

The programme is implemented with the support of the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism (EEA FM) 2014-2021 created by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. Its total budget is **EUR 41 176 471**, with 85% of the funds being made available from the EEA FM and the remaining 15% being provided by the national budget. The programme aims at supporting local development through the implementation of integrated measures in the fields of education, employment and healthcare (focusing on the needs of vulnerable groups).

News

On May 17, 2019 the implementation of the project "**Innovative Community Care Models in Favour of People with Chronic Diseases and Permanent Disabilities**", run by The Bulgarian Red Cross, in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of Health and the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional power (KS).



Main objective of this project (whose budget exceeds 3.3 million) is the creation of an innovative model for monitoring people with chronic diseases and complex care for people with permanent disability over 50 years of age living in the municipalities of Vratsa, Vidin, Montana, Oryahovo, Krivodol, Byala Slatina and Belogradchik, as well as the neighboring smaller settlements.

With the help of the project, the existing 4 home care centres will be expanded and three new centres will be created with the corresponding mobile teams. The project will ensure home care for over 700 chronically ill people and 500 of them will be included in the system of permanent tele-monitoring and tele-assistance, the central office of which will be located in the town of Vratsa.

The main objectives of the project as well the expected results from it were presented at the opening press conference held on 07.06.2019, at the premises of the Bulgarian Red Cross in Sofia.

More information about the project:

<https://www.eegrants.bg/programi/mestno-razvitie/proekti/inovativni-modeli-za-grizhi-v-obshnostta-za-xora-s-xronichni-zabolyavaniya-i-trajni-uvrezhdaniya%E2%80%9C>



■ On 19.06.2019, the contract for financing was signed for the project "**New Approaches for generating data on hard - to - reach populations at risk of violation of their rights** ", which is performed by the National Statistical Institute in partnership with the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA).

The project aims at developing innovative data collection methods providing indicators to reflect hard-to-reach populations, i.e. those groups that, for some reasons, have so far been out of reach of periodic NSI surveys and analyzes. The total budget of the project is nearly EUR 1 000 000. It is intended to collect and analyze information on more than 10,000 households and submit thematic reports on the situation of relevant vulnerable groups.



On 02.08.2019, the management team of the project held its first press conference in order to present to the general public the project's mission of providing reliable information to the policy-making institutions at regional and local level and its importance for the coming year 2021 national census.

More information about the project:

<https://www.eeagrants.bg/programi/mestno-razvitie/proekti/novi-podxodi-za-generirane-na-danni-za-trudno-dostizhimi-grupi-ot-naselenieto,-izlozheni-na-risk-ot-narushavane-na-texnite-prava>

■ At the end of June 2019, started the implementation of the project "Grow through Activating Local Potential - GALOP", executed by the National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria in partnership with the Norwegian Local and Regional Association power (KS).



The project – with a budget of EUR 1 200 000 - is targeted to create sustainable models for employment and poverty reduction in small and/ or remote settlements, making better use of their local resources and potential.

More information about the project:

<https://www.eeagrants.bg/programi/mestno-razvitie/proekti/rastekh-chrez-aktivizirane-na-mestniya-potenczial-galop>

Open calls for project proposals

Call for applications under the Program's Bilateral Relationship Fund

All potential beneficiaries of the Programme, as well as their potential partners from the donor states may apply for funding from the Bilateral Fund relationships.

The main **purpose** of this fund is to support the exchange of experience and to create partnerships between potential Bulgarian applicants and relevant organizations from the donor states. The following expenditure are eligible for reimbursement under this call: travel expenditures, daily allowances, accommodations, and inland transport costs. The maximum amount of funding is up to EUR 3 000 per person.

The procedure under the Bilateral Relations Fund with a total budget of **EUR 75,000** gives opportunity to apply to potential beneficiaries before concluding the contracts to finance their projects or until the Fund sources are spent.

More information about the call:

<https://www.eeagrants.bg/programi/mestno-razvitie/novini-1/vzmozhnost-za-vsichki-potencialni-kandidati-da-polzvat-dvustranniya-fond>

Pending calls for project proposals

The Programme Operator (Directorate 'External European Programs' of the Ministry of Education and Science) plans to publish **by the end of 2019** the following Calls for proposals:

1. Restricted Call for Proposals: "Youth Centres: a powerful factor for local development".

The eligible applicants for this call are the municipalities of Stara Zagora, Plovdiv, Dobrich and Vratsa, which already have used the support of the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism to establish youth centres on their territories. The municipalities will apply for financial support for the expansion of the activities and the territorial scope of the existing youth centres. The amount of funds received could range from EUR 500,000 to EUR 1,500,000.

2. Call for proposals „Establishing Youth Centres”.

The beneficiaries of this procedure - with a total budget of EUR 8 000 000 - will be the other 24 municipalities, which are regional administrative centres (except for Stara Zagora, Plovdiv, Dobrich, Vratsa, which have already established youth centres with the EEA FM support).

The purpose of the procedure is to support the construction of modern youth centres, meeting both the needs of young people at the respective territory and the highest European standards, summarized in the requirements of the Council of Europe Quality Label.

It is envisaged, that each project approved for financing will be eligible for up to EUR 2 000 000 (60% of them being reserved for creating the infrastructure of the new youth centre).

3. Call for Proposals “Early Childhood Development and Care” with a total budget of 6 029 412 euro.

Under this procedure, the municipalities will be able to apply for establishing or upgrading infrastructure of the kindergartens and for improving the work with the children in them.

The Application guidelines for the procedure are still under development and discussion. The projects approved for funding are expected to receive financial assistance of EUR 200,000 to EUR 500,000, of which at least 60% should be used for improving the infrastructure of kindergartens.

The remaining funds will be directed to expand their activities, to introduce innovative methods for working with children, to involve parents in preparation and conducting of various events and activities, as well as to support the traditional activities for socialization and civic education of

children (such as: green initiatives, competitions, festivals and sporting events, holiday celebrations, visits to performances, art skills workshops for applied arts skills, etc.). At least 20% of children included in the funded projects should be from vulnerable groups.

Programme Operator

Ministry of Education and Science,
External European Programmes
Directorate



Programme Partner

The Norwegian Association
of Local and Regional
Authorities (KS)



International Partner

Organization
Council of Europe



Internet site of the programme:

<https://www.eeagrants.bg/programi/mestno-razvitie>

Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway grants