supported on the decision of the Cooperation Committee;
- The following activities were approved by the CC:
 - „Strengthened cooperation between Bulgarian and Norwegian law enforcement personnel in THB and preventive police work“ promoted by the South West Police District in Norway and the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Bulgaria
 - Participation in the EEA/Norway Grants SYNERGY Network against Domestic and Gender-based Violence set up by the Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Security;
 - „Video surveillance training seminar: training with NO lecturers for exchange of best practice and knowledge regarding use of video surveillance for increasing security in public spaces“ promoted by the National Police General Directorate; Norwegian Police Service representatives were invited
 - It was also decided that bilateral activities in the asylum and migration area shall be reviewed after the start of PDP2 and anti-corruption activities proposed by the Commission for Combating Corruption and Illegal Assets Forfeiture shall be reviewed after the implementation of PDP 14.



External assessment according to Annex I of the Programme Agreement

Outcome	Indicator	Baseline value	Target value
Outcome 1 Increased capacity of the national authorities in the asylum and migration area	Level of compliance with EU standards on asylum (1-5)	3	4
Outcome 3 Improved situation for the Roma population	Level of compliance with the Istanbul Convention	45%	90%
	Percentage of Roma population who trust the police	35%	50%



**Thank you for your attention!
See you next time in person ;)**

www.eeagrants.bg/
www.mvr.bg/dmp
mail: dmp@mvr.bg

