

Information System Designed to Ensure the Transparency of the EU Funding Process

Bulgaria has joined the EU family of member states, which has created an opportunity for the country to absorb up to 7 billion EUR under the Structural and Cohesion Funds of the European Union. Project approval and funding is a complex process, which requires ongoing supervision and control. In order to allow for a way to trace project cycles a system of Management and Monitoring of Structural Tools in Bulgaria has been developed. Document data is input in the Info System by Managing or Interim Bodies appointed in respect of individual Operational Programmes.

The Management and Monitoring of Structural Tools Info System of the EU (MMIS) covers all Operational Programmes, with the exception of *Development of the Competitiveness of Bulgarian Economy*, in respect of which an independent information system has been developed. In order to ensure the smooth exchange of data between the two systems an interface solution is being developed.

The information system aims to facilitate the implementation of administrative tasks and monitors compliance with business procedures and EC requirements in respect of monitoring and reporting.

System capabilities:

- tracing project implementation;
- registering all types of documents and the entire bulk of correspondence;
- controlling all financial procedures
- generating updated information, ongoing reports and statistical data;
- preparing and printing of business documents, reports and correspondence as necessary.

The information system will support extended document management functionalities, and more specifically:

- the allocation of documents and letters to the respective projects;
- tracing the movement of project-related correspondence and documents;
- template-based printing documents and letters;
- electronically attaching documents to individual applications or project across all modules;
- availability of tools aiding reporting on management issues in terms of various grant scheme procedures;
- other functionalities.

Initially, access to the information system will be available only to the members of the administrative staff involved in the management and monitoring of EU Structural Tools in Bulgaria. By the end of the seven-year period for absorption of EU funds the system will be further developed and extended and will provide electronic services to final beneficiaries.

The likely stages in the further development and extension of the Information System will be:

- providing information on the absorption of funding under the EU Structural Tools to the general public; automated publishing of updated information by the MMIS at www.eufunds.bg
- developing services for the beneficiaries and the general public. For example, developing an interface for dynamic enquiries, possibility for beneficiaries to track the progress of procedures relevant to a project proposal or documents submitted, etc.
- developing and roll out of electronic services for the beneficiaries, allowing them to submit projects and documents online. The rollout of electronic services will be accompanied by an awareness campaign and drawing up detailed MMIS user manuals for the final beneficiaries.

