



Brussels, 24.6.2020  
C(2020) 4343 final

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 24.6.2020**

**amending Implementing Decision C(2015) 4138 approving certain elements of the operational programme "Regions in Growth" for support from the European Regional Development Fund under the Investment for growth and jobs goal in Bulgaria**

**CCI 2014BG16RFOP001**

(ONLY THE ENGLISH TEXT IS AUTHENTIC)

# COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

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**amending Implementing Decision C(2015) 4138 approving certain elements of the operational programme "Regions in Growth" for support from the European Regional Development Fund under the Investment for growth and jobs goal in Bulgaria**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 96(10) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) By Commission Implementing Decision C(2015) 4138, as last amended by Commission Implementing Decision C(2020) 2255, certain elements of the operational programme "Regions in Growth" for support from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) under the Investment for growth and jobs goal in Bulgaria were approved.
- (2) On 9 June 2020 Bulgaria submitted, through the electronic data exchange system of the Commission, a request for an amendment to the operational programme. The request was accompanied by a revised operational programme, in which Bulgaria proposed an amendment to the elements of the operational programme referred to in points (a), (b)(i) to (iv) and (d)(ii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, all subject to Implementing Decision C(2015) 4138.
- (3) The amendment to the operational programme consists mainly in the introduction of two new indicators linked to a new specific objective under priority axis 4 "Regional Health Infrastructure", which covers the purchase of the necessary equipment and medical supplies; reallocation of the ERDF support from priority axes 2 "Support for energy efficiency in support centres in the peripheral regions", 3 "Regional Educational Infrastructure", 5 "Regional Social Infrastructure" and 7 "Regional Road Infrastructure" to priority axis 4, and the change of output indicators under priority axes 2 and 7.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320.

- (4) In accordance with Article 30(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the request for the amendment to the operational programme is duly justified by the response to the COVID-19 outbreak, in particular by the need to improve capacity of the healthcare system. It sets out the expected impact of the changes to the programme on achieving the Union's strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and the specific objectives defined in the programme, taking account of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>2</sup> and the horizontal principles referred to in Articles 5, 7 and 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.
- (5) In accordance with point (e) of Article 110(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the monitoring committee, by written procedure on 26 March 2020, examined and approved the proposal for the amendment to the operational programme, taking into account the text of the revised operational programme and its financing plan.
- (6) The Commission assessed the revised operational programme and did not make observations pursuant to the second sentence of the first subparagraph of Article 30(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.
- (7) The amended elements of the revised operational programme subject to the Commission's approval under Article 96(10) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 should therefore be approved.
- (8) Implementing Decision C(2015) 4138 should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

#### *Article 1*

Implementing Decision C(2015) 4138 is amended as follows:

1. in Article 1, the introductory sentence is replaced by the following:

"The following elements of the operational programme "Regions in Growth" for support from the ERDF under the Investment for growth and jobs goal in Bulgaria for the period from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2020, submitted in its final version on 9 June 2015, as last amended by the revised operational programme submitted in its final version on 9 June 2020 are hereby approved:";
2. Annex II is replaced by the text set out in the Annex to this Decision.

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<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Regional Development Fund and on specific provisions concerning the Investment for growth and jobs goal and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 289).

*Article 2*

This Decision is addressed to the Republic of Bulgaria.

Done at Brussels, 24.6.2020

*For the Commission*

*Elisa FERREIRA*

*Member of the Commission*

