

**SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING UNDER THE EEA AND NORWAY**

**GRANTS 2009 - 2014**

**24th November 2016**

**BG02 INTEGRATED MARINE AND INLAND WATER  
MANAGEMENT**

**BG03 BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES**

**PROGRESS & INTERIM RESULTS**



On the 17th of June 2011 Bulgaria, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway signed the Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area. The goal of these financial instrument is to reduce the social and economic disparities in the European Economic Area (EEA) and strengthen the bilateral relations between Bulgaria and the Donor States. Programmes BG02 и BG03 implement the politic in priority sector Environment. Programme Operator is Ministry of Environment and Water.

## At a glance...

The programmes **BG02** and **BG03** contribute to reaching good environmental status in European marine and inland waters and halting the loss of biodiversity.

**Total grant amount: 16 000 000 Euro    National co-funding: 2 853 530 Euro**

**Financed projects: A total of 38**

- **12** under **BG02**
- **26** under **BG03**

**Beneficiaries and project partners:** A total of **71**, including national public authorities; municipalities; research and development institutions, including universities; non-profit / non-governmental organisations (NGOs); companies

**Partnerships and bilateral cooperation:**

- **11** projects with Norwegian partners
- **3** projects with Iceland partners
- Other partners from: **Greece, Former Yugoslav Republic, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Turkey, Croatia**



### In addition...

Exchange, sharing and transfer of knowledge, know-how, experience and best practices with donor countries financed at a program level.

## Summary of progress

The programme **BG02** contribute towards the improvement of the environmental status of marine and inland waters in Bulgaria. The programme focuses targeting marine and inland water related activities, including:

- More integrated management of marine and inland water resources;
- Improved monitoring of marine waters;
- Increased capacity for assessing and predicting environmental status in marine and inland waters.

### **Outcome 1:**

More integrated marine and inland water resources - 6 projects, incl. 1 predefined

Upgrading the Geo-Information System for Water Management and Reporting; Assessing the impact of fish farming and mining activities; Studying the combined effects of hydropower on the river ecosystems; Developing information systems in support of the coastal zone management and the flood risk management

### **Outcome 2:**

Improved monitoring of marine waters – 2 projects

Investigate the status of the marine environment implementing numerous marine expeditions and improve the marine monitoring through improved monitoring programmes

### **Outcome 3:**

Increased capacity for assessing and predicting environmental status in marine and inland waters – 3 projects

Create tools and increase the capacity for assessing and predicting the environmental status

## Main activities and results of BG02

### Call BG02.01: Contribution to the River Basin Management Plans by proposing pro-specific measures with regard to impacts and pressures from fishfarming, mining pollution, hydropower

- **Performed investigative monitoring for assessment of pressure and impact of fish farming (FISHFARMING)**
  - Improved methodologies for assessment of ecological status and capacity of water bodies for freshwater fishfarming
  - Proposed measures for effective management in fish farms to reduce pollution
  - Updated program of measures in the RBMP of East Aegean River Basin District
- **Performed investigative monitoring for assessment of pressures and impacts from the mining (EARBDMINING)**
  - Proposed appropriate measures to reduce the direct and indirect impact on water protected areas and biodiversity.
  - Analyzed and assessed the combined effects of hydropower on the ecosystems and the ecological status of rivers (ANCHOR)
  - Developed national methodology and criteria for classification of river sections as eligibility for the construction of HPP
- **Studied transboundary groundwater bodies between Bulgaria and Greece (BG GR GWB)**
  - Quantitative and qualitative assessment and delineation of transboundary GWB between Bulgaria and Greece
  - Proposed monitoring programs, improved and adapted to the requirements of the WFD

### Call BG02.01: Contribution to integrated coastal zone management and adaptation climate change

- **Development of Integrated informational system in support of coastal zone management (IISSCZM)**
  - Information system that collects and disseminates data from various static and dynamic systems and displays real-time processes in the sea areas.
  - Oil spill monitoring and movement prediction
- **Development and establishment of an early warning flood risk information system and real time monitoring of the water levels in Burgas municipality (IMFR)**
  - Elaborated flood management tool in an extremely vulnerable to flash floods region
  - Contribution to the policy for flood risks management.

### Call BG02.02: Improved monitoring of marine waters

**Two projects aim to improve the monitoring in the Black sea.** The projects are implemented in a partnership between the Institute of Oceanology and the Black Sea Basin Directorate – both responsible for the marine monitoring of the Black Sea.

#### Main activities and results:

- **Performed 12 monitoring campaigns** for sampling of priority substances and specific pollutants in water, sediments and biota;
- Delivered and deployed **oceanographic real time monitoring devices** (surface and subsurface buoys (IMAMO)
- **Collected and analyses data** on the descriptors under MSFD;
- **Filled** in the existing information gap.
- **Investigated the State of the Marine Environment and Improved Monitoring Programs** under the MSFD (ISMEIMP);

### Call BG02.03: capacity for assessing and predicting environmental status in marine and inland waters

- **Created tools for assessment** of the marine environment based on new technologies and best practices
- **Addressed 3 main areas of interest:** marine litter detection, surface water eutrophication monitoring and underwater noise monitoring
- **In situ monitoring (ferry-box) equipment** installed on several vessels (MARLEN)
- **Investigated various marine and freshwater organisms** as bioindicators for chemical pollution of the Black Sea, Danube River and other freshwater basins
- **Equipped and prepared for accreditation laboratory** for marine, freshwater resources and aquaculture investigations of the Medical University –Varna
- Studied distribution, biological characteristics and **stock assessment of economic important non-fish marine resources**
- **Produced management measures** (ECRAMON-Black Sea)

## Summary of progress

The programme **BG03** aims at halting the loss of biodiversity. It supports a participative and integrated approach to collecting information on nature – from “citizen science” monitoring of endangered species, research and practical work in climate change and access to genetic resources among local stakeholders and policy makers to a country-wide exercise in mapping and assessment of ecosystem condition and services outside NATURA 2000, and a Balkan-wide network on Invasive alien species and an upgraded national data collection system

### Outcome 1: Awareness rising

#### Small grant scheme

12 projects, 10 complete

Volunteer data collected entered into BBIS by volunteers; training and awareness raising

### Outcome 2: Invasive alien species (IAS)

#### Call BG03.01

One project, until 30.04.

International harmonization, exchange and early warning database compatible with BBIS

### Outcomes 1-3 Predefined project 1:

Improvement of the Bulgarian Biodiversity Information System (BBIS)

### Outcome 3: Policy integration, Call BG03.03

4 projects on:

Drafting legislation and policies

Climate change adaptation impact on ecosystems

Genetic resources, Nagoya Protocol

### Outcome 3: Policy integration

#### Predefined project 2:

Methodological framework

#### Call BG03.02

7 projects map 9 ecosystem types, ca. 64% of the country

## Main activities and results of BG03

### Call BG03.01: Invasive Alien Species research

- **European level networking:**
  - 15 ESENIAS countries
  - EU-wide EASIN network
- **Supports implementing the new Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014**
- Preliminary results:
  - **Four new species** identified in Bulgaria
  - **Interactive database**, alerts, publications, 50 fact-sheets under preparation
  - Data prepared for entry into **new database**

### Call BG03.02: Mapping ecosystems and their services

- **9 ecosystems, entire territory outside NATURA 2000** (66% of the country)
- Preliminary results:
  - **Up to 95%** of some ecosystems already **mapped**
  - **Over 200 new polygons** identified and explored
  - **Valuable data collected** outside NATURA for insufficiently explored ecosystems, in particular wetlands and sparsely vegetated ecosystems
  - **Field verification** of methodological approach

### Small grant scheme BG03.SGS: key awareness tool

- Preliminary results:
  - **Over 400 volunteers** trained
  - **Over 270 media publications**, incl. a permanent “Green” column in the leading national online media Dnevnik.bg
  - At least **5 guides**, handbooks, etc.
  - International **prizes for school contest entries** based on project data
  - Unexpected but very welcome **Roma turn-out** (25 volunteers)

## BG03.PDP1 and PDP2: Policy and ESS mapping support

### BG03.01 Improving the Bulgarian Biodiversity information system

- **Main activities:**
  - IAS risk methodologies
  - Adaptation of the Norwegian Nature Index for Bulgaria
  - Compatibility with forest information systems
- **Results so far:**
  - **Bulgarian Nature index concept** nearly concluded
  - **IAS risk methodologies** under field verification
  - **Forest database** upgrade

### BG03.02 Methodological support for ecosystems mapping and biophysical assessment

- **Coordination** between mapping projects
- **Methodological framework for ESS mapping** and assessment under development; results:
  - **In situ verification** and monitoring guides (field testing in October)
  - **Mapping methodologies** under revision considering inputs from the ecosystem mapping projects
- **Formed a stakeholder group** for review of the Framework
- **Adaptation of ESTIMAP pollination model** and other supplementary activities underway



# Beyond the numbers our projects are... just beautiful ☺



„Общество на изпитания“ в град Варна – интерактивен изложбен екран и експозиция по въздухоплаването в рамките на проекта „Детският ден на природата“ на Общинската сградата в Странджа. Изложбата е посветена на биологичния център „Ур“ в помощта на Сдружението за опазване на дивата природа.

## В хармония с природата



Малка птичка бли до речката „Джамък“ край селото Ахлъво на югоизток от село „Славейко“ в Пирински парк „С.Тракийски“. Снимката е направена в рамките на проекта „Детски ден на природата“ в помощта на Общинската сграда в Бялград.



## В хармония с природата



Изградена през проекта програмата на интерактивния екран и експозицията около на Чучуто море през март 2016 г. Изложена са изложбени екрани – видео екрани и на експозиция, интерактивен екран, екран за обучение и експозиция на „Древната история на проектите на природопазване“ екранът на българските крадбрайтър“ екранът на проекта в СБД „Велико Кълиново“.

## В хармония с природата



Изобразени на фона на пейзажа „Красота и мощност на природата“, „Джамък“ и „Велико Кълиново“.



## В хармония с природата



В рамките на проекта „Мрежата за опазване на чужди видове в България“.

Категория: проектът е свързан с опазването на чужди видове в България с регионално значение и разпространение на чужди видове растения и животни. В края на края 2016 г. Изложена са изложбени екрани – видео екрани (Община Славейков). Установена са нови посещения на разглеждането на видове (Община Славейков) и интерактивния екран (Община Славейков), както на екрана край р. Искър в местността мезостен растения.

## В хармония с природата



Изобразени на фона на пейзажа „Красота и мощност на природата“, „Джамък“ и „Велико Кълиново“.

## В хармония с природата





## Our team right beside the beneficiaries

### Programme management best practices

- **Good dialog** during programming: stakeholder needs reflected in programme structure
- **Calls written with applicants** and partners in mind – institutional and cultural differences considered
- **Continuous communication** with selected applicants and project promoters
  - Contracting included consultations to clarify budgetary issues
  - Each project has an assigned contact person from the PO team who monitors it on a day-to-day basis
- **Flexible advance payment scheme** (advance + interim payments up to 95%)
- Projects are required to submit all their **data to a single information system** – consistency across the programme



An official start of a new good partnership



PO team supports beneficiaries through the project implementation process



Participation of the PO in the special events organized by the beneficiaries

## Our partnership with DPP

The EEA Grants 2009-2014 involve a number of institutions and individuals in new partnerships between Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway and Bulgaria aimed, not only at reducing social and economic disparities in Europe, but also strengthening political, professional, social and economic ties.

The Programme operator of **BG02** and **BG03** have, over the years, grown to be long-standing partners with our colleagues at NEA, and our collaboration has taken on many different forms despite the institutional and personnel changes in both organizations. Our DPP provides valuable advice on the programme implementation, and is always ready to share their experience on good practices from other programmes.





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Programme BG03 <http://bg03.moew.government.bg/bg>

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