



ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT
2010
for
Romania-Bulgaria
Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013



Table of Contents

Contents

Glossary of Acronyms	4
1. Identification	5
2. Overview of the implementation of the Operational Programme	5
2.1 Achievement and analysis of the progress	5
2.1.1 Information on the physical progress of the Operational Programme:	7
2.1.2 Financial information	9
2.1.3 Information about the breakdown of use of the Funds	13
2.1.4 Assistance by target groups	20
2.1.5 Assistance repaid or re-used	20
2.1.6 Qualitative analysis	20
2.2 Information about compliance with Community law	25
2.3 Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them	25
2.4 Changes in the context of the OP implementation (if relevant)	30
2.5 Substantial modification under Article 57 of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 (if relevant)	31
2.6 Complementarity with other instruments	31
2.7 Monitoring and evaluation	32
2.7.1 Monitoring	32
2.7.2 Evaluation	35
2.8 National performance reserve (where applicable and only for the annual implementation report submitted for 2010)	38
3. Implementation by priority	38
3.1. Priority Axis 1	38
3.1.1. Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress	38
3.1.2. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them	43
3.2. Priority Axis 2	43
3.2.1. Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress	43
3.2.2. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them	49
3.3. Priority Axis 3	49
3.3.1. Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress	49
3.3.2. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them	57
3.4. Priority Axis 4	57
3.4.1. Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress	57
3.4.2. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them	59
4. ESF Programmes: coherence and concentration	59
5. ERDF/CF programmes: Major Projects	59

6. Technical Assistance	59
6.1. Technical Assistance Annual Strategy for 2010 (TAAS)	60
6.2. Beneficiaries of the Technical Assistance priority axis are:	60
6.3. Technical assistance contracting and payments	60
6.4 Technical Assistance (Managing Authority)	60
6.5 Technical Assistance (National Authority)	62
6.6 Technical Assistance (Joint Technical Secretariat)	63
6.7 Other technical assistance available for the Programme	64
7. Information and Publicity	64
7.1 Information and Promotion events (Managing Authority)	72
7.2 Information and Promotion events (Joint Technical Secretariat)	72
7.3. Information materials	76
7.4. Electronic channels for information and communication	78
7.5. Promotion materials	79
7.6 Monitoring and evaluation of the Communication Plan (JTS)	81
7.7 Other information and promotion activities	81

Annex 1: Decisions of JMC, Romania-Bulgaria Programme - 2010

Annex 2: IR_Categorisation_Romania-Bulgaria Programme - 2010

Annex 3: Promotional materials, Romania-Bulgaria Programme - 2010

Annex 4: Events, Romania-Bulgaria Programme - 2010

Annex 5: Eligible Area, Romania-Bulgaria Programme

Glossary of Acronyms

AA	Audit Authority
ACSI	Authority for Coordination of Structural Instruments
AWG	Assessment Working Group
BG	Bulgaria
CA	Certifying Authority
CBC	Cross-Border Cooperation
CU	Control Unit within the Regional Office for Cross-Border Cooperation Calarași
EC	European Commission
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
EU	European Union
FLC	First level control
JMC	Joint Monitoring Committee
JSC	Joint Steering Committee
JTS	Joint Technical Secretariat
KAI	Key Area of Intervention
LP	Lead Partner
MA	Managing Authority
MIS-ETC	Management Information System-European Territorial Cooperation
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRDT	Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism (Romania)
MRDPW	Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (Bulgaria)
NA	National Authority
NAMRPP	National Authority for Monitoring and Regulating of Public Procurement (Romania)
OPTA	Operational Programme for Technical Assistance
Phare CBC	Phare (Poland Hungary Aid for Reconstruction of the Economy) Programme for Cross-Border Cooperation
Programme	Romania - Bulgaria Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013
RO	Romania
ROC	CBC Regional Office Calarasi
TAAS	Technical Assistance Annual Strategy
UCVPP	Unit for Coordinating and Verifying Public Procurement (Romania)

1. Identification

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME	Objective concerned: European Territorial Cooperation
	Eligible area concerned: Cross-Border Area between Romania and Bulgaria (see Annex 5 for list and map of eligible NUTS III regions)
	Programming period: 2007-2013
	Programme number (CCI No): 2007CB163PO021
	Programme title: ROMANIA - BULGARIA CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME 2007-2013
ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT	Reporting year: 2010
	Date of approval of the annual report by the Joint Monitoring Committee: 22nd of June 2011, JMC Decision 54.

2. Overview of the implementation of the Operational Programme

2.1 Achievement and analysis of the progress

The Programme was approved by the European Commission on December 18, 2007 under the Commission Decision no. 6331 and the first contract was signed on 30th of July 2009.

Following the submission of the Description of Management and Control System to the European Commission at the end of the year 2008 and a revision sent on May 2010, the European Commission approved on 10th of June 2010 the Management and Control System, according with the provisions of article 58-62 of the EC Regulation no. 1083/2006, Section III of the EC Regulation no. 1828/2006 and article 13-17 of the EC Regulation 1080/2006.

The implications of the approval of the Management and Control System for the Programme implementation was very important, having in mind that starting with the date of the approval, the Programme could receive intermediary payments from ERDF fund.

About 19 million EUR were received as pre-financing for the Programme and about 198 million EUR ERDF became available for payments, conditioned that the Certifying and Paying Authority sends requests for payments to the Commission, based on the reimbursement requests of the beneficiaries.

The Memorandum of Understanding for the implementation of the Romania-Bulgaria Cross Border Co-operation Programme 2007-2010 was signed on 26th of February 2010 between the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism from Romania (as Managing Authority), Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works from Bulgaria (as National Authority), Ministry of Public Finance from Romania (as Certifying and Paying Authority) and Audit Authority within the Romanian Court of Accounts (as Audit Authority).

The Memorandum of Understanding has entered into force starting on 10th of August 2010, after the ratification by the national competent authorities.

During 2010 an important progress was made regarding the increase of the number of contracted projects. If at the end of 2009, only one project had started the implementation, at the end of 2010, 66 projects were contracted and started implementation. The total value of the contracted projects at 31st of December 2010 was 90,288,421.16 Euro. The contracting and implementation process are in full progress and continuing in 2011.

Also, an important progress was made regarding the expenditure paid by the body responsible for making payments to the beneficiaries. So, until 31st of December 2010, 836,476.03 Euro were paid to beneficiaries. Total amount of payments received from the European Commission by the end of 2010 was 331,610.26 Euro.

During 2010 no new calls for proposals for *regular projects* were launched; as regards the *strategic projects*, a new call was launched in the Programme framework with the submission period between 25.03.2010-14.05.2010.

Four strategic projects were submitted within this call for proposals, having as results at the end of 2010, the following:

- the approval of two strategic projects, with a total eligible value of 16,959,078.63 Euro, out of which 14,384,690.50 Euro ERDF.
- two strategic projects submitted, and at the end of 2010 being under re-evaluation.

As for the activity of the decision committees of the Programme, during 2010 two Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) meetings were held:

- one on 25th of March 2010 for the approval of the Practical Guide for the Second Call for Proposals for strategic projects (including the evaluation and selection criteria) and budget for the second call for strategic projects and financial reallocation for the second call of proposals and
- the second JMC meeting was held on 11th of November 2010 regarding the over-selection of the submitted applications, having in mind that the total value of the submitted projects exceeds the financial allocation of the Programme.

Three Joint Steering Committee (JSC) meetings were held in 2010, as follows:

- 21st of April 2010 in order to approve 44 projects from the applications submitted within the second call for proposals, intermediary deadline April 2009, with a total value of 86,961,360.06 Euro;
- 11th of November 2010 in order to approve 2 projects from the applications submitted within the second call for strategic projects with a total value of 16,959,078.63 Euro;
- 7th of December in order to approve the selection of 40 projects from the applications submitted within the second call for proposals, intermediary deadline July 2009, with a total value of 70,219,165 Euro.

Also, three written procedures of the JSC were organized, as follows:

- one for approving the revised budgets during pre-contracting phase for 11 projects selected for the first call for proposal;
- one for the approval of the budgetary modifications made within the pre-contractual phase for 8 projects (from those projects selected by JSC for financing - applications submitted within the second call for proposals, intermediary deadline January and April 2009);
- one for the approval of the budgetary modifications made within the pre-contractual phase for 9 projects (from those projects selected by JSC for financing - applications submitted within first and second call for proposal).

2.1.1 Information on the physical progress of the Operational Programme:

In the table below are shown the indicators that will be used in order to monitor the progress at OP level and their achievements by the end of 2010 - selected projects level and contracted projects level:

A. - Selected projects level

Programme Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Number of cross-border community based partnerships and networks established for the joint development of the cooperation area, using its human, natural and environmental resources and advantages	Achievement	-	0	44	82						126
	Target 2015	386									
	Baseline	0	0	0	44	126					
Number of cross-border community based permanent partnerships and networks active by end of the Programme	Achievement	-	0	44	82						126
	Target 2015	40									
	Baseline	0	0	0	44	126					
Joint projects respecting two of the following criteria: joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing, joint financing (%)	Achievement	-	0	44	82						126
	Target 2015	70									
	Baseline	0	0	0	44	126					

Joint projects respecting three of the following criteria: joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing, joint financing (%)	Achievement	-	0	43	81						124
	Target 2015	20									
	Baseline	0	0	0	43	124					
Joint projects respecting four of the following criteria: joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing, joint financing (%)	Achievement	-	0	35	59						94
	Target 2015	10									
	Baseline	0	0	0	35	94					
Projects reducing isolation through improved access to transport, ICT networks and services	Achievement	-	0	6	24						30
	Target 2015	39									
	Baseline	0	0	0	6	30					
Projects encouraging and improving the joint protection and management of the environment	Achievement	-	0	9	14						23
	Target 2015	150									
	Baseline	0	0	0	9	23					

The indicators within the above table are cumulated at the Programme level, using information from the projects selected for financing until 31st of December 2010

B. Contracted projects level

Programme Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Number of cross-border community based partnerships and networks established for the joint development of the cooperation area, using its human, natural and environmental resources and advantages	Achievement	-	0	1	68						69
	Target 2015	386									
	Baseline	0	0	0	1	69					
Number of cross-border community based permanent partnerships and networks active by end of the Programme	Achievement	-	0	1	68						69
	Target 2015	40									
	Baseline	0	0	0	1	69					
Joint projects respecting two of the following criteria: joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing, joint financing (%)	Achievement	-	0	1	68						69
	Target 2015	70									
	Baseline	0	0	0	1	69					
Joint projects respecting three of the following criteria: joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing, joint financing (%)	Achievement	-	0	1	67						68
	Target 2015	20									
	Baseline	0	0	0	1	68					
Joint projects respecting four of the following criteria: joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing, joint financing (%)	Achievement	-	0	1	52						53
	Target 2015	10									
	Baseline	0	0	0	1	53					
Projects reducing isolation through improved access to transport, ICT networks and services	Achievement	-	0	0	11						11
	Target 2015	39									
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	11					
Projects encouraging and improving the joint protection and management of the environment	Achievement	-	0	0	13						13
	Target 2015	150									
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	13					

The indicators within the above table are cumulated at the Programme level, using information from the projects contracted until 31st of December 2010

2.1.2 Financial information

By the end of 2009, the European Commission has provided as **pre-financing** for Romania-Bulgaria Cross-Border Cooperation Programme, the amount of 19,604,138.13 Euro from ERDF funds. The amount represents 9% of the total allocated contribution from European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to the Programme, in line with the provisions of the revised art. 82 of EC Regulation 1083/2006.

For Priority Axes 1-3, until 31.12.2010 there were submitted by the Lead Partners (LP) to the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) a number of 41 Reimbursement Claims with a total amount of 885,656.27 Euro (validated by the First Level Control - FLC) - out of which 731,328.81 Euro ERDF. A number of 11 Reimbursement claims were checked and submitted by JTS to the Managing Authority (MA) with a total amount of 304,541.65 Euro (validated by FLC) - out of which 258,265.09 Euro ERDF. A number of 8 reimbursement claims were authorised and paid by the MA to the beneficiaries, with a total ERDF amount of 171,124.20 Euro.

The Romanian First Level Control has received from beneficiaries 70 requests for first level control, has effectuated 40 “on the spot” visits, with a total amount verified of 590,000 Euro, out of which it was validated an amount of 532,000 Euro.

The Bulgarian First Level Control performed 65 “on the spot” visits and verified the expenditure of Bulgarian beneficiaries (68 requests for FLC, 3 cancelled due to lack of expenditure incurred in the reporting period - with total amount of 557,945.10 Euro). Until end of 2010, the Bulgarian first level controllers verified reimbursement requests in value of 535,389.60 Euro, and declared as non-eligible 22,356.62 Euro.

Thirteen reimbursement requests under the Priority Axis 4 - Technical Assistance of the Programme were submitted by JTS and Managing Authority by the end of 2010. The total value of the reimbursement claims was 1,460,545.91 Euro - out of which 945,265.31 Euro ERDF and 515,280.60 Euro Romanian State budget contribution.

Three applications for payment were submitted to the European Commission by the end of 2010, with a total ERDF value of 331,610.26 Euro. All three applications for payment were reimbursed by the European Commission by the end of 2010.

Financial information (Figures expressed in cumulative terms in Euro) by Priority axes:

	Total funding of the operational Programme (Union and national)	Basis for calculating Union contribution (Public or total costs)	Total amount of certified eligible expenditure paid by beneficiaries	Corresponding public contribution	Implementation rate In %
	a	b	c	d	e=c/a if T or =d/a if P
Priority axis 1 Accessibility - Improved mobility and access to transport, information and communication infrastructure in the cross-border area	94,390,722	T	0	0	0
of which ERDF type expenditure	80,238,315		0		
Priority axis 2 Environment - Sustainable use and protection of natural resources and environment and promotion of efficient risk management in the cross-border area	89,557,597	T	0	0	0
of which ERDF type expenditure	76,238,315		0		
Priority axis 3 Economic and Social Development - Economic development and social cohesion by joint identification and enhancement of the area's comparative advantages	56,293,347	T	0	0	0
of which ERDF type expenditure	47,921,227		0		
Priority axis 4 Technical Assistance	20,193,543	T	512,901.55	512,901.55	2,54%
of which ERDF type expenditure	13,069,425		331,610.26	331,610.26	
Grand total	262,003,541	T	512,901.55	512,901.55	2,54%

N+3 Rule

In order to prevent the risk of decommitment and ensure smooth project implementation, the Programme bodies prepared procedures for evaluation and selection, contracting and project monitoring. Also, a Project Implementation Manual was prepared and published in order to help and support the beneficiaries during the preparation and implementation of their projects.

Below it is shown the accomplishment status of N+3 rule by 31st of December 2010:

**ACCOMPLISHMENT STATUS OF N+3 RULE
AT 31st OF DECEMBER 2010**

Romania-Bulgaria CBC Programme 2007-2013

Million Euro

Programme Payment targets*				EC advance payments 2007-2009	EC reimbursements 2007- 2010**	Total advance + reimbursements	Amounts to be included in application for payment in order to avoid N+3Risk		
2008	2009	2010	2011				2011	2012	2013
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
34.02	34.07	35.88	36.16	19.60	0.33	19.93	14.09	34.07	72.04

* According to EU Regulation 539/2010 and the annual programme allocations

** Cumulated amounts 2007-2010

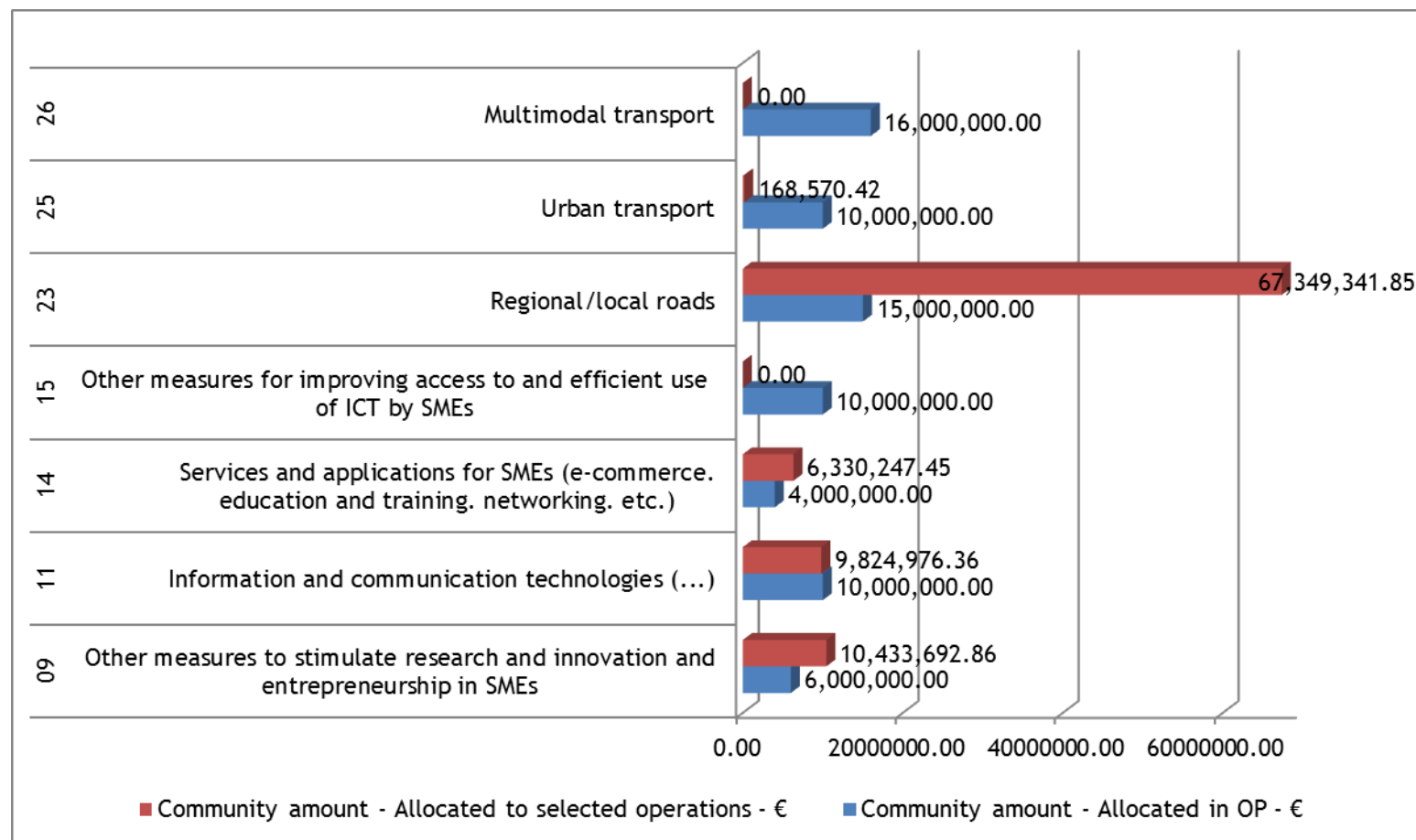
8=1-7; 9=2;10=3+4

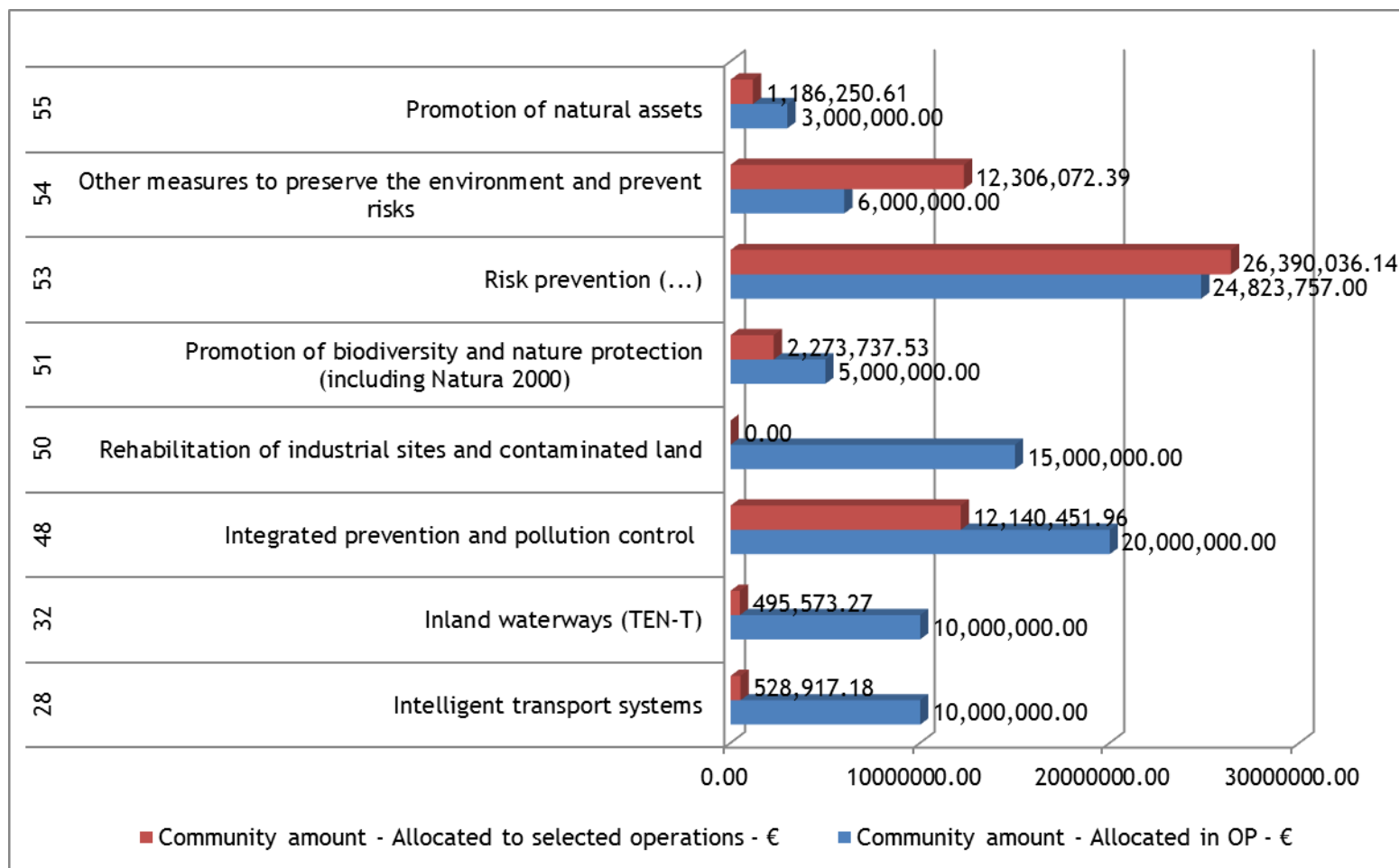
	(1) Calendar year	(2) EU funds available (N)	(3) Spending year (N+3/N+2)	(4) split of 2007 target (2007 amount /6)	(5) Insert advance payment to be deducted	(6) Add back advance payment	(7) Amounts that must be spent by 31 Dec	(8) Total amounts that must be spent by 31 Dec
N	2007	32,528,986.00						
N+1	2008	28,602,880.00						
N+2	2009	28,646,754.00						
N+3	2010	30,454,255.00	32,528,986.00					
	2011	30,740,998.00	28,602,880.00	5,421,497.67	-19,604,138.13		14,420,239.54	14,420,239.54
	2012	32,528,091.00	28,646,754.00	5,421,497.67			34,068,251.67	48,488,491.20
	2013	34,321,793.00	61,195,253.00	10,842,995.33			72,038,248.33	120,526,739.54
	2014		32,528,091.00	5,421,497.67			37,949,588.67	158,476,328.20
	2015		34,321,793.00	5,421,497.67		19,604,138.13	59,347,428.80	217,823,757.00
	Total	217,823,757.00	185,294,771.00	32,528,986.00	19,604,138.13	19,604,138.13	217,823,757.00	

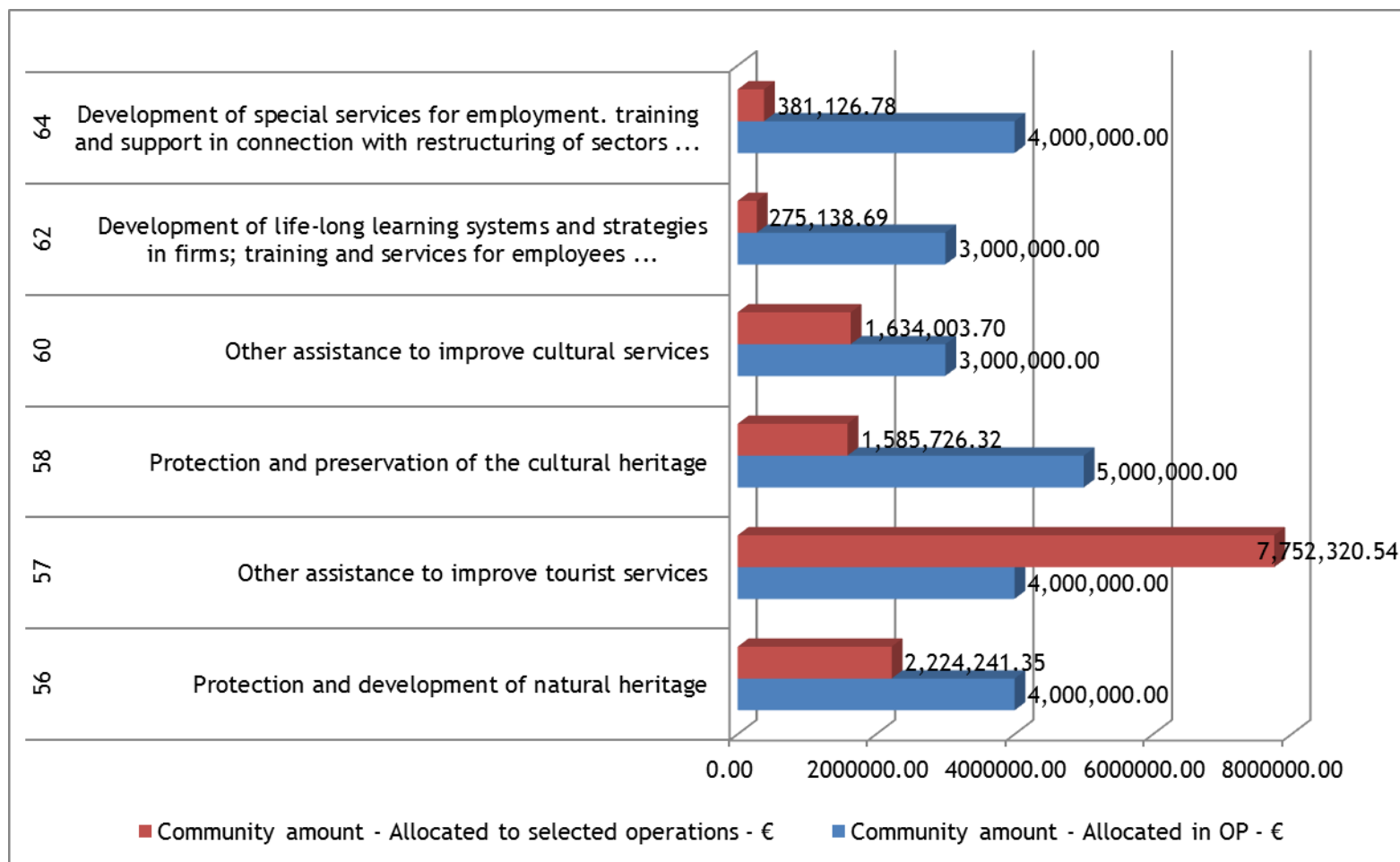
2.1.3 Information about the breakdown of use of the Funds

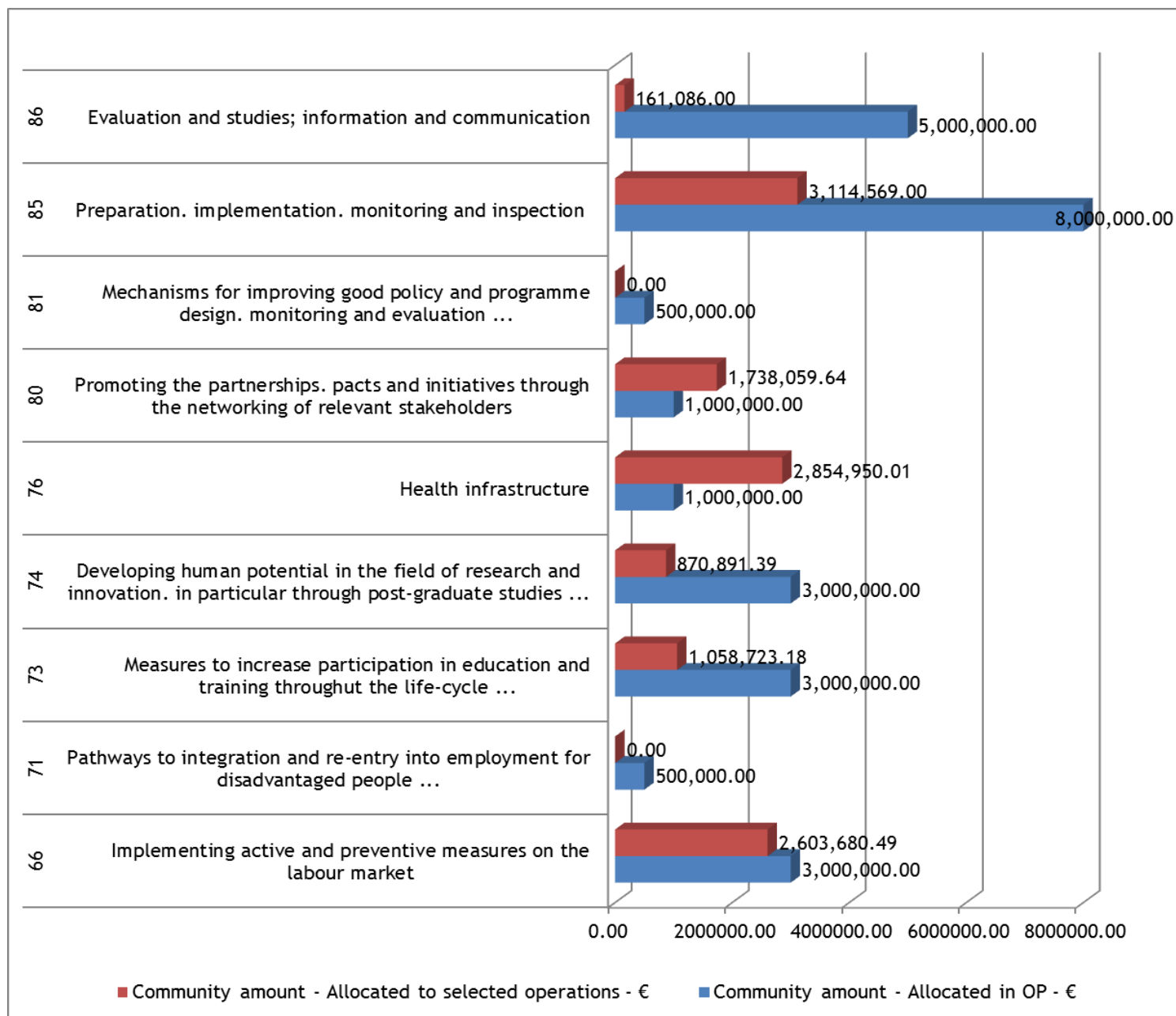
See attached Annex 2 - “IR_Categorisation_Romania-Bulgaria Programme-2010”.

At the end of 2010, from the total ERDF allocation, 217,823,757.00 Euro, a total of 175,682,385.11 Euro were already allocated in selected operations. A graphic presentation of the **selected operations ERDF amounts** within the priority themes allocation defined in the Programme is presented below:







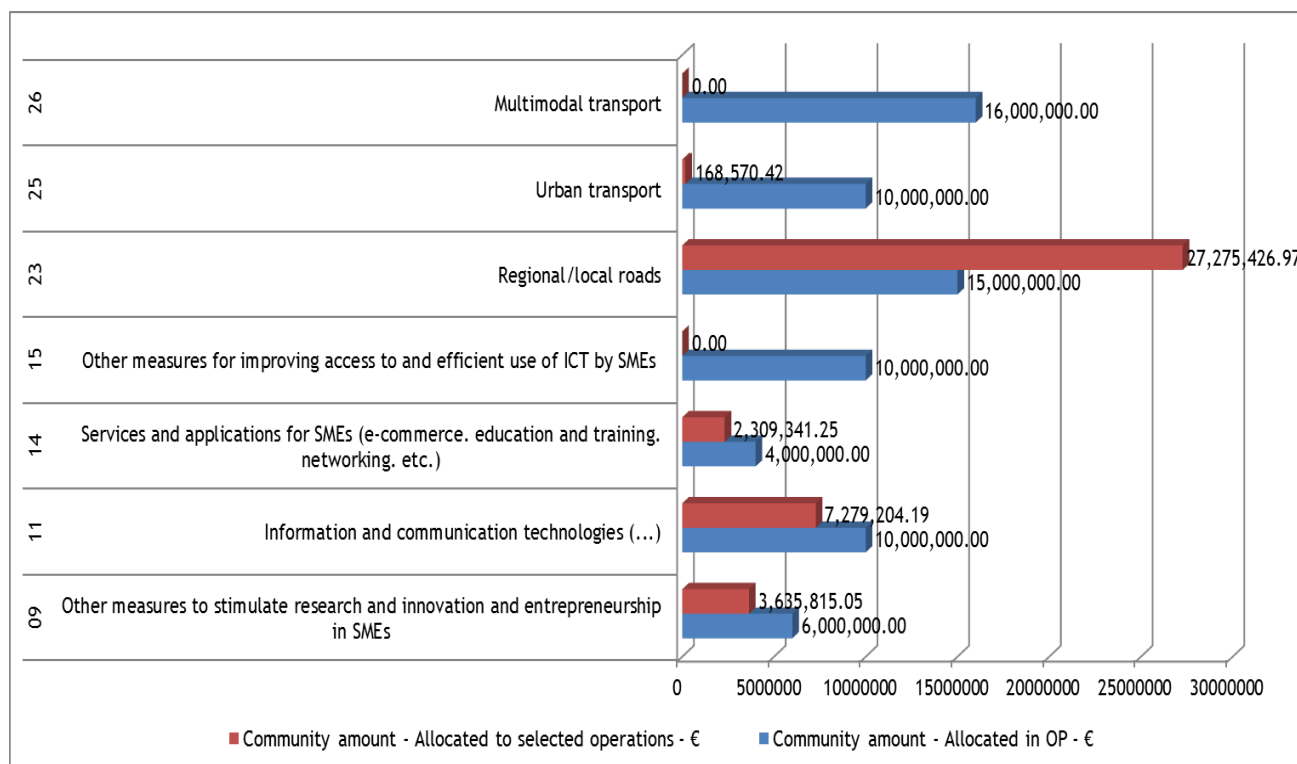


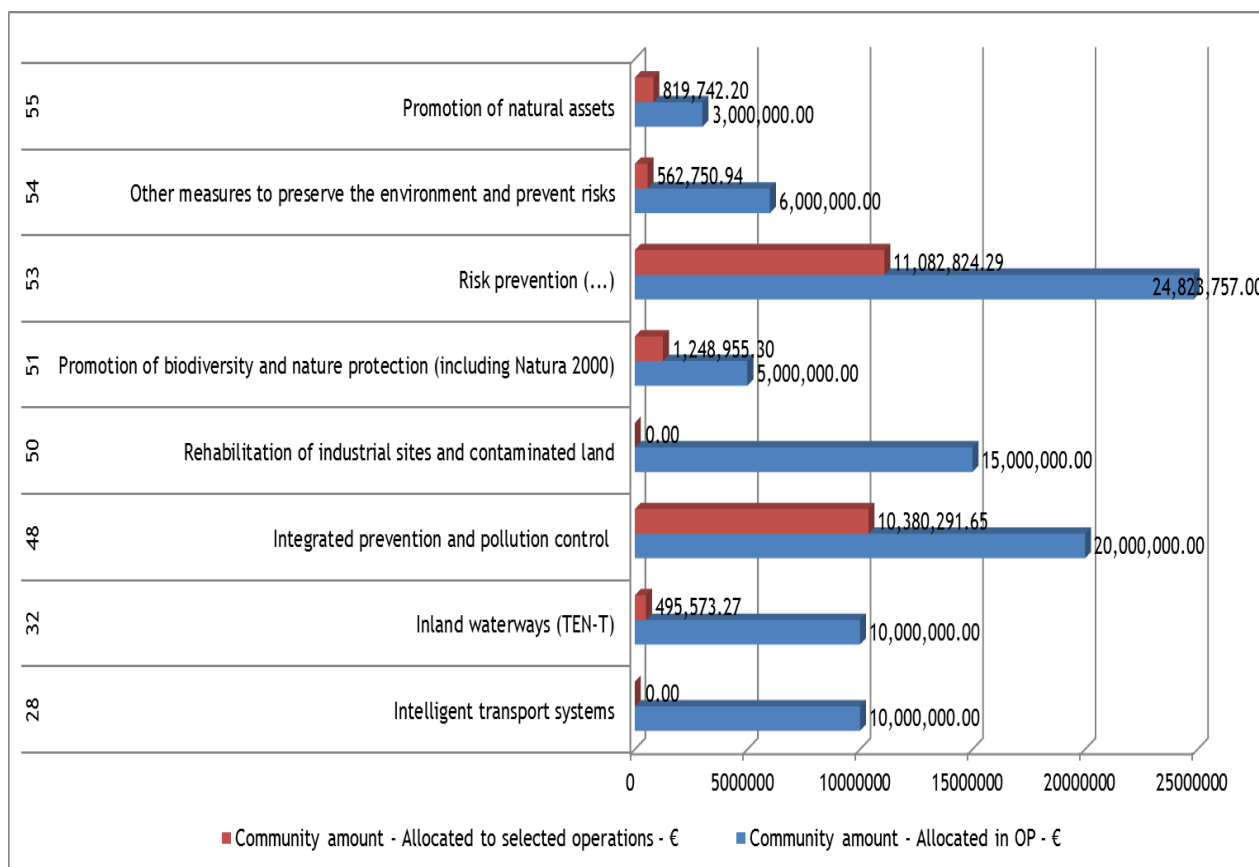
It can be noticed that there are some priority themes allocations that were fully covered by selected operations, such as:

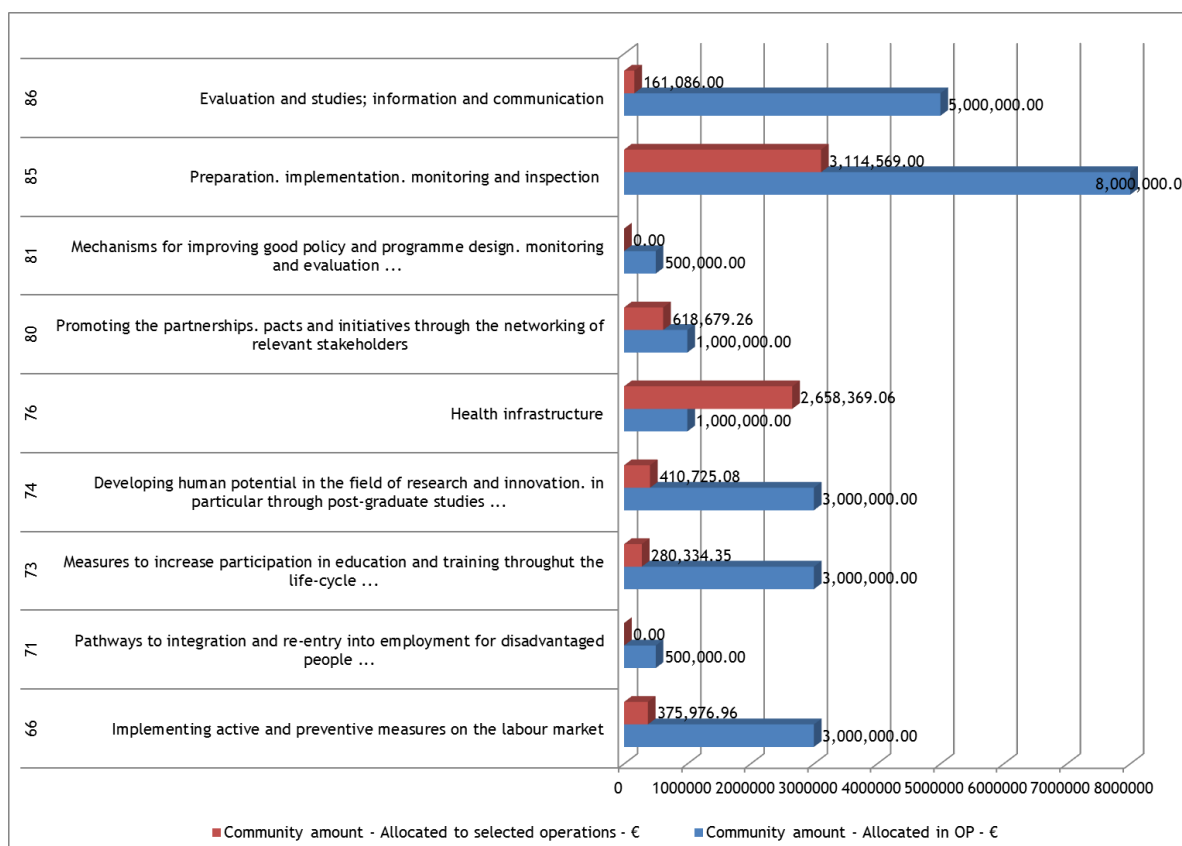
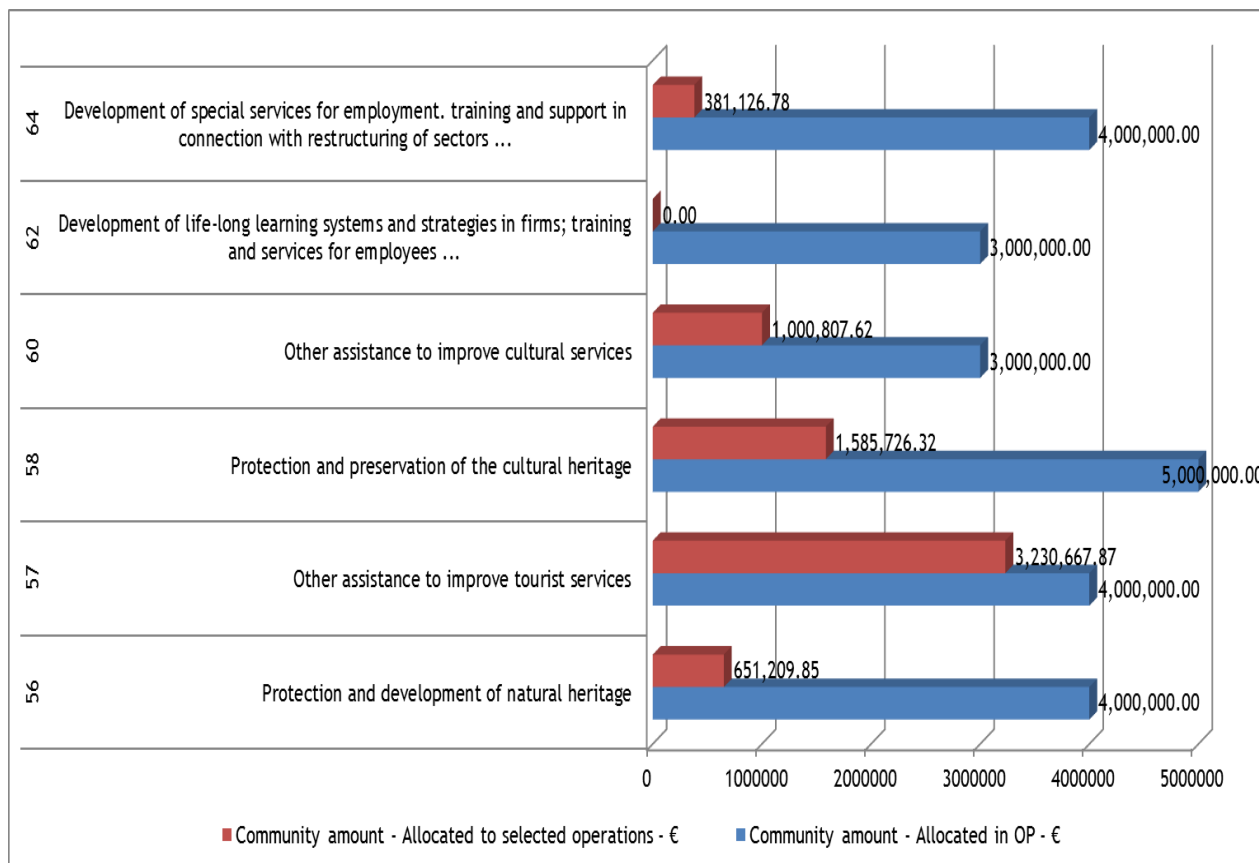
- Other measures to stimulate research and innovation and entrepreneurship in SMEs (Code 09),
- Services and applications for SMEs (e-commerce, education and training, networking etc.) (Code 14),
- Regional/local roads (Code 23),
- Risk prevention (...) (Code 53),
- Other measures to preserve the environment and prevent risks (Code 54),
- Other assistance to improve tourist services (Code 57),
- Health infrastructure (Code 76),
- Promoting the partnerships, pacts and initiatives through the networking of relevant stakeholders (Code 80).

At the end of 2010, there were contracted 67 projects with a total ERDF allocation of 76,452,118.68 Euro.

A graphic presentation of the **contracted operations ERDF amounts** within the priority themes allocation defined in the Programme is presented below:







2.1.4 Assistance by target groups

The promotion of individual target groups is not subject to the Programme since all the activities address all target groups in a non-discriminative way.

A series of events were organized by the MA, NA and JTS during 2010, with the large participation of applicants, beneficiaries, stakeholders and general public - approx. 1488 participants, out of which a proportion of 46.70% male and 53.30% females, as follows: Conference with European information multipliers (43 males and 53 females), Annual Conference (36 males and 31 females), Information session with minorities (25 males and 19 females), Informal meetings (44 males and 88 females), Project cafe (110 males and 170 females), Technical meetings (95 males and 124 females), 9th of May - Open Day (11 males and 19 females), Workshops (172 males and 151 females), Seminars with Romanian mass-media representatives regarding Romania-Bulgaria Cross Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013 (11 males and 24 females), Joint Steering Committee meetings (86 males and 67 females) and Joint Monitoring Committee meetings (62 males and 47 females).

The detailed attendance to the events organised in 2010 in the context of the Programme are presented within Annex 4.

2.1.5 Assistance repaid or re-used

Not applicable.

2.1.6 Qualitative analysis

Evaluation process of the applications submitted within the Calls for proposals:

During 2010, the Programme's structures continued the evaluation process started in 2009 for the applications submitted within the calls for proposals launched in the previous year. Thus, the applications submitted within the second call for proposals, intermediary deadlines April 2009, July 2009 and October 2009 - the last sessions opened for proposals in the context of the Programme, were the subject of the evaluation processes.

1) Second call for proposals for regular projects

Three of the following evaluation processes were started in 2009 and continued in 2010: intermediary deadlines 30th of April 2009, 31st of July 2009 and 30th of October 2009.

The total amount allocated for the second call for proposals for the three priority axes was 189,896,433.78 Euro, broken down as follows:

Priority Axis	Community Funding ERDF (a)	National funding	Total funding
	(a)	(b)	(a)+(b)
Priority Axis 1 - Accessibility	73,465,620.01	11,307,755.86	2,209,361.53
Priority Axis 2 - Environment	52,694,359.13	8,076,239.90	1,354,323.31
Priority Axis 3 - Economic and Social Development	34,597,038.14	5,302,540.63	889,195.27
Total	160,757,017.28	24,686,536.39	4,452,880.11

a) Intermediary deadline 30th of April 2009

The evaluation of the applications submitted within the second call for proposals, intermediary deadline April 2009 was finalised in 2010.

The evaluation of the submitted applications was finalised on 21st of April 2010 when JSC approved 44 projects from the applications submitted within the second call for proposals, intermediary deadline April 2009 with a total value of 86,961,360.06 Euro.

b) Intermediary deadline 31st of July 2009

The evaluation of the applications submitted within the second call for proposals, intermediary deadline July 2009 continued in 2010.

The evaluation of the submitted applications was finalized in 2010. Thus, on 7th of December 2010, JSC approved the selection of 40 projects from the applications submitted, with a total value of 70,219,165 Euro.

c) Intermediary deadline 30th of October 2009

The evaluation of the submitted applications started on 26th of November 2010 and will continue during 2011.

2) The Second Call for strategic projects

Following the Joint Steering Committee's decision regarding the approval of the strategic project ideas submitted within the 2009 Call for proposals for strategic ideas, the Joint Monitoring Committee approved the Practical Guides for each strategic project and established the deadline for the second call for strategic projects as 14 of May, 2010.

The total budget allocated to the second call for strategic projects is of 39,510,000.00 Euro, out of which 33,487,182.00 Euro represents the EU contribution through ERDF. The detailed financial allocations, by priority axes are presented in the table below:

	Community Funding ERDF (a)	National public funding*	National private funding	Total funding
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(a)+(b)+(c)
Priority Axis 1 Accessibility - Key area of intervention 2 - Development of information and communications networks and services within the cross-border area	5,912,200.00	910,000.00	177,800.00	7,000,000.00
Priority Axis 2 Environment - Key area of intervention 1 - Development of joint management systems for environmental protection	12,723,000.00	1,950,000.00	327,000.00	15,000,000.00
Priority Axis 2 Environment - Key area of intervention 2 - Development of joint infrastructure and services to prevent natural and man-made crises, including joint emergency response services	9,762,782.00	1,496,300.00	250,918.00	11,510,000.00
Priority Axis 3 Economic and Social Development - Key area of intervention 1 - Support for cross-border business cooperation and promotion of a regional image and identity	5,089,200.00	780,000.00	130,800.00	6,000,000.00
TOTAL	33,487,182.00	5,136,300.00	886,518.00	39,510,000.00

For each strategic idea approved by the JMC, the following applications were developed by the applicants and submitted within the deadline:

- *SPATIAL* - Common Strategy for the Sustainable Territorial Development of the Cross Border Area Romania-Bulgaria;
- *WATER* - *Danube Water Integrated Management*;
- *RISK* - Joint Risk Management in the Danube Border Area;
- *RINNO* - A Model for Enhancing the Benefits of Romania-Bulgaria Cross-Border Region Cooperation by Using RD&I.

On 11th of November 2010, the JSC selected for financing 2 strategic projects from the applications submitted, namely:

- *RINNO* - A Model for Enhancing the Benefits of Romania-Bulgaria Cross-Border Region Cooperation by Using RD&I;
- *RISK* - Joint Risk Management in the Danube Border Area.

RINNO - a model for enhancing the benefits of Romania-Bulgaria cross border region cooperation by using RD&I

Approved budget			
Project's aggregate value (euro)	Community Funding ERDF (euro)	National public funding (euro)	Own contribution (euro)
5,450,150.00	4,622,817.23	708,519.50	118,813.27

RINNO strategic project will contribute to the social and economic development of Romania - Bulgaria cross border area on the basis of the partnership between the Research, Development and Innovation Institutes, universities, central and local administrations and SMEs. The results of the project will have a significant contribution to achieve the indicators of the Program in order to develop the necessary institutional framework to support partnership between RD&I, universities, central and local administration and SMEs in Romania-Bulgaria cross-border area.

RISK - Joint Risk Monitoring during Emergencies in the Danube Area Border

Approved budget			
Project's aggregate value (euro)	Community Funding ERDF (euro)	National public funding (euro)	Own contribution (euro)
11,508,928.63	9,761,873.27	1,496,160.72	250,894.64

RISK strategic project is addressing the entire eligible area of the Programme, having as objective to establish a common information system that will allow real time communication in order to ensure joint decision-making support to limit the pollution effects of environmental factor. The Project will create a system of measures and actions to maintain an ecological environment in Romanian - Bulgarian border.

For the other 2 strategic projects, "Common Strategy for the Sustainable Territorial Development of the Cross Border Area Romania-Bulgaria" and "WATER - Danube Water Integrated Management", through the decision no. 47/11.11.2010, JMC approved their revision, having as deadline for resubmission 15th of December, 2010. At the given deadline the applicants submitted the revised strategic projects and the re-evaluation was started in December 2010 and will continue during 2011.

The Programme contribution to the Lisbon Strategy

The key objectives of the Programme are closely focused on delivering results and favourable outcomes that address the specific needs of the border region and are in line with the Lisbon Strategy. The proposed partnerships through the selected projects aim for growth and jobs, which are in line with the Lisbon Strategy and sets out priorities that will help the European Union and the Member States drive up productivity and create more and better jobs. Therefore through the implementation of its priority axes, Romania - Bulgaria Cross Border Cooperation Programme will contribute to the accomplishment of Lisbon Strategy objectives, by:

- making Romania - Bulgaria cross-border area a more attractive place to invest and work - through implementing the selected projects;
- the selected projects will have impact on the development of knowledge and innovation for growth in different areas such as: R&D, SMEs, ICT, etc.;
- creating more and better jobs at European level by attracting more people into employment and investing more in human capital through better education and skills.

Horizontal Themes (equal opportunities, sustainable development and climate change)

The application form addresses each of the horizontal themes of the Programme; by this the beneficiaries must state how their project observes the Programme provisions on horizontal themes.

The evaluation criteria, approved by the Joint Monitoring Committee, together with the application packs, make sure that the horizontal themes are respected. At the same time, the better a project is addressing these aspects the more extra points will receive in the evaluation process. Also, during the entire lifetime of a project, these rules must be observed, since such a provision is inserted in the financing contract.

During the unfolded evaluation and selection process, measures were taken in order to ensure the equal treatment principle and promoting the creation of new jobs within the eligible area.

The environmental issues were also observed within the evaluation process, as follow:

- at the admissibility and eligibility step, is verified the Environmental agreement, respectively the favourable opinion from the specialized bodies in the field;
- at the technical and financial step, the applications are scored according to the requirements on environmental protection. For the Technical Project is analysed if the provisions of the Feasibility Study regarding to environmental protection are correctly taken over.

2.2 Information about compliance with Community law

During 2010, within the framework of the Romania - Bulgaria Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013, only small modifications were made in order to ensure the full compliance with the provisions of the Community law.

Also, during 2010, the European Commission approved on 10th of June 2010 the Management and Control System, according with the provisions of article 58-62 of the EC Regulation no. 1083/2006, Section III of the EC Regulation no. 1828/2006 and article 13-17 of the EC Regulation 1080/2006, therefore ensuring the full compliance of the Romania - Bulgaria Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013 with the community law.

Public procurement

During 2010, in order to improve the national legislation regarding public procurement the Romanian Government issued the Decision no. 76/2010 regarding the awarding of the public procurement contracts for works, services and supplies.

The abovementioned decision modified the GEO no. 34/2004 regarding the awarding of the public procurement contracts for works, services and supplies in order to take urgent measures for improvement and flexibility of public procurement system in Romania. The main modifications were referring to:

shortening the duration of the public procurement procedures, having in mind that signing the public procurement contracts was delayed by excessive and abusive using of the appeals by the bidders. Also, an obstacle for signing of the public procurement contracts was the provision that the contract could not be signed until the decision of the National Council for Solving Complaints was not issued.

penalising the economic operators that were appealing the public procurement procedures, delaying the signing of the contracts, although knowing it was no reason for making the appeal.

At the same time, modifications were made to the National Bulgarian Legislation regarding public procurement, through Decree no. 55/2007, entering into force on 26.11.2010. The modifications concerned mainly changes of the thresholds of each public procurement procedure. The thresholds for each procedure were increased, which led to a simplification of the procedures that were applied, including by the beneficiaries of the Programme. This modification determined most of Bulgarian beneficiaries to request modifications of the approved contracting plans.

2.3 Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

A. During 2010 few Programme implementation problems were encountered, as follows:

1) Insufficient level of knowledge of Programme specificities by project management teams during the implementation of the contracted projects

From all the progress reports and reimbursement claims received it was concluded that the level of knowledge of project team members implementing the projects, was in many cases low and the specificities of the Programme were not sufficiently understood by the beneficiaries, the Programme's rules being many times confused with the rules of the PHARE CBC Romania-Bulgaria.

Common mistakes made by the beneficiaries and confusion with the PHARE CBC Romania-Bulgaria rules are presented below:

- The beneficiaries have not launched the public procurement procedures waiting for the ex-ante approval of the JTS (this rule was applied in PHARE CBC Programme;
- The beneficiaries were presenting documents for reimbursement without being checked by the FLC (in PHARE CBC the system of FLC was not applied). Also, due to the low level of knowledge regarding the FLC procedures, the beneficiaries had difficulties in observing the deadlines foreseen for requesting first level control and had difficulties in consolidating the reimbursement claim including validated expenditure from all partners.

2. Insufficient level of knowledge of private beneficiaries of the public procurement law.

A specific problem for the Programme implementation was the insufficient level of knowledge of private beneficiaries of the public procurement law, both in Romania and in Bulgaria.

The low level of knowledge regarding public procurement was seen both in the applications submitted and also in the implementation stage. Private beneficiaries (NGOs, Associations and Foundations etc.) are not commonly using the public procurement law; therefore they have no experience in this field. The applications submitted by the beneficiaries needed clarifications regarding the contracting plan in order to fill in the correct public procurement procedure, according to the national legislation of the partner organising the tender. Almost 40% of the applications receiving clarifications were requested also to modify the contracting plan.

The low level of planning the public procurement have had repercussions in the implementation period, when public procurement procedures had to be changed in order to observe the national legislation. Therefore, out of 67 projects signed, 31 requested addenda for modification of the contracting plans.

3. Delays regarding the contracting of the selected projects

The time needed to contract the selected projects proved to be longer than the time initially foreseen within the contracting procedures. The average time needed to contract the selected projects, including the time allocated for the beneficiaries to provide all necessary documents/information needed for contracting purposes, according to all procedures and legal provisions in force, is described as follows:

- 17 months from approval to signing for the projects selected under the first call;

- 9 months from approval to signing for the projects selected under the second call for proposals, intermediary deadline January;
- 8 months from approval to signing for the projects selected under the second call for proposals, intermediary deadline March;
- 7 months from approval to signing for the projects selected under the second call for proposals, intermediary deadline April.

The delay within the contracting of the selected projects for the second call for proposals have had implications on the Programme implementation causing a low level of requested reimbursement of expenditure.

4. Difficulties in ensuring the co-financing of the project by the beneficiaries.

Due to the economic crisis, parts of the beneficiaries were not able to ensure the co-financing of the projects or the necessary cash flow. One of the proposed solutions was to access bank loans. Still, in the same context of the financial and economic crisis the beneficiaries have had difficulties in getting loans from the banks due to the fact that the banks requested more guaranties from the beneficiaries in order to approve the loan.

5. Delays in implementation caused by the long term of the public procurement procedure.

Information regarding this issue was included above in Section 2.2.

Measures taken to overcome the encountered problems:

1. JTS carried out for 2010 more technical meetings regarding project implementation and reporting in order to improve the level of knowledge of implementation Programme specificities by project management teams implementing the contracted projects. Programme specificities were presented both regarding the implementation and eligibility of expenditure and actions and also regarding the FLC and reporting. The full list with the events organised in 2010 is attached to the present report in Annex 4.
2. In order to support the beneficiaries to improve their level of knowledge regarding the public procurement law, the following measures were taken:
 - Providing technical assistance on individual cases;
 - Organising technical meetings with the beneficiaries. Two events were organised by JTS having as main topic the public procurement regulation: one with Romanian beneficiaries in Craiova, on 21.07.2010 and one for Bulgarian beneficiaries in Svishtov on 20.10.2010. In all the events organized with the beneficiaries, it was presented a list with most common mistakes made in the implementation period, which included also public procurements issues;
 - Modifying the financing contracts in order to speed up the procedure of approval of the requests for modifications of the contracting plan. The financing contracts provisions required that the modification of Annex 3 - *Schedule of contracts* to be done through an addendum. In order to speed-up

the period required for approval of the proposed modifications, the contracts were modified in order to foresee that the modifications of the Schedule of contracts can be made through a simple notification, entering into force on the date that the MA approves it.

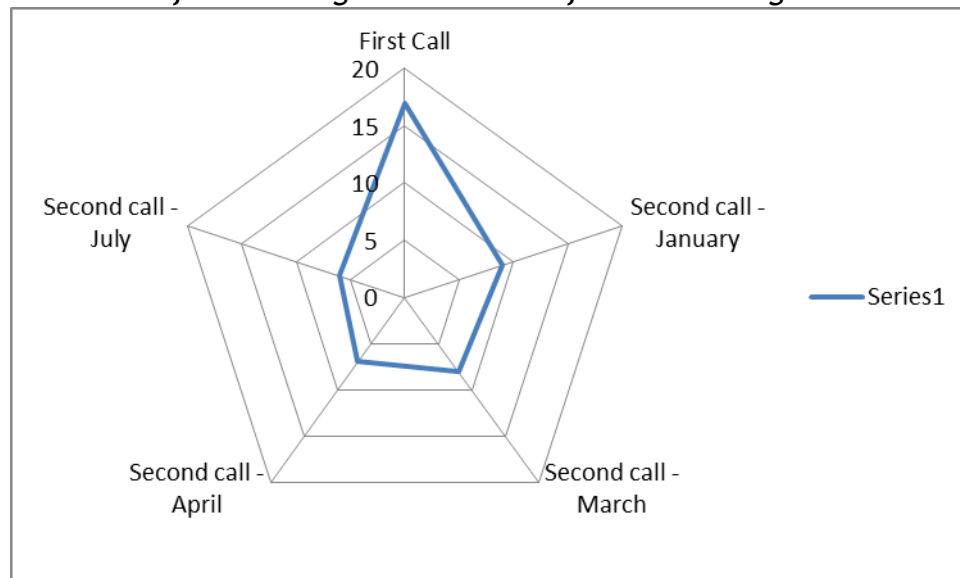
3. Measures were taken, in order to avoid the delays in contracting of the selected projects.

First, measures were taken in order to improve evaluation and selection process, in order to have better selected projects, with fewer issues to be clarified in the contracting process. In this regard, external evaluators were contracted for the technical and financial evaluation of the applications submitted for the second call for proposal, intermediary deadline 31th July 2009 and October 2009.

Another measure taken was to supplement the number of experts working within the contracting unit of JTS with additional staff from the Cross Border Cooperation Regional Office in order to speed up the preparation and signing of the contracts.

The results of the applied measures were quick and clear, an improvement being noticed regarding the overall time needed for contracting of the selected projects which was shortened from an average of 17 months for the projects selected within the first call for proposals to an average of 6 months foreseen for the projects selected within the second call for proposals, intermediary deadline July 2009 (described in the chart below).

Evolution of the average time needed for contracting:



4. For helping the beneficiaries to easily access bank loans, the financing contracts were modified by creating the possibility for the beneficiaries to mortgage the relevant assets of the project (as buildings, cars etc.). Thus, the beneficiaries could contract credits, strictly necessary for ensuring their own contribution to the projects. This measure was facilitated by the Governmental Decision no. 606/2010, modifying the national legislation in Romania.

5. Having in mind that delays in implementation caused by the long term of the public procurement procedures are not a specific problem for Romanian - Bulgaria Cross-Border Co-operation Programme 2007-2013 but for all OPs, the measure to overcome this problem was taken at the national level in Romania, where the public procurement legislation was modified in order to accelerate the public procurement procedure. Therefore, it was created the opportunity to use accelerated procedures. Also, in Bulgaria the public procurement legislation was amended in order to modify the thresholds applied for each type of public procurement procedure.

B. Summary of problems identified under the procedure in Article 62(1)(d)(i) of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006, as well as any measures taken by the managing authority or the monitoring committee to solve the problems.

No major problems were identified during the audit missions.

Still, some deficiencies identified in the functioning of the management and control system required corrective measures, to ensure a smooth implementation of the operational Programme.

1. **Finding:** The excessive use of the „4 eyes” principle, through the re-performance of all checks by a second execution officer, even though the checks are verified by the head of unit and approved by the head of organisation.

Recommendation: The revision of MA procedures in order to eliminate the re-performance of all checks by a second executive officer.

Measures taken by the MA: all the procedures were modified according to the AA recommendation.

2. **Finding:** Delays in uploading in the MIS ETC system of the relevant technical and financial data of the projects under implementation.

Recommendation: The management of MA should take all the necessary measures in order to ensure that relevant, up to date, information is uploaded in the MIS-ETC system, in due time.

Measures taken by the MA: The MA provided training to JTS officers in charge with inputting data in the MIS-ETC system and ensured the technical support for solving the system errors and flaws.

2.4 Changes in the context of the OP implementation (if relevant)

Economic crisis

As predicted in 2009, the world economic and financial crisis continued in 2010, as the biggest threat to Programme's implementation. The side-effects of the financial and economic crisis were socio and economic influences with high impact on the Programme and project implementation by the beneficiaries in Romania and Bulgaria which lead to fiscal and budgetary cuts to manage budget deficits and inflation. The economic and financial crisis created difficulties in project implementation for all type of beneficiaries.

For the public authorities, as beneficiaries of the Romania Bulgaria Cross Border Co-operation 2007-2013, the most important negative effect of the economic and financial crisis in 2010 was the reduction of the incomes (collected taxes and charges) which lead to the reduction of the co-financing capacities of the public authorities.

Due to the economic crisis, the private companies were forced to decrease the volume of their businesses and to take different measures for reduction of their expenses. One of the main measures was to fire a part of their employees or even close some parts of their businesses.

Therefore, the decrease of the volume of the business and also the measures taken by private companies for reduction of the expenditures, led to a decrease of taxes and charges paid to the local and central public authorities.

The low capacity for co-financing the projects of the public authorities led to delays in the implementation of the activities within the contracted projects and, also to an increased number of the addendum requested during the project implementation. Also, partners requested to reduce their participation in the project implementation in order to also reduce their budget and co-financing of the project, in case of at least one project during 2010.

For private bodies (NGOs from the eligible area), the most important negative effect of the economic and financial crisis was the difficulty to access financing credits from the banks, both in Romania and Bulgaria, in order to ensure the co-financing of the projects. Also, the low degree of the advance paid to the beneficiaries within the Romania-Bulgaria Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013 (80% from the co-financing value) was considered as a high risk by the banks when applying for a credit, in case of at least one project beneficiary asking for a loan to be used for implementing the activities during 2010.

Due to the economic crisis (difficulties in financing/co-financing) three applicants withdrew their applications.

Also, a significant change in the Programme's context, generated by the economic crisis was the increase of the VAT rate in Romania from 19% to 24 %. The increase created significant problems for all projects, having in mind that all the applications

were submitted and selected having budgets calculated with 19% VAT for those beneficiaries that were shall recover the VAT from the Programme.

Having in mind the important consequences of this increase of VAT rate, solutions were found for each individual project in order to not affect the implementation. Two solutions were applied:

1. Promoting of addenda to the financing contracts in order to modify the approved budget by moving available financing from “Contingency” budgetary line to those lines where VAT increase was needed;
2. Recommending the beneficiaries to find better offers for the services and goods that were about to be purchased, within the already approved financing for that services or goods.

The process of amendment of the approved applications will continue in 2011 while selected projects from the intermediary deadlines 31th of July 2009 and second call for strategic projects will be contracted.

In this context, during 2010 Romania-Bulgaria Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013 represented a major financial opportunity for the stakeholders in the eligible area for developing and implementing projects which lead to the significant positive effects on the local communities.

The Programme has been perceived as a great opportunity to ensure the continuation of their activities during the economic and financial crisis. Accessing of EU funds created a good opportunity for both public authorities and private bodies to ensure the proper achievement of their initially set targets during this difficult period.

2.5 Substantial modification under Article 57 of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 (if relevant)

Not applicable.

2.6 Complementarity with other instruments

The complementarity with other financial instruments is ensured through mechanisms foreseen in the programming document. The Managing Authority, the National Authority and the joint bodies (Joint Technical Secretariat, Monitoring and Steering Committees) are responsible with implementing these arrangements during the Programme implementation phase.

Mechanisms for the coordination and coherence of the Programme with the Cohesion Policy Programmes operated in the area

The Programme’s authorities consider that consistency and co-ordination between the major programmes co-funded by EU is essential to ensure that all objectives are met

with no duplication of effort and actions and also to maximize funding opportunities available for the Programme area under the different Community Programmes.

The presence of the Managing Authorities of the national Operational Programmes and Rural Development Programmes, as well as of the national authorities/contact points/persons of other ETC Programmes in both countries as members/observers in the Joint Monitoring Committee and Joint Steering Committee of the Romania-Bulgaria Programme has been foreseen in order to avoid overlapping and ensure coherence and complementarities of the interventions under all these programmes.

Electronic information exchange

Information is exchanged with the other bodies that are implementing operational programmes co-financed by structural funds whenever necessary, in order to clarify issues or avoid confusions.

In the near future, for avoiding double-financing of the projects, a new application tool is under development at national level that will integrate data from MIS-ETC and SMIS databases. This will serve as an extra tool for detection of beneficiaries which received financing through several operational programmes, in order to more carefully analyse similarities between projects and take all necessary actions in due time. The discussion has already started with the relevant national authorities for developing this application.

2.7 Monitoring and evaluation

2.7.1 Monitoring

Programme`s level

The monitoring at the Programme`s level is ensured by the Joint Monitoring Committee and the Managing Authority together with the National Authority. In order to ensure the quality and effectiveness of the Programme implementation, the monitoring at the Programme level is performed using the Management Information System European Territorial Cooperation System (MIS-ETC), which allows the monitoring and reporting the implementation status of the Programme.

During 2010, the decisions approved by the Joint Monitoring Committee were related to the long-term strategic implications on Programme implementation to improve the Programme management, including its financial management; rules for programme implementation. Reports on the Programme implementation, identified problems correlated with the measures to overcome them, drafted by Managing Authority/ National Authority/Joint Technical Secretariat were examined by Joint Monitoring Committee.

Joint Monitoring Committee activity

During 2010 two JMC meetings were held, one on 25th of March, 2010, for the approval of the Practical Guide (including evaluation and selection criteria and budget), for the Second Call for Strategic Projects and financial reallocation for the Second Call for Proposals for regular projects. The second JMC meeting was held on 11th of November 2010, and regarded the over-selection of the applications submitted within the Second Call for proposals, giving the fact that the total value of the submitted projects exceeded the financial allocation of the Programme. Also, according to the Rules of Procedures, the members of the Joint Monitoring Committee were consulted through written procedures on various implementation issues. Thus, during 2010 the JMC members had adopted 18 decisions, ensuring the quality of implementation of the Programme in different aspects, as follows:

- Interim evaluation of the Programme;
- Description of the management and control system;
- Approval of practical guides for strategic projects;
- Reallocations of amounts between calls of proposals;
- Approval of over-selection of the projects submitted within the second call for proposals;
- Approval of partnership change for the strategic projects;
- Approving the Multi-Annual Technical Assistance Strategy (including the 2010 Annual Communication Plan).

The full list of Joint Monitoring Committee is foreseen within Annex 1 -Decisions of JMC Romania-Bulgaria Programme 2010“.

Project`s level

The project monitoring activity is ensured by the Joint Technical Secretariat according with an internal monitoring procedure, at the level of all projects and by the Lead Partner at the level of the activities carried out by each partner involved in the project.

Monitoring of the project implementation is a continuous and systematic process of collecting and analysis of information (date) measuring progress of the activities and results of the projects implementation, compared with the planned activities and results within the approved Application Form.

The monitoring activity at the project level was realised through close technical and financial monitoring of each project implementation, using instruments such as progress reports and monitoring visits.

On desk monitoring was realised in 2010 through progress reports that are submitted by the beneficiaries at each three months of implementation. The information

provided was also verified; on-the-spot monitoring visits were organised in order to verify that the information provided within the progress reports are real.

Progress reports and on-the-spot monitoring visit reports include monitoring of the activities, indicators, encountered problems, modifications of the contracts.

Also, specific sections are foreseen within the progress report for information related to environment and aspects related to equal opportunities. Specific environmental and equal opportunities indicators are mandatory for the beneficiary to be reported within the progress report and are monitored by the JTS and envisaged in the MIS-ETC System.

Also, in the context of the activity for improving the analysis instruments of the progress and results of the Operational Programmes the Romania Authority for Coordination of Structural Instruments (ACSI) implemented the “Improvement of the system of indicators used for monitoring and evaluation” Project, having as an important result the development of guidelines for a common methodology to monitor the effects of the operational programmes on the environment.

General recommendations were made to:

- Designate a responsible for environmental issues within the MA's Units;
- Drafting internal procedures for monitoring the environmental impact of each project. The environmental indicators should be filled in and collected the MIS-ETC system;
- Programme Structures will begin to collect the environmental indicators for the projects in implementations in order that the collected data to be available for the Annual Implementation Report for 2011.

The recommendations were taken into consideration and will be applied in 2011.

JTS, MA and NA collaborate with all the important actors involved in the implementation of the projects: central administration, the local and regional organisations, NGOs, non-profit organisations from the eligible area in order to collect all the necessary information needed for monitoring the progress of the Programme implementation.

Also, an important tool for ensuring the Programme monitoring is the Management Information System of the Programme (MIS-ETC).

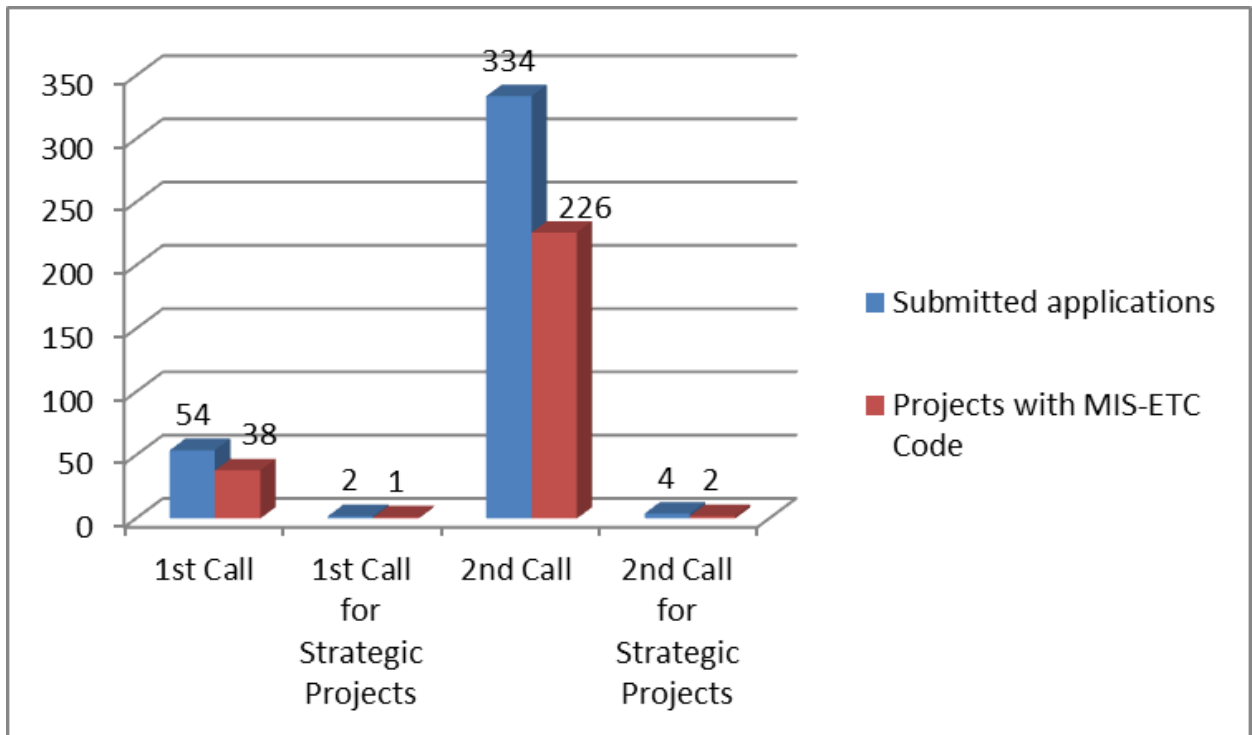
MIS-ETC

During the year 2010, JTS members were trained regarding the Management Information System of the Programme, namely: General Training MIS-ETC, Project Management MIS-ETC, and Monitoring MIS-ETC.

MA ensured the coordination and support for the data uploading process and provided assistance to all users.

The National Authority can access the Programme's MIS-ETC (read-only access) with the assistance and support of the ACSI responsible with the access to the MIS-ETC.

At the end of 2010, in Project management Module, section Project proposal, all data were inserted; for all the applications submitted within the first and second call for proposals/strategic projects was generated a MIS-ETC Code. As regards the Project Registration Form Section, the status was the following:



2.7.2 Evaluation

Based on the Multi - Annual Evaluation Plan for Romania - Bulgaria Cross Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013, as approved by the Joint Monitoring Committee in 2009, the first on-going evaluation was planned and started in 2010.

Following this, based on the fact that this is a Programme evaluation commissioned externally, the Terms of Reference (ToR) were prepared and endorsed by the Evaluation Steering Committee and then approved by the Joint Monitoring Committee of the Programme.

As specified in the ToR, the overall objective of this on-going evaluation is to contribute to the successful implementation of the Romania - Bulgaria CBC Programme 2007 - 2013, by identifying the problems affecting the Programme performance and finding adequate solutions for them. Therefore, this on-going evaluation focuses on:

- Financial and physical progress (financial and physical indicators);

- Programme implementation system;
- Horizontal objectives - equal opportunities, sustainable development and climate change;
- Programme Communication Plan.

This Programme evaluation covers all 4 priority axes of the Programme and analyses its evolution from the 1st of January 2007 until the 1st of June 2010, in terms of effectiveness, efficiency, communication activities and horizontal issues.

On 28th July 2010, the procurement procedure for the on-going evaluation was launched by the Managing Authority (Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism), followed by the assessment and contracting procedures, in accordance with the national public procurement legislation, during August and September 2010. This led to the selection of the Contractor to conduct the evaluation, namely the Consortium “Ernst & Young - GEA Strategy Consulting”.

The actual implementation of the contract started in November 2010 and according to the ToR as well as to the contract provisions, the kick-off meeting took place on November 19, 2010. All Programme’s stakeholders, namely the representatives of the Managing Authority, National Authority, Joint Technical Secretariat and Evaluation Unit participated in this meeting, which was coordinated by the Consortium. The overall purpose was to agree on the major methodological approaches during the contract implementation. During the kick - off meeting, it was agreed that the scope of the evaluation covers:

- the First Call for proposals (deadline in September 2008);
- the Second Call for Proposals (intermediary deadlines in January 2009, March 2009, April 2009, July 2009, October 2009);
- the First call for Strategic Projects (deadline in January 2009).

The Consortium drafted an Inception Report in line with the ToR requirements and with those provided in the kick - off meeting and submitted it to the Managing Authority on December 8th, 2010. The Inception Report provided details on: Programme’s intervention logic, overview of the calls for proposals and outlined the methodology proposed by the Consortium to address the evaluation questions included in ToR. Also, this report provided an outline for the draft and final evaluation reports to be provided, the latter being scheduled for June 2011.

Also, as specified in 2009 Annual Implementation Report, besides the evaluation of the Romania-Bulgaria Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013 made by the Managing Authority, the Authority for Coordination the Structural Instruments developed horizontal evaluation aiming the improvement of national capacity to absorb and general implementation of National Strategic Reference Framework 2007 - 2013.

Thus, **Formative Evaluation of the Structural Instruments in Romania** was realised in 2010 and the report was issued, containing results following on desk analysis of the programmatic documents, monitoring and evaluation instruments, surveys with the beneficiaries, interviews with the main stakeholders within different levels of the system.

Based on the findings, the report presented conclusions and recommendation regarding the following major issues:

- actual performance of Structural Instruments (SI) in Romania related to the expectations and targets set, and the capacity of those involved in the implementation process;
- major internal and external factors that affect the performance of the SI;
- the quality of technical assistance dedicated to the management and the implementation of Structural Instruments;
- the quality of the information and publicity measures taken for the target group;
- the premises created by the portfolios of projects and the selection of projects for efficiency and effectiveness of funds.

The general recommendations were to:

- adopt a classification of interventions (simple, normal and complex), depending on budgets total complexity, risk implementation and sustainability of projects and also to redefine the mechanisms of selection, so as to reflect the new classification;
- take into consideration, based on the findings of programs evaluations the possibilities of reallocating fund in order to counter the effects that the current financial and economic crisis has on absorption capacity and the demand of funds grants requested by beneficiaries.

Another study entitled **Challenges related to the capacity of public and private beneficiaries** was realised for the period 2009-2010 and was focused on analysing how the ability of the beneficiaries of the Structural Funds is affecting the performance of these funds and achieved results.

The conclusion of the study was that the capacity of the beneficiaries directly influences the implementation of the projects financed through structural instruments in a multi-dimensional, complex way. Based on these findings, it was recommended to all the Managing Authorities to use the experience that all the key actors have in order to identify and exchange good practices in projects implementation.

In this regards, all the events organised by the JTS in 2010 were focused not only on specific issues, but also in disseminating good practices identified at different

beneficiaries' level. Lists of most commune mistakes regarding drafts of the applications and regarding implementation and reporting were realised and presented to the beneficiaries. Case studies were also discussed with the beneficiaries within the technical meetings organized during 2010 in order to identify good practices.

2.8 National performance reserve (where applicable and only for the annual implementation report submitted for 2010)

Not applicable.

3. Implementation by priority

3.1. Priority Axis 1

Priority axis 1: Accessibility - Improved mobility and access to transport, information and communication infrastructure in the cross-border area.

The focus of the priority axis is to promote and implement joint cross-border solutions in the field of road and river transport and ICT, which will lead to overcome the impact of geographical and functional barriers both to traffic flows and communication in the Programme area. These are pre-conditions to the mobility of goods and people and to the economic and social common undertakings within the Programme area and thereby this priority axis will contribute to improving the attractiveness of the cross-border area and strengthening the area sustainable economic growth and territorial cohesion.

Around 80.59 million Euro ERDF grant is available for this priority axis, matched by 13.79 million Euro national contributions.

3.1.1. Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress

A. Information on the physical progress of the priority

The indicators used to measure the progress of this priority axis are shown in the tables below (and refer to projects selected by the Joint Steering Committee and contracted projects):

I. Selected projects

Priority Axis 1 Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Priority Axis Objective 1. To improve cross-border mobility through improving existing conditions and developing new facilities for transport in the eligible area.											
Number of projects improving transport accessibility in the programme area	Achievement	-	0	0	19						19
	Target 2015	9									
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	19					
Reduction of travel time	Achievement	-	0	0	59.3						59.3

between settlements located on either side of the border (%)	Target 2015	70									
	Baseline	100	0	0	0	59.3					
Priority Axis Objective 2. To enable efficient regular exchange of information and data of cross-border relevance											
Number of projects improving ICT accessibility in the programme area	Achievement	-	0	0	7						7
	Target 2015	30									
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	7					
Number of people having access to ICT facilities	Achievement	0	0	233000	478854						7118454
	Target 2015	3.2 M									
	Baseline	0	0	0	233000	711854					
Number of people using ICT facilities	Achievement	0	0	101860	157040						258900
	Target 2015	1.75 M									
	Baseline	0	0	0	101860	258900					

The indicators within the above table are cumulated at the Programme level, using information from the projects selected for financing until 31st of December 2010

II. Contracted projects

Priority Axis 1 Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Priority Axis Objective 1. To improve cross-border mobility through improving existing conditions and developing new facilities for transport in the eligible area.											
Number of projects improving transport accessibility in the programme area	Achievement	-	0	0	6						6
	Target 2015	9									
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	6					
Reduction of travel time between settlements located on either side of the border (%)	Achievement	-	0	0	19						19
	Target 2015	70									
	Baseline	100	0	0	0	19					0
Priority Axis Objective 2. To enable efficient regular exchange of information and data of cross-border relevance											
Number of projects improving ICT accessibility in the programme area	Achievement	-	0	0	2						2
	Target 2015	30									
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	2					
Number of people having access to ICT facilities	Achievement	0	0	0	233060						233060
	Target 2015	3.2 M									
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	233060					
Number of people using ICT facilities	Achievement	0	0	0	100420						100420
	Target 2015	1.75 M									
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	100420					

The indicators within the above table are cumulated at the Programme level, using information from the projects contracted until 31st of December 2010

B. Qualitative analysis

During 2010 were continued the evaluation and selection processes of the projects submitted under second call for proposals, intermediary deadlines April 2009, July 2009 and October 2009 and no new calls for proposals for ordinary projects were launched.

1) Second call for proposals - intermediary deadline 30th of April 2009

For the intermediary deadline 30th of April 2009 a number of 14 application forms were submitted for the Priority axis 1, as follows: 13 projects on the KAI 1 - Improvements to land and river cross-border transport facilities and one project on KAI 2 - Development of information and communications networks and services within the cross-border area, with total eligible values of 56,768,495.26 Euro.

Lead partners submitting applications under the second call for proposals, intermediary deadline April 2009	RO		BG	
	No of projects	Total Eligible Value	No of projects	Total Eligible Value
KAI 1.1	11	45,231,914.99	2	11,084,780.27
KAI 1.2	1	451,800		

The Assessment Working Group recommended 44 applications for funding and the JSC approved for selection 11 applications for KAI 1 with the total value of 48,699,918.18 Euro. No applications were selected within KAI 2. The aggregate budget of the selected projects was within the budget allocated for the second call for proposals.

Lead partners selected applications under the second call for proposals, Intermediary deadline July 2009	RO		BG	
	No of projects	Total Eligible Value	No of projects	Total Eligible Value
KAI 1.1	9	37,616,815.82	2	11,083,102.36
KAI 1.2	0	0	0	0

Until 31st of December 2010, 6 projects were contracted from the approved applications for KAI 1, intermediary deadline April 2009, with a total value of 32,293,898.87 Euro.

2) Second call for proposals - intermediary deadline 31st of July 2009

A number of 10 applications forms were submitted under Priority axis 1, as follows: 8 projects on the KAI 1 - Improvements to land and river cross-border transport facilities and 2 projects on KAI 2 - Development of information and communications networks and services within the cross-border area. The total eligible value of the applications submitted is of 52,496,588.16 Euro.

Lead partners submitting applications under the first call for proposals	RO		BG	
	No of projects	Total Eligible Value	No of projects	Total Eligible Value
KAI 1.1	6	31,515,518.17	2	15,852,879.98
KAI 1.2	2	4,158,530.00	0	0

During 2010 the assessment of the projects submitted for the intermediary deadline July 2009 was finalised. The Assessment Working Group recommended 41 applications for funding and the JSC approved for selection 4 applications for KAI 1 with the total value of 31,087,116.88 Euro. No applications were selected within KAI 2.

The aggregate budget of the selected projects exceeded the budget allocated for the second call for proposals. Therefore, although selected, one project didn't have the necessary financial allocation to continue with the contracting. This project will be contracted if the necessary funds will become available from savings of the contracted projects. One project was selected with condition that a part of the requested expenditures should be the subject of clarification with the representatives of the European Commission regarding the eligibility of the expenditures.

Lead partners selected applications under the second call for proposals, Intermediary deadline July 2009	RO		BG	
	No of projects	Total Eligible Value	No of projects	Total Eligible Value
KAI 1.1	2	15,254,276.41	2	15,832,840.47
KAI 1.2	0	0	0	0

The contracting process of the applications selected from those submitted for the intermediary deadline July 2009 will start in January 2011.

3) Second call for proposals - intermediary deadline 30th of October 2009

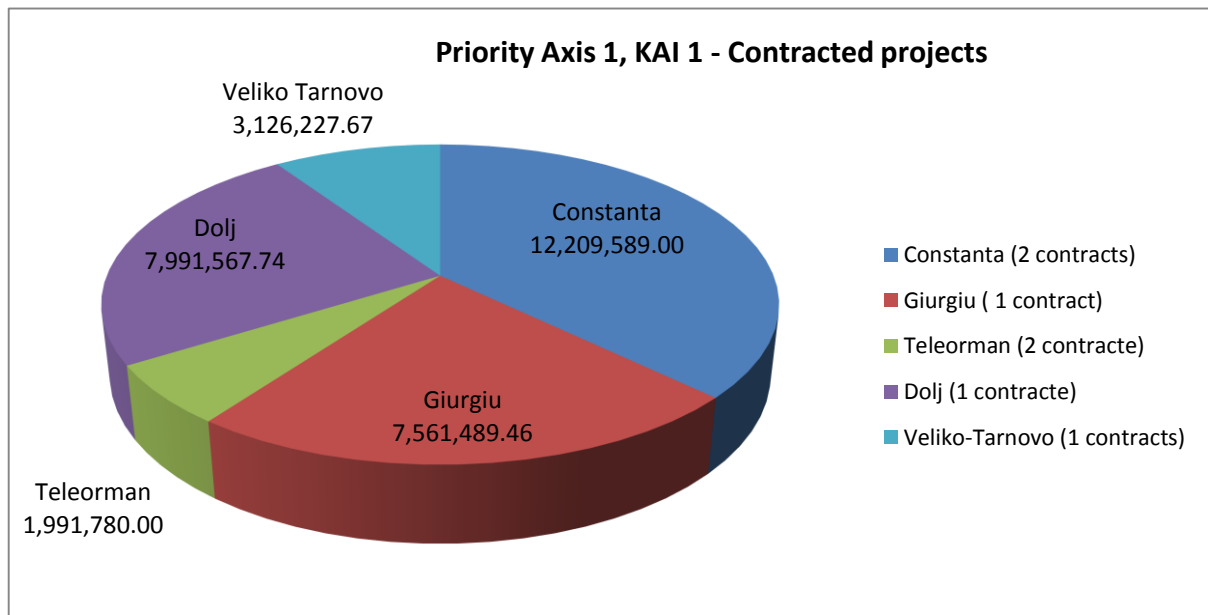
A number of 32 application forms were submitted under Priority Axis 1, as follows: 24 projects on KAI 1 - Improvements to land and river cross-border transport facilities and 8 projects on KAI 2 - Development of information and communications networks and services within the cross-border area, a with total eligible value of 122,753,095.97 Euro.

Lead partners submitting applications under the first call for proposals	RO		BG	
	No of projects	Total Eligible Value	No of projects	Total Eligible Value
KAI 1.1	21	93,102,743.85	3	15,430,523.19
KAI 1.2	5	11,794,334.42	3	2,368,701.37

The evaluation report for Admissibility and Eligibility assessment of the applications submitted under the second call for proposal, intermediary deadline October 2009 will be submitted for the MA's approval in January 2011.

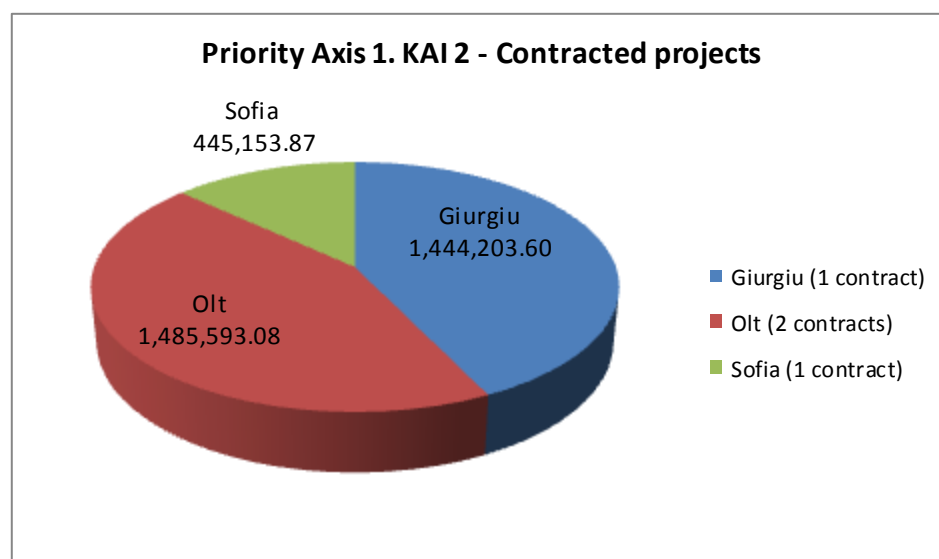
Contracted projects for Priority Axis 1

During 2010, for **Priority Axis 1, KAI 1**, 7 projects were contracted (6 with Romanian Lead Partner and 1 with Bulgarian Lead Partner) with a total value of 32,880,653.87 Euro, out of which 27,771,000.24 ERDF.



No amounts were reimbursed under PA1, KAI 1 until the end of 2010.

For **Priority Axis 1, KAI 2**, there were 4 contracted projects (3 with Romanian Lead Partner and 1 with Bulgarian Lead Partner) with a total value of 3,374,950.55 Euro, out of which 2,850,483.24 ERDF.



For Priority Axis 1, KAI 2, one reimbursement claim was paid, with a total of 12,899.23 Euro - out of which 10,894.69 Euro ERDF.

For PA 1 for Romanian Partners it was paid pre-financing from national state contribution amounting 2,111,460.35 Euro (1,915,113.85 Euro KAI 1 and 196,346.50 Euro KAI 2) and for Bulgarian Partners was paid pre-financing from national state contribution amounting 253,536.74 Euro (209,666.44 Euro KAI 1 and 43,870.30 Euro KAI 2).

3.1.2. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

No specific problems for this priority axis have been encountered during 2010. Nevertheless, the general problems and measures taken to overcome them, described within Section 2.3., are also encountered within this PA.

3.2. Priority Axis 2

Priority axis 2: Environment - Sustainable use and protection of natural resources and environment and promotion of efficient risk management in the cross-border area.

The focus of this priority axis will be on the prudent exploitation and protection of the intrinsic quality and value of the area's outstanding natural resources by joint initiatives, including prevention from natural and technological risks and the fast reaction to emergency situations, as the elemental conditions to increase the quality of life and attractiveness of the Programme area and to achieve a sustainable socio-economic development.

Around 76.2 million Euro ERDF grant is available for this priority axis, matched by 13,7 million Euro national contributions.

3.2.1. Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress

A. Information on the physical progress of the priority

The indicators used to measure the progress of this priority are shown in the table below (and refer to projects selected by the Joint Steering Committee and contracted projects):

I. Selected projects

Priority Axis 2 Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Priority Axis Objective 1. To ensure effective protection and use of the area's natural assets by coordinated joint management systems.											
Number of projects developing joint management systems for environmental protection	Achievement	-	0	2	11						13
	Target 2015	30									
	Baseline	0	0	0	2	13					
Number of joint management	Achievement	-	0	1	10						11

systems implemented	Target 2015	20									
	Baseline	0	0	0	1	11					
Priority Axis Objective 2. To increase the awareness on the environmental protection and management in the cross-border area											
Number of projects raising awareness on environmental protection and management	Achievement	-	0	5	19						26
	Target 2015	100									
	Baseline	0	0	0	5	26					
The extent to which the eligible area is covered by awareness raising campaigns (%)	Achievement	-	0	0	415.02						415.02
	Target 2015	70									
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	415.02					
Number of people benefiting from awareness raising activities on environmental protection	Achievement	-	0	1.3 M	10 M*						11.3M
	Target 2015	2.5 M									
	Baseline	0	0	0	1.3 M	11.3 M					
Priority Axis Objective 3. To protect local population, businesses, environment and infrastructure from the potentially disastrous consequences of natural and man-made crises, by joint preventative actions and emergency response services throughout the border area.											
Number of projects contributing to risk prevention in the cross-border area	Achievement	-	0	3	11						14
	Target 2015	10									
	Baseline	0	0	0	3	14					
Number of projects contributing to joint early warning and emergency response to risk	Achievement	-	0	3	13						16
	Target 2015	10									
	Baseline	0	0	0	3	16					
The extent to which the Danube is covered by joint flood prevention systems in the cross-border area (%)	Achievement	-	0	0	130.8						130.8
	Target 2015	70									
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	130.8					
The extent to which the eligible area is covered by joint risk prevention systems (%)	Achievement	-	0	0	335						335
	Target 2015	30									
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	335					
The extent to which Danube is covered by joint early warning emergency activities against flooding (%)	Achievement	-	0	0	135.58						135.58
	Target 2015	70									
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	135.58					
Number of partnerships created for early warning and emergency response activities	Achievement	-	0	14	20						34
	Target 2015	10									
	Baseline	0	0	0	14	34					

* Where M = million

The indicators within the above table are cumulated at the Programme level, using information from the projects selected for financing until 31st of December 2010

II. Contracted projects

Priority Axis 2 Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Priority Axis Objective 1. To ensure effective protection and use of the area's natural assets by coordinated joint management systems.											
Number of projects developing joint management systems for environmental protection	Achievement	-	0	0	4						4
	Target 2015	30									
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	4					
Number of joint management systems implemented	Achievement	-	0	0	4						4
	Target 2015	20									
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	4					
Priority Axis Objective 2. To increase the awareness on the environmental protection and management in the cross-border area											
Number of projects raising awareness on environmental protection and management	Achievement	-	0	0	10						10
	Target 2015	100									
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	10					
The extent to which the eligible area is covered by awareness raising campaigns (%)	Achievement	-	0	0	100**						100
	Target 2015	70									
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	100					
Number of people benefiting from awareness raising activities on environmental protection	Achievement	-	0	0	1.6 M						1.6M
	Target 2015	2.5 M									
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	1.6 M					
Priority Axis Objective 3. To protect local population, businesses, environment and infrastructure from the potentially disastrous consequences of natural and man-made crises, by joint preventative actions and emergency response services throughout the border area.											
Number of projects contributing to risk prevention in the cross-border area	Achievement	-	0	0	6						6
	Target 2015	10									
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	6					
Number of projects contributing to joint early warning and emergency response to risk	Achievement	-	0	0	6						6
	Target 2015	10									
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	6					
The extent to which the Danube is covered by joint flood prevention systems in the cross-border area (%)	Achievement	-	0	0	0						0
	Target 2015	70									
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	0					
The extent to which the eligible area is covered by joint risk prevention systems (%)	Achievement	-	0	0	67.5						67.5
	Target 2015	30									
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	67.5					
The extent to which Danube is covered by joint early warning emergency activities against flooding (%)	Achievement	-	0	0	26.04						26.04
	Target 2015	70									
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	26.04					
Number of partnerships created for early warning and	Achievement	-	0	15	0						15
	Target 2015	10									

emergency response activities	Baseline	0	0	0	15	15						
-------------------------------	----------	---	---	---	----	----	--	--	--	--	--	--

* Where M = million

** The entire area is covered by awareness raising campaigns (100%) and additional 10% of the eligible area is covered by more than one awareness raising campaign.

The indicators within the above table are cumulated at the Programme level, using information from the projects contracted until 31st of December 2010

B. Qualitative analysis

Second call for proposals - intermediary deadline 30th of April 2009

A number of 14 applications forms were submitted for the Priority Axis 2, as follows: 4 within KAI 1 - Development of joint management systems for environmental protection and 10 within KAI 2 - Development of joint infrastructure and services to prevent natural and man-made crises, including joint emergency response services, with a total eligible value of 30,067,390.03 Euro.

Lead partners submitting applications under the first call for proposals	RO		BG	
	No of projects	Total Eligible Value	No of projects	Total Eligible Value
KAI 2.1	1	256,730	3	2,396,946.20
KAI 2.2	1	15,008,462.83	3	12,405,251.00

The Assessment Working Group recommended 44 applications for funding and the JSC approved for selection 8 projects, as follows: 2 applications for KAI 1 with the total value of 1,475,327.36 Euro and 6 projects for KAI 2 with the total value of 19,571,219.29. The aggregate budget of the selected projects was within the budget allocated for the second call for proposals.

Lead partners selected applications under the second call for proposals, Intermediary deadline July 2009	RO		BG	
	No of projects	Total Eligible Value	No of projects	Total Eligible Value
KAI 2.1	0	0	2	1,475,327.36
KAI 2.2	4	13,158,672.76	2	6,412,546.53

By the end of 2010, out of the 8 applications selected from those submitted within the second call for proposal, intermediary deadline April 2009, 6 were contracted, as follows:

- 2 applications for KAI 2.1, with a total value of 1,472,477.36 Euro;
- 4 applications for KAI 2.2, with a total value of 13,032,942.02 Euro.

4) Second call for proposals - intermediary deadline 31st of July 2009

A number of 19 applications forms were submitted for the Priority Axis 2, as follows: 9 within KAI 1 - Development of joint management systems for environmental protection and 10 within KAI 2 - Development of joint infrastructure and services to prevent natural and man-made crises, including joint emergency response services, with a total eligible value of 34,682,940.74 Euro.

Lead partners submitting applications under the first call for proposals	RO		BG	
	No of projects	Total Eligible Value	No of projects	Total Eligible Value
KAI 2.1	8	6,239,431.45	1	885,209.15
KAI 2.2	10	27,558,319.90	0	0

The assessment of the projects submitted within the intermediary deadline July 2009 was finalised in 2010. The Assessment Working Group recommended 41 applications for funding and the JSC approved for selection 7 applications for KAI 1 with the total value of 5,053,774.49 Euro and 4 applications for KAI 2, with a total value of 16,608,250.61 Euro. The aggregate budget of the selected projects was within the budget allocated for the second call for proposals.

5) Second call for proposals - intermediary deadline 30th of October 2009

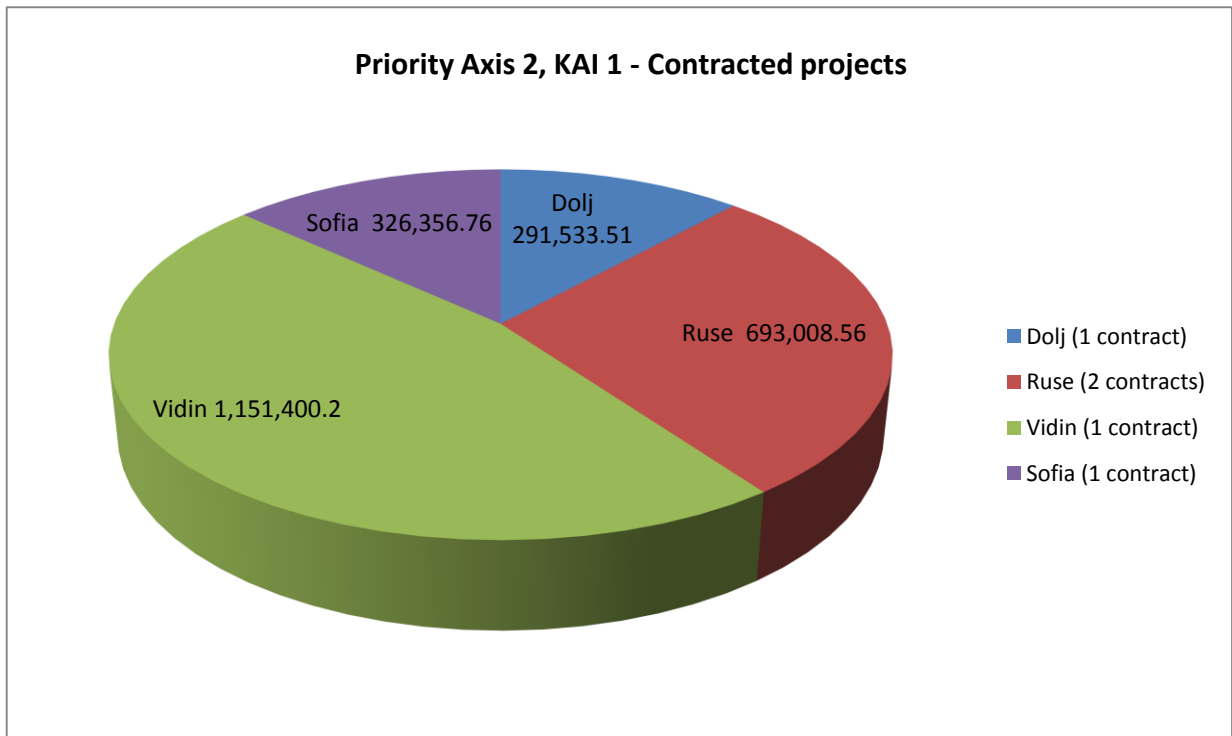
A number of 40 applications forms were submitted for the Priority axis 2, as follows: 23 within KAI 1 - Development of joint management systems for environmental protection and 17 within KAI 2 - Development of joint infrastructure and services to prevent natural and man-made crises, including joint emergency response services, with a total eligible value of 89,807,002.71 Euro.

Lead partners submitting applications under the first call for proposals	RO		BG	
	No of projects	Total Eligible Value	No of projects	Total Eligible Value
KAI 2.1	15	28,714,599.16	8	7,018,262.65
KAI 2.2	16	49,172,147.06	1	4,918,671.90

The evaluation report for Admissibility and Eligibility assessment of the applications submitted under the second call for proposal, intermediary deadline October 2009 will be submitted for the Managing Authority approval in January 2011. The technical and financial evaluation is foreseen to start in February 2011.

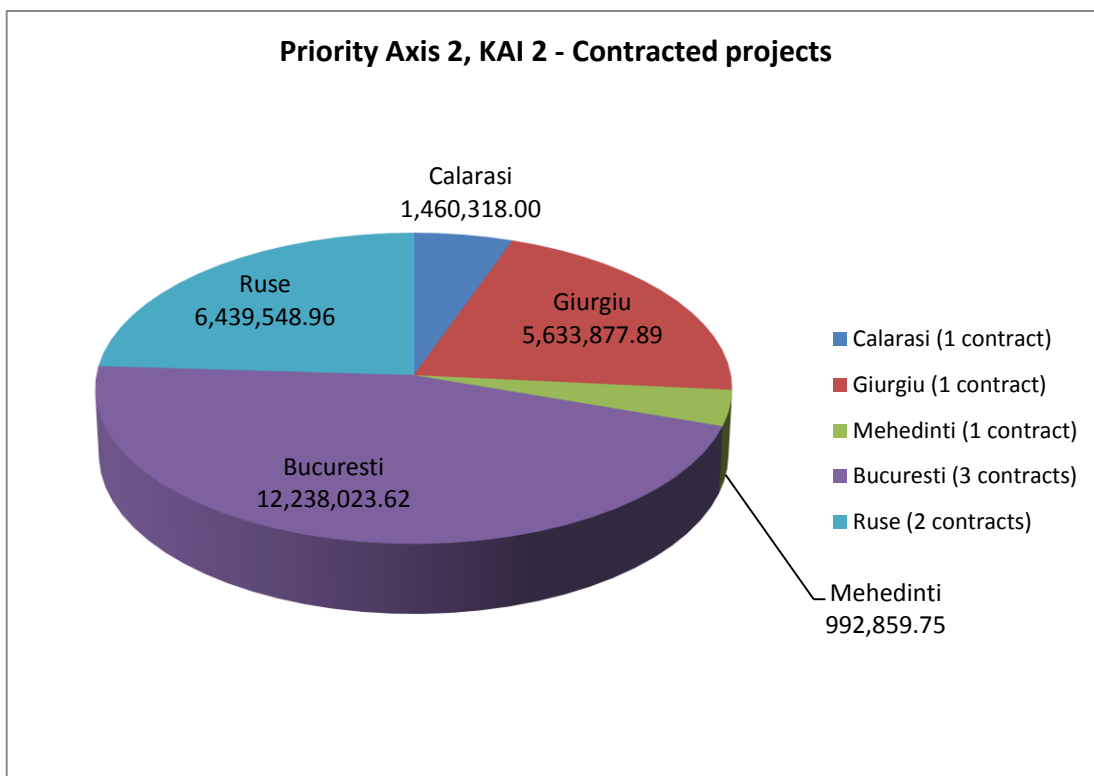
Contracted projects for Priority Axis 2

During 2010, for Priority Axis 2, KAI 1, 5 projects were contracted (1 with Romanian Lead Partner and 4 with Bulgarian Lead Partners) with a total value of 2,462,299.03 Euro, out of which 2,088,255.04 ERDF.



For Priority Axis 2, KAI 1, one reimbursement claim was paid, with a total amount of 1,192.48Euro, out of which 1,034 Euro ERDF.

During 2010, for Priority Axis 2, KAI 2, 8 projects were contracted (6 with Romanian Lead Partner and 2 with Bulgarian Lead Partner) with a total value of 26,764,628.22 Euro, out of which 22,701,757.65 ERDF.



For PA 2, for Romanian Partners it was paid pre-financing from national state contribution amounting 2,033,210.53 Euro (107,103.52 Euro KAI 1 and 1,926,107.01 Euro KAI 2) and for Bulgarian Partners was paid pre financing from national state contribution amounting 65,451.04 Euro (33,245.14 Euro KAI 1 and 32,205.90 Euro KAI 2).

3.2.2. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

No specific problems for this priority axis have been encountered during 2010. Nevertheless, the general problems and measures taken to overcome them, described within Section 2.3., are also encountered within this PA.

3.3. Priority Axis 3

Priority axis 3: Economic and Social Development - Economic development and social cohesion by joint identification and enhancement of the area's comparative advantages.

The focus of this priority axis is on reinforcing the economic and social connections in the border area in order to take advantage of its opportunities and strengths and to boost an economically competitive cross-border area, as a whole. It will encourage entrepreneurship, innovation and the growth of the knowledge economy in the Programme area; contribute to increasing the quality and level of services and attracting more people into employment. Also, by strengthening the social and cultural coherence among people and communities this priority axis will contribute to the development of the cooperative area and to the creation of a favourable image and regional identity, able to enhance the sustainable economic growth of the cross-border area.

Around 47.9 million Euro ERDF grant is available for this priority axis, matched by 8.6 million Euro national contributions.

3.3.1. Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress

A. Information on the physical progress of the priority

The indicators used to measure the progress of this priority are shown in the table below (and refer to projects selected by the JSC and contracted projects):

I. Selected projects:

Priority Axis 3 Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Priority Axis Objective 1. To develop cross-border business infrastructure and services											
Number of projects developing cross-border business infrastructure and services	Achievement	-	0	8	24						32
	Target 2015	10									
	Baseline	0	0	0	8	32					

Number of SMEs benefiting from business facilities	Achievement	-	0	3276	3198						6474
	Target 2015	500									
	Baseline	0	0	0	3276	6474					
Priority Axis Objective 2. To promote the image of the cross-border area inside and outside its boundaries											
Number of projects promoting the image of the cross-border area inside and outside its boundaries	Achievement	-	0	12	30						42
	Target 2015	10									
	Baseline	0	0	0	12	42					
Number of promotion materials/ events developed	Achievement	-	0	52	240						292
	Target 2015	30									
	Baseline	0	0	0	52	292					
Priority Axis Objective 3. To support development of joint integrated tourism products based on the comparative advantages of the cross-border area											
Number of projects supporting the development of integrated tourism products based on the comparative advantages of the cross-border area	Achievement	-	0	8	18						26
	Target 2015	10									
	Baseline	0	0	0	8	26					
Number of joint integrated tourism products created	Achievement	-	0	9	24						33
	Target 2015	10									
	Baseline	0	0	0	9	33					
Priority Axis Objective 4. To stimulate cross-border cooperation between universities, research institutes and businesses											
Number of projects stimulating cross-border cooperation between universities, research institutes and businesses	Achievement	-	0	9	23						32
	Target 2015	15									
	Baseline	0	0	0	9	32					
Number of partnerships between universities, research institutes and businesses	Achievement	-	0	6	47						53
	Target 2015	15									
	Baseline	0	0	0	6	53					
Priority Axis Objective 5. To support the cross-border sharing of information on employment opportunities											
Number of projects supporting cross-border sharing of information on employment opportunities	Achievement	-	0	0	6						6
	Target 2015	30									
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	6					
Number of people informed on employment opportunities	Achievement	-	0	0	193500						193500
	Target 2015	360.000									
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	19350					
Priority Axis Objective 6. To develop cross-border training services for employment, in connection with the integrated market needs											
Number of projects developing cross-border training services for employment in connection with the integrated market needs	Achievement	-	0	0	11						11
	Target 2015	17									
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	11					

Number of people graduating cross-border training courses	Achievement	-	0	120	1152						1272
	Target 2015	3.500									
	Baseline	0	0	0	120	1272					
Priority Axis Objective 7. To develop cross-border linkages and exchanges between education/training centres											
Number of projects developing cross-border linkages and exchanges between education/training centres	Achievement	-	0	0	17						17
	Target 2015	15									
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	17					
Number of partnerships created between education/ training centres	Achievement	-	0	2	136						138
	Target 2015	30									
	Baseline	0	0	0	2	138					
Priority Axis Objective 8. To strengthen social and cultural coherence and co-operation among local people and communities in the programme area											
Number of projects strengthening cultural coherence and cooperation among local people and communities in the local area	Achievement	-	0	11	22						33
	Target 2015	90									
	Baseline	0	0	0	11	33					
Number of people participating in people to people actions	Achievement	-	0	3370	19330						22700
	Target 2015	4.500									
	Baseline	0	0	0	3370	22700					

The indicators within the above table are cumulated at the Programme level, using information from the projects selected for financing until 31st of December 2010

II. Contracted projects:

Priority Axis 3 Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Priority Axis Objective 1. To develop cross-border business infrastructure and services											
Number of projects developing cross-border business infrastructure and services	Achievement	-	0	1	15						16
	Target 2015	10									
	Baseline	0	0	0	1	16					
Number of SMEs benefiting from business facilities	Achievement	-	0	500	3556						4056
	Target 2015	500									
	Baseline	0	0	0	500	4056					
Priority Axis Objective 2. To promote the image of the cross-border area inside and outside its boundaries											
Number of projects promoting the image of the cross-border area inside and outside its boundaries	Achievement	-	0	1	18						19
	Target 2015	10									
	Baseline	0	0	0	1	19					
Number of promotion materials/ events developed	Achievement	-	0	1	97						98
	Target 2015	30									

	Baseline	0	0	0	1	98						
Priority Axis Objective 3. To support development of joint integrated tourism products based on the comparative advantages of the cross-border area												
Number of projects supporting the development of integrated tourism products based on the comparative advantages of the cross-border area	Achievement	-	0	0	13							13
	Target 2015	10										
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	13						
Number of joint integrated tourism products created	Achievement	-	0	0	20							20
	Target 2015	10										
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	20						
Priority Axis Objective 4. To stimulate cross-border cooperation between universities, research institutes and businesses												
Number of projects stimulating cross-border cooperation between universities, research institutes and businesses	Achievement	-	0	0	12							12
	Target 2015	15										
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	12						
Number of partnerships between universities, research institutes and businesses	Achievement	-	0	0	9							9
	Target 2015	15										
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	9						
Priority Axis Objective 5. To support the cross-border sharing of information on employment opportunities												
Number of projects supporting cross-border sharing of information on employment opportunities	Achievement	-	0	0	0							0
	Target 2015	30										
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	0						
Number of people informed on employment opportunities	Achievement	-	0	0	193500							193500
	Target 2015	360.000										
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	19350						
Priority Axis Objective 6. To develop cross-border training services for employment, in connection with the integrated market needs												
Number of projects developing cross-border training services for employment in connection with the integrated market needs	Achievement	-	0	0	2							2
	Target 2015	17										
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	2						
Number of people graduating cross-border training courses	Achievement	-	0	0	380							380
	Target 2015	3.500										
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	380						
Priority Axis Objective 7. To develop cross-border linkages and exchanges between education/training centres												
Number of projects developing cross-border linkages and exchanges between education/training centres	Achievement	-	0	0	5							5
	Target 2015	15										
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	5						
Number of partnerships created between education/ training centres	Achievement	-	0	0	7							7
	Target 2015	30										

	Baseline	0	0	0	0	7					
Priority Axis Objective 8. To strengthen social and cultural coherence and co-operation among local people and communities in the programme area											
Number of projects strengthening cultural coherence and cooperation among local people and communities in the local area	Achievement	-	0	0	18						18
	Target 2015	90									
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	18					
Number of people participating in people to people actions	Achievement	-	0	0	8490						8490
	Target 2015	4.500									
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	8490					

The indicators within the above table are cumulated at the Programme level, using information from the projects contracted until 31st of December 2010

B. Qualitative analysis

1) Second call for proposals - intermediary deadline 30th of April 2009

A number of 46 applications forms were submitted within Priority Axis 3, as follows: 26 on the KAI 1 - Support for cross-border business cooperation and promotion of a regional image and identity, 2 on KAI 2 - Cooperation on human resources development - joint development of skills and knowledge and 18 on KAI 3 - People-to-people cooperation, with a total eligible value of 25,994,090.79 Euro.

17 projects were submitted by Romanian Lead Partners and 29 projects by Bulgarian Lead Partners, as shown below:

Lead partners submitting applications under the second call for proposals - Intermediary deadline April 2009	RO		BG	
	No of projects	Total Eligible Value	No of projects	Total Eligible Value
KAI 3.1	11	9,377,711.99	15	12,081,145.55
KAI 3.2	0	0	2	1,394,743.28
KAI 3.3	6	1,094,569.01	12	2, 045,920.96

During 2010, the evaluation of the projects submitted for the intermediary deadline July 2009 was finalised. The Assessment Working Group recommended 44 applications for funding and the JSC approved for selection 25 applications, according to the financial resources available, as follows:

- 17 applications for KAI 1 with the total value of 14,763,534.94 Euro;
- 2 applications for KAI 2 with the total value of 1,369,172.09 Euro;
- 6 applications for KAI 3 with the total value of 1,098,125.56 Euro.

The aggregate budget of the selected projects was within the budget allocated for the second call for proposals.

Lead partners selected applications under the second call for proposals, Intermediary deadline April 2009	RO		BG	
	No of projects	Total Eligible Value	No of projects	Total Eligible Value
KAI 3.1	8	6,960,195.96	9	7,803,338.98
KAI 3.2	0	0	2	1,369,172.09
KAI 3.3	2	368,146.41	4	729,979.15

During 2010, 16 projects were contracted as follows:

- 9 projects with a total value of 5,629,803.27 Euro for KAI 3.1;
- 1 project with a total value of 449,335.98 Euro for KAI 3.2;
- 6 project with a total value of 1,095,060.29 Euro for KAI 3.3.

2) Second call for proposals - intermediary deadline 31st of July 2009

For the intermediary deadline 31st of July 2009, a number of 37 application forms were submitted within Priority Axis 3, as follows:

- 19 within KAI 1 - Support for cross-border business cooperation and promotion of a regional image and identity,
- 4 within KAI 2 - Cooperation on human resources development - joint development of skills and knowledge,
- 15 within KAI 3 - People-to-people cooperation.

The total eligible value of the applications submitted is 24,131,589.52 Euro.

17 projects were submitted by Romanian Lead Partners and 29 projects by Bulgarian Lead Partners, as shown below:

Lead partners submitting applications under the first call for proposals	RO		BG	
	No of projects	Total Eligible Value	No of projects	Total Eligible Value
KAI 3.1	12	13,553,842.99	7	4,615,395.55
KAI 3.2	3	1,648,086.50	1	1,477,963.80
KAI 3.3	9	1,812,016.32	6	1,101,628.31

During 2010 the evaluation of the projects submitted for the intermediary deadline July 2009 was finalised. The Assessment Working Group recommended 41 applications for funding and the JSC approved for selection 24 applications, according to the financial resources available, as follows:

- 13 applications for KAI 1 with the total value of 12,948,523.57 Euro;

- 4 applications for KAI 2 with the total value of 3,037,603.75 Euro;
- 7 applications for KAI 3 with the total value of 1,483,896.21Euro.

Lead partners selected applications under the second call for proposals, Intermediary deadline April 2009	RO		BG	
	No of projects	Total Eligible Value	No of projects	Total Eligible Value
KAI 3.1	9	9,426,995.47	4	3,521,528.10
KAI 3.2	3	1,573,841.95	1	1,463,761.80
KAI 3.3	5	1,002,229.71	2	481,666.50

Out of these 24 applications, no financial allocation is available for 4 projects within KAI 3.1 and 1 project within KAI 3.3.

3) Second call for proposals - intermediary deadline 30th of October 2009

Under the second call for proposals - the intermediary deadline 30th of October 2009, a number of 82 applications forms were submitted within Priority axis 3, as follows:

- 35 within KAI 1 - Support for cross-border business cooperation and promotion of a regional image and identity,
- 13 within KAI 2 - Cooperation on human resources development - joint development of skills and knowledge,
- 34 within KAI 3 - People-to-people cooperation, with a total eligible value of 51,302,017.84 Euro.

51 projects were submitted by Romanian Lead Partners and 31 projects by Bulgarian Lead Partners, as shown below:

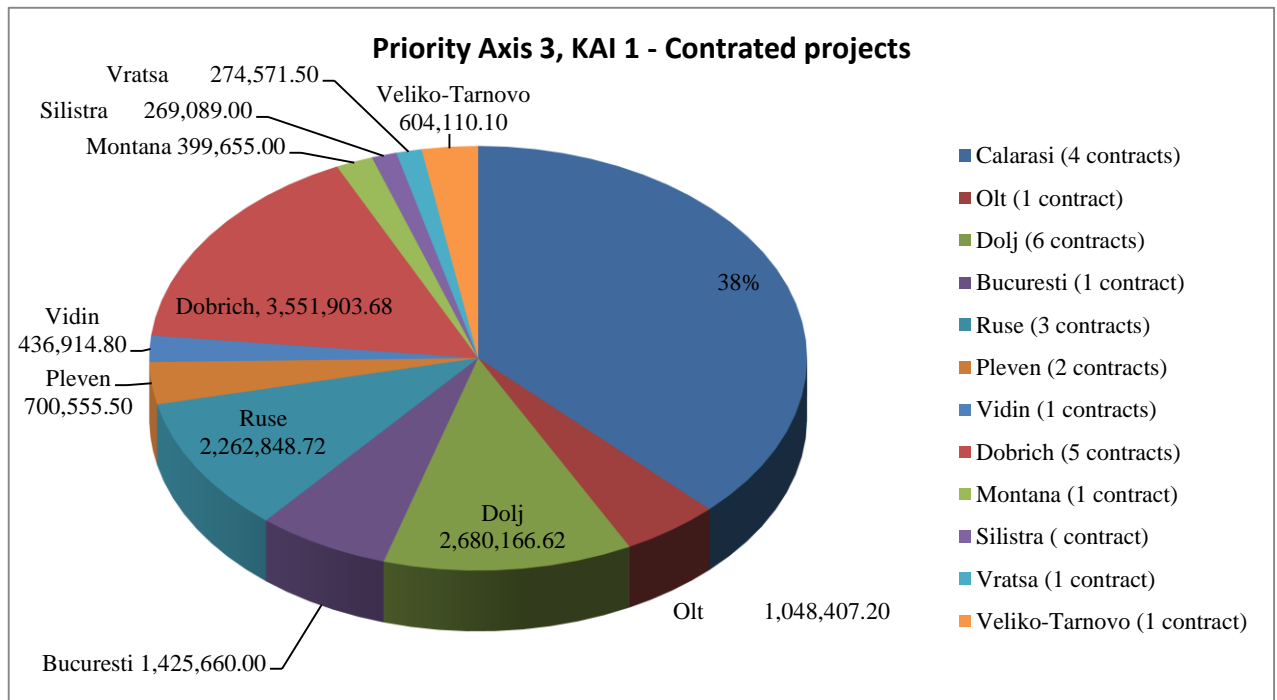
Lead partners submitting applications under the second call for proposals, intermediary deadline October 2009	RO		BG	
	No of projects	Total Eligible Value	No of projects	Total Eligible Value
KAI 3.1	23	24,266,791.81	12	11,000,729.84
KAI 3.2	8	6,068,572.28	6	3,170,088.62
KAI 3.3	21	3,801,542.40	14	2,710,755.72

The evaluation report for Admissibility and Eligibility assessment of the applications submitted under the second call for proposals, intermediary deadline October 2009 will be submitted for the Managing Authority approval during 2011. The technical and financial evaluation is foreseen to start in February 2011.

Contracted projects for Priority Axis

During 2010, for Priority Axis 3 - KAI 1, 26 projects were contracted (11 with Romanian Lead Partners and 15 with Bulgarian Lead Partners), with a total eligible value of 15,900,962.48 Euro, out of which 13,487,196.38 ERDF.

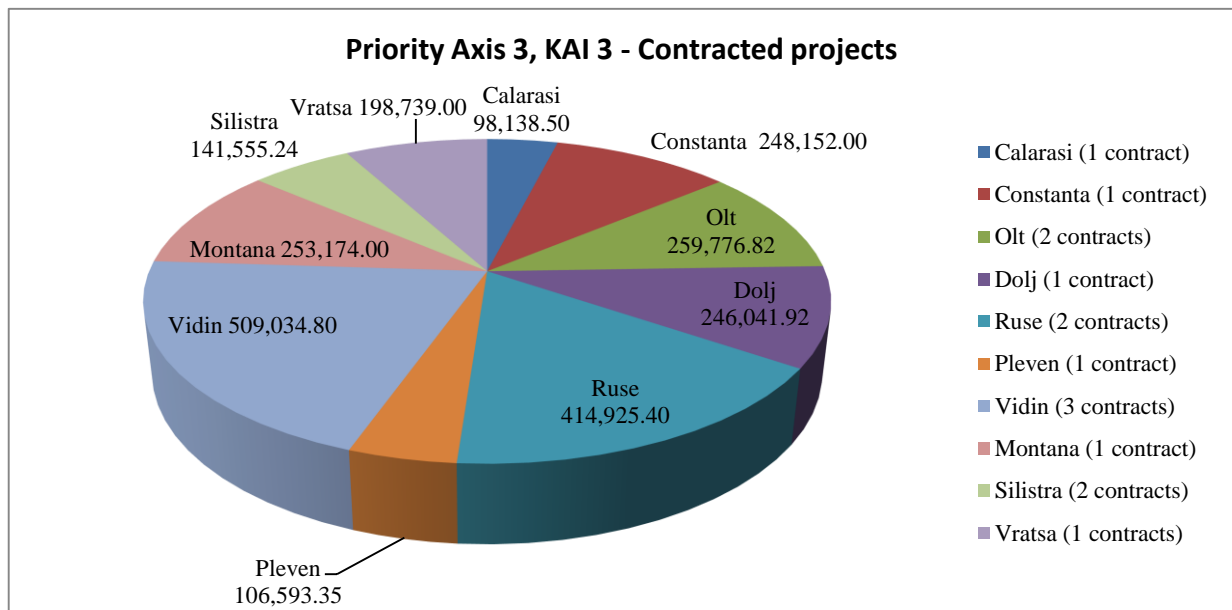
For Priority Axis 3, KAI 1, 3 reimbursement claims were paid with a total of 146,256.95 Euro - out of which 124,055.15 Euro ERDF.



For Priority Axis 3, KAI 2, 1 project was contracted, with a total value of 449,335.98 Euro, out of which 381,126.78 ERDF.

For Priority Axis 3 - KAI 3, 15 projects were contracted (5 with Romanian Lead Partners and 10 with Bulgarian Lead Partners) with a total value of 2,476,131.03Euro, out of which 2,100,254.36 ERDF.

For Priority Axis 3, KAI 3, one reimbursement claim was paid with a total of 5,860.42 Euro - out of which 4,970.81 Euro ERDF.



For PA 3 for Romanian Partners it was paid pre-financing from national state contribution amounting 804,185.67 Euro (716,968.81 Euro KAI 1 and 87,216.86 Euro KAI 3) and for Bulgarian Partners was paid pre-financing from national state contribution amounting 524,652.37 Euro (428,954.72 Euro KAI 1 and 95,697.65 Euro KAI 3).

3.3.2. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

No specific problems for this priority axis have been encountered during 2010. Nevertheless, the general problems and measures taken to overcome them, described within Section 2.3., are also encountered within this PA.

3.4. Priority Axis 4

3.4.1. Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress

A. Information on the physical progress of the priority

The indicators used to measure the progress of this priority, together with the progress achieved up to date, are shown in the table below:

Priority Axis 4 Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Functional Joint Technical Secretariat	Achievement	-	1	0	0						1
	Target 2015	1									
	Baseline	0	0	1	1	1					
Web page of the Programme	Achievement	-	1	0	0						1
	Target 2015	1									
	Baseline	0	0	1	1	1					
Number of officers	Achievement	-	8	11	13						32

acquiring competencies in programme management and successfully performing their duties in JTS and other Programme bodies	Target 2015	18									
	Baseline	0	0	8	19	32					
Number of planned programme evaluations	Achievement	0	0	0	0						0
	Target 2015	2									
	Baseline	0	0	0	0	0					
Number of Joint Monitoring Committee meetings held	Achievement	0	2	1	2						5
	Target 2015	14									
	Baseline	0	0	2	3	5					
Number of calls for projects finalized	Achievement	0	0	2	0						2
	Target 2015	12									
	Baseline	0	0	0	2	2					
Number of information and promotion events	Achievement	0	12	90	22						124
	Target 2015	110									
	Baseline	0	0	12	102	124					
Number of printed publications (types)	Achievement	0	3	6	2						11
	Target 2015	40									
	Baseline	0	0	3	9	11					

The indicators within the above table are cumulated at the Programme level, using information from the projects selected for financing until 31st of December 2010

B. Qualitative analysis

In 2010, JTS sent to MA the following reimbursement claims within the contract concluded for year 2010:

- For KAI 4.1 - 5 reimbursement claims with a total value of 643,645.09 Euro, out of which 4 reimbursement claims were paid in an amount of 360,294.05 Euro (ERDF funds) Euro. At the end of 2010, one reimbursement claim was under MA's verification according to its internal procedure.
- KAI 4.2 - 2 reimbursement claims with a total value of 3,873.26 Euro, out of which 2,506.78 euro have been paid.

Also, in the first part of year 2010, JTS sent to MA reimbursement claims, within the contract concluded for year 2009 in a total value of 644,394.52 euro, that have been paid entirely.

In 2010, MA submitted two reimbursement claims with a total value of 168,633.07 Euro that have been authorised and paid.

Detailed information regarding the implementation of this Priority Axis is presented in Chapter 6 - Technical Assistance and Chapter 7 - Information and Publicity.

3.4.2. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

No specific problems for this priority axis have been encountered during 2010. Nevertheless, the general problems and measures taken to overcome them, described within Section 2.3., are also encountered within this PA.

4. ESF Programmes: coherence and concentration

Not applicable.

5. ERDF/CF programmes: Major Projects

Not applicable - no major projects will be financed under this Programme.

6. Technical Assistance

The Technical Assistance (TA) under this Programme finances activities directly related to the Programme management. Technical assistance is invested in the overall management and promotion of the Programme, rising awareness, pro-active project generation and interactive development, according to the two key areas of intervention established within Romania-Bulgaria CBC Programme, namely:

KAI 4.1 - Support for the implementation and overall management of the Programme;

KAI 4.2 - Support for the communication and information of the Programme.

Detailed information about the activities that can be financed from the Technical Assistance, as well as estimations of annual allocations of funds are included in the consolidated Multiannual Technical Assistance Strategy (TAS), drafted by the MA and approved by the Joint Monitoring Committee in 2008 (revised in 2010).

As a general remark, the technical assistance financial support was used for implementing measures needed for mitigating the effects of the problems identified at beneficiary/Programme management structures. During 2010, in the documents submitted by the beneficiaries of the Programme to the JTS headquarters, was remarked that not all of them were drafted properly (e.g. reimbursement claims, progress reports, promotional materials, addenda, etc.) and this issue may affect the activities performance and achievements of the set results. In this regard, all the events organised by the Joint Technical Secretariat in 2010 were focused not only on specific issues (progress reports, reimbursement claims, etc.), but also in disseminating good practices identified at different beneficiaries level. Lists of most common mistakes regarding the project implementation and reporting were drafted and presented to the beneficiaries. Case studies were also discussed with the beneficiaries within the technical meetings and workshops organized during 2010, in order to identify good practices.

6.1. Technical Assistance Annual Strategy for 2010 (TAAS)

According to the Programme internal procedures, each year MA details the information included into the Multiannual Strategy in an Annual Technical Assistance Strategy, using the contributions of all the TA beneficiaries. Thus, for 2010, the Technical Assistance Annual Strategy (TAAS) was approved by the JMC through Decision no. 37 / 25.03.2010, with a total budget of 2,811,918 EURO.

Following that, two global financing decisions for the Managing Authority's activities financed from the Programme Technical Assistance were approved and signed on 29th March 2010 and a financing contract for JTS and First Level Control Unit for Romanian partners related activities was signed on 4th of June 2010.

6.2. Beneficiaries of the Technical Assistance priority axis are:

- Joint Technical Secretariat
- Audit Authority
- National Authority
- Info Point
- Managing Authority

6.3. Technical assistance contracting and payments

Total budget allocated for TA Priority Axis 2007-2013	2009-2010 total budget approved by JMC	Total payments made in 2010 from 2009-2010 TA total budget	% from the total allocated 2009-2010, by JMC, paid in 2010
20,193,543.59	5,245,507.50	915,781.43	17.46

The total budget allocated for the Priority Axis 4 - Technical Assistance was 20,193,543.59 euro. During 2010, the total payments made by the Programme structures, as TA beneficiaries, from the budget allocated was 915,781.43 Euro, this amount representing 17.46% from the total budget allocated for the period 2007-2013.

6.4 Technical Assistance (Managing Authority)

Payments incurred for the implementation of the Technical Assistance by MA, as TA beneficiary, during 2010

The funds allocated for the TA activities were used by the MA for the following activities:

1. **Technical support for MA administrative capacity:** within this type of actions the MA carried out activities regarding the purchase of equipment and stationeries needed for the smooth performing of the daily activities for the Programme's management.
2. **Contracting external assessors for the evaluation process:** external assessors were contracted by the MA in order to improve the assessment process of the applications submitted under the calls for proposals launched within the Programme. Their task was to perform the evaluation activities (admissibility and eligibility, and technical and financial evaluation) within the Assessment Working Groups established at JTS level. This was a measure intended to reduce delays in the evaluation process, as mentioned in the 2009 AIR as well as to reduce the workload of the JTS staff, which instead could better focus on the other tasks regarding Programme/projects implementation. The effects of this activity were reflected on shortening the time period of the assessment process, as it was mentioned within the previous sections of the 2010 AIR.
3. **On-going evaluation of the Programme** (detailed information regarding this issue is included in Section Monitoring and Evaluation). The results of this evaluation will be used by relevant bodies involved in the Programme management in order to take the proper measures for increasing the quality of the Programme's implementation and/or adjust the Programme to the new context and findings, if necessary.
4. **Contracting services for ensuring the MIS-ETC maintenance** - the procedure for purchasing maintenance services for MIS-ETC system was initiated by MA during 2010, the contract signing being scheduled for early 2011. This contract will support MA in its process of refining the MIS-ETC system and eliminating those errors that were identified in the early stages of uploading data process. The effects of this measure are foreseen to have a positive impact during 2011, as the contract is implemented.
5. **Promotion and Publicity activities:** detailed information is included in Section Information and Publicity section 7.1 Information and Promotion events (Managing Authority).

The amounts allocated through the 2010 TAAS for the MA, together with the payments made during 2010 by the MA (as TA beneficiary) for the implementation of the Technical Assistance priority axis are presented in the table below:

2009 Budget approved through TAAS by JMC (ERDF 64,72% + National co-financing 35,28%) (Euro) for MA	2010 Budget approved through TAAS by JMC (ERDF 64,72% + National co-financing 35,28%) (Euro) for MA	Payments made in 2010 by MA for TA (Euro) from 2009-2010 budget	Percentage usage of the funds allocated for 2009-2010 (MA) during 2010
559,141	391,028	38,509.30	4.05

The usage of funds allocated for 2010 is mainly justified by difficulties encountered by the Programme during 2010, especially activities postponed due to the overall economic crisis, context that led to different financial cuts and savings in all sectors of the economy (for example reducing the communication activities only to what is absolutely mandatory by law).

Also, the Romanian legal framework for public procurement (GO no 34/2006) stipulating long implementation periods for some of the public procurement procedures and not being very detailed regarding some other special types of procurements, made the procurement process longer and more difficult. This was reflected for example in the delays encountered within the procurement/contracting process for MIS-ETC maintenance and some equipment. Thus, these services were contracted only at the end of 2010, therefore the payments concerning these contracts, although being part of 2010 approved TA budget, are foreseen to be made in 2011.

6.5 Technical Assistance (National Authority)

Payments incurred for the implementation of the Technical Assistance by NA during 2010

The funds available for the implementation of the Technical Assistance priority axis were used in activities organized under the Key Area 4.1 - Support for the implementation and overall management of the Programme.

The amounts allocated through the TAAS 2010 for the NA and IP, together with the payments made during 2010 by the NA (as TA beneficiary) for the implementation of the Technical Assistance priority axis are presented in the table below:

Key Area of Intervention (Including reserve)	2010 Budget approved through TAAS by JMC (ERDF 64,72% + National co-financing 35,28%) (Euro)			Payments made in 2010 by the National Authority for TA (Euro)			Percentage usage of the funds allocated for 2010
	NA	IP	TOTAL	Payments made in 2010 by the NA	Payments made in 2010 by the National Authority for the IP	TOTAL Payments made in 2010 by the National Authority for TA	
KAI 4.1 - Support for the implementation and overall management of the Programme	299,940	93,164	393,104	13,306	104,106	117,412	29.87 %
KAI 4.2 - Support for the communication and information of the Programme	15,000	0,00	15,000	0,00	0,00	0,00	0.00 %
Total	314,940	93,164	408,104	13,306	104,106	117,412	28.77 %

6.6 Technical Assistance (Joint Technical Secretariat)

Payments incurred for the implementation of the Technical Assistance by JTS during 2010

The amounts allocated through the 2009 TAAS and 2010 TAAS for the JTS, together with the payments made during 2010 by the JTS (as TA beneficiary) for the implementation of the Technical Assistance priority axis are presented in the table below:

2009 Budget approved through TAAS by JMC (ERDF 64,72% + National co-financing 35,28%) (Euro) for JTS	2010 Budget approved through TAAS by JMC (ERDF 64,72% + National co-financing 35,28%) (Euro) for JTS	Payments made in 2010 by JTS for TA (Euro) from 2009-2010 budget	Percentage usage of the funds allocated for 2009-2010 (JTS)
1,297,929.00	1,920,606.00	897,354.85	27.88

The funds available for the implementation of the Technical Assistance priority axis were used by the Joint Technical Secretariat in activities organized under the two Key Areas of Intervention for the management and promotion of the Programme:

- activities to ensure the functioning of the Programme (procurement of goods and services),
- organising trainings for JTS members,
- providing secretariat services for joint management structures of the programme (JMC and JSC),
- activities in connection with the selection, evaluation and support of projects (workshops with lead partners/partners, technical meetings);
- support for the information and publicity activities of the Programme (promotional materials, Annual Conference, Conference with European information multipliers, information session for minorities, Project Café meetings, Formal and informal meetings with the decision factors, Open Day -9 of May, monitoring of the programme's presence in mass-media, maintenance and promotion of a Programme's website, services for the implementation of the interactive cross-border region map on the Programme's website).

6.7 Other technical assistance available for the Programme

During 2010, the Programme also benefited of support from projects financed from other financial sources than the technical assistance of the programme, or the Ministry own budget, namely:

INTERACT Programme

The INTERACT Programme promotes and supports good governance of European Territorial Cooperation programmes. The Programme targets the institutions and bodies responsible for the management and delivery of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes. Therefore the Programme organized during 2010 trainings and provided practical support to the Managing Authority, National Authority, Joint Technical Secretariat and beneficiaries, when it was necessary.

7. Information and Publicity

The evaluation of the Information and Publicity activities for period 2007-2010¹

In compliance with the provisions in force, the Managing Authority and National Authority had drafted the Multiannual Communication Plan for the Romania-Bulgaria Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013, approved by the JMC Decision no. 2/15.04.2008. The plan is channelled on two main inter-related directions: awareness-

¹ According to the Reg. 1828/2006 - Article 4 Implementation and monitoring of the communication plan, paragraph 2 *"The annual implementation report for the year 2010 and the final implementation report shall contain a chapter assessing the results of the information and publicity measures in terms of visibility and awareness of operational programmes and of the role played by the Community, as provided for in Article 2(2)(e)."*

raising and absorption capacity. Therefore, the purpose of the Communication Plan can be defined as follows:

- To highlight the role of the Community and to ensure that assistance from the Funds is transparent by proactively disseminating information and providing platforms that stimulate exchanges of experience in order to raise the awareness with the general public;
- To create the premises for a high absorption capacity in Romania and Bulgaria of the Structural Funds available through ERDF.

In order to achieve its purpose, the Multiannual Plan sets out the following general objectives:

- To support the successful implementation of the programme by ensuring effective communication system (measures, channels, targeted messages to all identified targets);
- To increase public awareness of the RO-BG OP's existence, aims, priorities, financial support provided, estimated economic and social impact;
- To increase the knowledge of the potential beneficiaries of the Romania-Bulgaria OP implementation framework/arrangements, eligibility criteria and selection mechanism for applications submitted for financing
- To ensure transparency for the target groups of the programme, in order to raise the level of interest in Funds for a better absorption in the eligible areas;
- To increase the level of trust of the general public in the institutions managing the RO-BG OP;
- To increase the visibility of the RO-BG OP and of the MA and JTS, at national and regional level, with the implementation of the OP;
- To promote the social and economic impact of this assistance to the general public.

In order to achieve the objectives established, and to reach the indicators target values, the Programme's management structures develop each year an Annual Communication Plan, which details the information and publicity activities that are going to be carried out during the year in question.

Until 31st of December 2010, the Multiannual Communication Plan for Romania-Bulgaria Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013 remained unchanged.

According to the Multiannual Communication Plan, each year the Annual Plan is evaluated in order to establish the efficiency of the activities developed. Thus, the 2008 and 2009 Annual Plans were subject to qualitative and quantitative evaluations. Based on the results of these evaluations, the next information and publicity activities

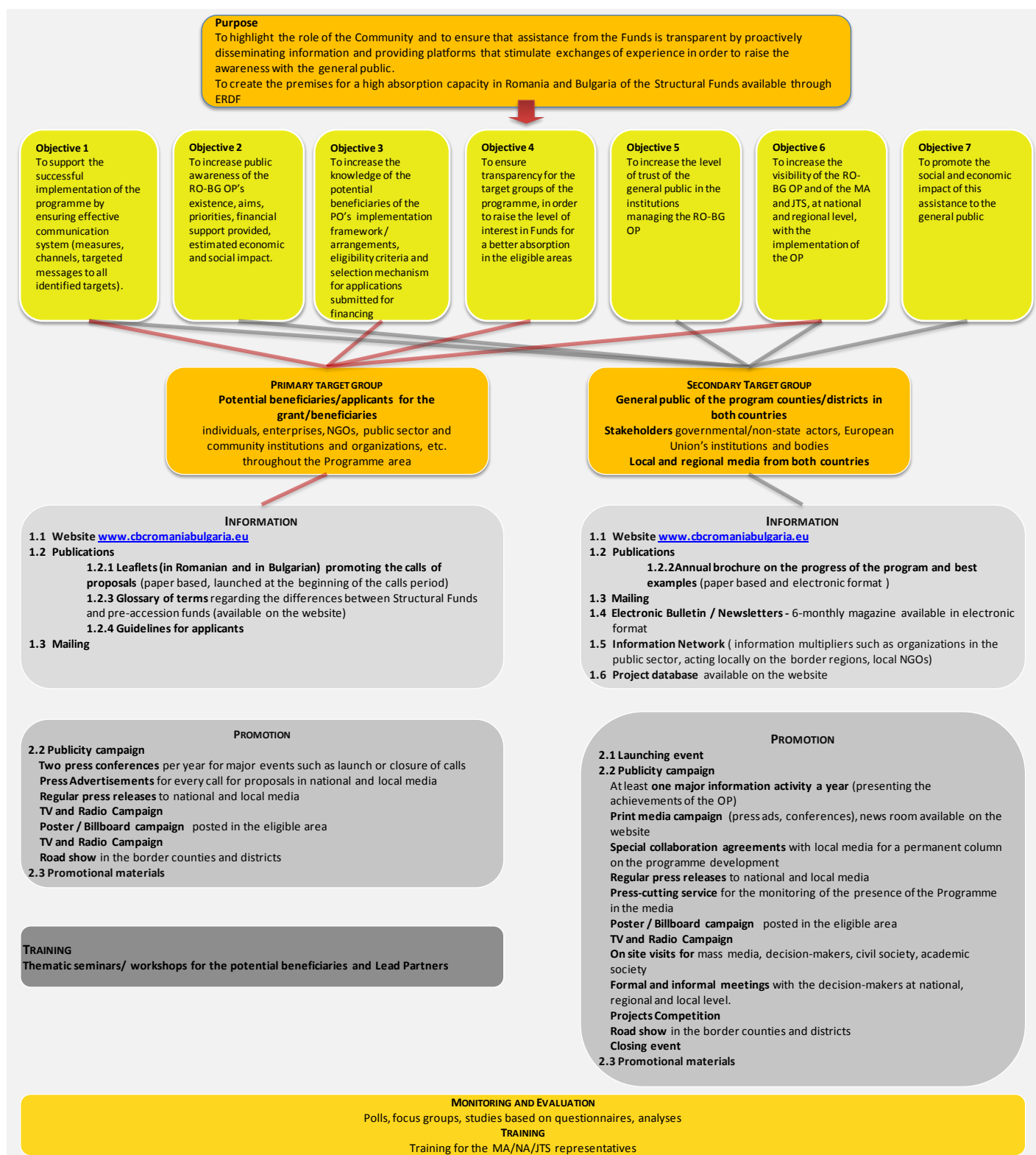
were planned and developed. The evaluation of 2010 Annual Plan is foreseen to take place in the first half of 2011.

Also, in 2010, the Multiannual Communication Plan for Romania-Bulgaria Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013 was included in the Interim Evaluation of the Programme. The results of this evaluation are described below.

Regarding the future monitoring and evaluation activities of the Communication Plan, each year these activities will be carried out by the Programme's management structure. The results will be used for drafting the future Annual Communication Plans.

Detailed information regarding the Multiannual Communication Plan is presented in the picture below:²

² Interim Evaluation of the Romania-Bulgaria Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013, prepared by Ernst&Young SRL - GEA Strategy and Consulting, June 2011



Based on the evaluation carried out within the Programme Interim Evaluation, the following general conclusions regarding the Information and Publicity activities carried out by the Programme's structures by 2010 were drafted³:

- The Communication Plan is clearly structured and coherent to the set objectives,
- The overall objective of the Plan was to create the premises for a high absorption of funds, ensure transparency of operations and promote the role of the Community. The plan identifies three broad categories of measures: information, publicity and training activities, to attain the set objectives.
- Actions included in the plan are coherent and cover in a balanced manner the two target groups 1) potential beneficiaries/applicants and 2) general public and stakeholders.
- Activities are on track and well appreciated by beneficiaries. Most of the activities carried out have targeted in a balanced manner the promotion of the Programme and Calls for proposals on both sides of the border.
- Consistently to the implementation phase of the Programme, the communication activities have focused on the promotion of available financial resources in order to bring to maturity the existing demand and thus to create the premises for contracting of funds.
- The physical and financial progress of the Plan, indicate high efficiency of the activities leading to potential spending economies.

According to the Multiannual Communication Plan, the following indicators and target values have been established:

Type of indicator	Indicator	Finding method	Initial value 2007	Intermediate target value (2010)	Value 31 Dec. 2010	Target value (2015)
Output	Number of organized events	Sum of own data	0	60	127	110
Output	Number of publication edited	Sum of own data	0	15	11	40
Output	Number of press releases, interviews, advertisements in all kind of mass-media	Sum of own data, media monitoring	0	30	60	80
Result	Number of participants in the Projects Competition	Registration list	0	0	0*	50

³ Idem.

Result	Website traffic on programme Internet page www.cbcrromaniabulgaria.eu (visits and visitors)	Sum of own data	0	200.000	95.402	500.000
Result	Number of participants/visitors in the events	Attendance lists	0	2500	5416	5000
Result	Number of users registered to receive the electronic newsletter	Sum of own data (electronic registration)	0	200	206	450
Result	Number of distributed publications (copies)	Sum of own data (electronic registration)	0	8000	13620	13000
Impact	General awareness degree regarding the existence of the RO-BG OP	Studies, researches	0%	10%	**	30%
Impact	Number of successfully implemented projects	Monitoring reports	0	50	0***	380
Impact	Number of applicants for funding (partners and lead partners)	Monitoring reports	0	100	392 (Lead partners)	500
Impact	% knowledge on EU tasks, OP, MA (JTS), single measures and calls	Survey on public opinion	0	25	**	50

*No project competitions have been organized due to the fact that the project implementation started in 2010

**The exact figure will be provided by the results of the evaluation of the communication plan for 2010, which is taking place in 2011

*** Regarding the number of successfully implemented projects, during 2010, no project has been finalized.

According to the evaluation of the Information and Publicity activities, there were identified the following conclusions⁴:

- The set of indicators included in the Plan, contains impact, result and output indicators for which clear targets have been set and information sources have been identified.
- The indicators used are SMART and generally cover the measures identified within the plan.
- The output indicator “number of organized events” (and correspondingly the result indicator “number of participants in the organized events”) shows an

⁴ Idem

outstanding progress, already close to reaching the final target for 2015, revealing the intensive efforts of the Program stakeholders for the promotion of the Programme.

- Besides the kick-off events and the annual conferences for the presentation of the Programme progress, a significant number of events (seminars, workshops, info days) have been organized in order to publicize the Programme and the calls for proposals in several cities on both sides of the border, targeting potential beneficiaries, regional and local stakeholders, media and information multipliers, which have resulted in a strong response from the territory and in the perspective commitment of all the financial allocations.
- The targets regarding number of press releases, interviews, advertisements in all kind of mass-media have already been achieved if taking into account even only the press releases issued by representatives of media in Romania and Bulgaria participating in the information events.

In addition, the significant number of releases and advertisements issued within the Media Campaign organized in 2008 should be considered as supplementary efforts towards the information objective.

- Regarding number of publications edited, aside the information materials available on the Programme website, also the Communication Guidelines and Visual Identity Manual are available, creating thus the premises for ensuring transparency of the financed interventions by the project beneficiaries.

Although in appearance the quantitative target for 2010 was not met, the comparison between the actual publications released and the planned (as per the CP) all foreseen publications are available, therefore a revision of the indicator should be considered.

- One of the core elements of the information measures is the Programme website administered by the JTS. The website was launched in the first year of implementation and contains information regarding the Programme, the structures involved in its management and implementation, relevant implementation documents, information about the calls for proposals, news and others information available in three languages (Romanian, Bulgarian and English) and the list of beneficiaries.
- Communication activities have focused on the promotion of available financial resources in order to bring to maturity the existing demand and thus to create the premises for contracting of funds, a fact confirmed by the actual number of applications for funding received (impact indicator).
- In respect of the declared purpose of the CP regarding the creation of premises for a high absorption capacity, it is notable that during 2009, the first initiatives in support of beneficiaries (Lead Partners), took place. Therefore, during 2009-

2010, 13 seminars have been organized for the presentation of the implementation requirements as set out in the Project Implementation Manual.

Also, information regarding the results of the information and publicity measures in terms of visibility and awareness of the RO-BG Programme were included in the INTERACT Vienna Pilot Study conducted for ETC Programmes.

INTERACT Vienna conducted a study for Objective 3: Territorial Development, which analysed the implementation process of the cross-border programmes, for 2007-2010 period, at beneficiaries level. Among the programmes analysed within this study was included also the Romania-Bulgaria Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013. The study analysed the programme according to the following criteria: the quality of the support and the constancy given to the beneficiaries, the transparency of the selection and evaluation process, communication and information activities.

The results of the study revealed the following aspects regarding RO-BG Programme:

1. From all the programmes that were subject to the study, Romania-Bulgaria Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013 received the highest score for the quality of consultancy and support given to beneficiaries by the MA/JTS/NA.
2. RO-BG Programme is the most transparent programme of all programmes that were subject to the study. RO-BG Programme beneficiaries considered the selection process being transparent due to the MA/JTS/NA communication activities.

The Programme's good image is the results of the all the activities, including communication and information activities, developed by the MA/JTS/NA during 2007-2010 periods, according to the Communication Plan for Romania-Bulgaria Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013.

Overall information for 2010 Information and Publicity activities

The Communication Plan for Romania-Bulgaria Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013 is detailed each year in an Annual Communication Plan, which is included as an annex in the Technical Assistance Annual Strategy. For 2010, the Annual Communication Plan was approved by the JMC at the end of March 2010, with a total budget of 241,270 EURO.

Based on the findings of the independent evaluation of the 2009 Communication Plan, carried out through an externalized service, the 2010 Plan indicates the main activities that must be developed by the Programme's structures in order to fulfil the objectives of the Communication Plan and reach the indicators' targets.

Thus, for 2010, the following activities were carried out by the Programme's structures:

1. Managing Authority

2. Joint Technical Secretariat and Info Point
3. National Authority

The information and publicity activities were directed to beneficiaries of the Ro-Bg Programme, in order to ensure proper and updated information's about the implementation mechanism of the projects selected by the Joint Steering Committee of the RO-BG Programme. The secondary target group was the general public as indirect beneficiary who was informed about the existence of the Programme, its goals and expected results as a whole. Information about the Programme and the projects results was also provided to institutions involved in policy-making in fields related to priorities of the programme, stakeholders and information relayers.

7.1 Information and Promotion events (Managing Authority)

Seminars with Romanian mass-media representatives regarding Romania-Bulgaria Cross Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013

Date & Location: towns form the eligible area of RO-BG Programme

Target groups: Local media representatives from the Romanian eligible area of the Programme.

Financing source: Programme Technical Assistance (MA TA beneficiary).

Short description: The seminars had an interactive character, presenting the progress of the Programme and giving the participants the opportunity to address questions. Representatives of beneficiaries have also attended the events, and gave presentations and answered questions.

About **35 participants** (out of which 24 women and 11 men) attended the meetings 17 participants -Calarasi, 18 participants -Slatina and at least **17 articles (2 Calarasi, 15 Slatina)** were published in the local and central media after the events.

The conclusions of the seminars showed that the media representatives that were present at the event are interested in the Programme and are aware of their role in promoting financing opportunities. Suggestions were also addressed to the Programme authorities, namely: organising meetings with representatives of mass media for promoting the Programme's results, giving media the opportunity to know better the projects selected/implemented (activities, potential impact on the area, on-the-spot visits), organising more specific trainings for the media representatives and using a less technical language in relation to media representatives.

7.2 Information and Promotion events (Joint Technical Secretariat)

Six technical meetings organized by the Joint Technical Secretariat for the beneficiaries of the Romania-Bulgaria Cross Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013

Date & Location: towns form the eligible area of RO-BG Programme (See Annex 4)

Target groups: The lead partners/partners whose projects were approved for funding in the framework of Romania-Bulgaria Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013.

Financing source: Technical Assistance of RO-BG Programme (JTS TA beneficiary).

Short description: The technical meetings were addressed to the lead partners/partners whose projects were approved for funding from the first call and the strategic call. The role of these meetings was to present to the lead partners/partners the main area of interest for the implementation of the projects: modification of the financing contracts (e.g. civil contracts, changes in the project team, changes in the projects budget, etc.).

About 219 participants attended the events.

For workshops organized by the Joint Technical Secretariat for the lead partners/partners whose project were approved for funding in the framework of Romania-Bulgaria Cross Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013

Date & Location: towns form the eligible area of RO-BG Programme (See Annex 4)

Target groups: The lead partners/partners whose projects were approved for funding in the framework of Romania-Bulgaria Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013.

Financing source: Technical Assistance of RO-BG Programme (JTS TA beneficiary).

Short description: The workshops were addressed to the lead partners/partners whose projects were approved for funding from the first call and the strategic call. The role of these workshops was to present to the lead partners/partners the main area of interest for the implementation of the projects that were included in the Project Implementation Manual: general aspects regarding the management and control system of the Programme; partnership and Joint Steering Committee of the project; contracting and addendum of the contract; information and promotion; eligible expenditures; technical and financial management; monitoring visits of the projects implementation status and audit; irregularities.

About 323 participants attended all workshops.

Two conferences with European multipliers of information organized by the Joint Technical Secretariat

Date & Location: towns form the eligible area of RO-BG Programme (See Annex 4)

Target groups: organizations in the public sector (acting locally in the border region) and local NGOs.

Financing source: Technical Assistance of RO-BG Programme (JTS TA beneficiary).

Short description: In these two events JTS has built a partnerships network for the communication activities of the programme with organizations in the public sector (acting locally in the border region) and local NGOs. This network was built locally/regionally and operates as a group of information multipliers for all activities of the Programme.

About **96 participants** attended these conferences.

Four Project café organised in the framework of Romania-Bulgaria Cross Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013

Date & Location: towns form the eligible area of RO-BG Programme (See Annex 4)

Target groups: The lead partners/partners whose projects were approved for funding in the framework of Romania-Bulgaria Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013.

Financing source: Technical Assistance of RO-BG Programme (JTS TA beneficiary).

Short description: A number of 4 meetings took place with the participation of the representatives of the lead partners/partners whose projects were approved for funding on specific themes: public procurement (recommendations and practical examples related to the contract award public procedures according to the Bulgarian Public Procurement Law/Decree of the Council of Ministers No.55/12.03.2007 and according to the Romanian Public Procurement Government Emergency Ordinance 34/2006), progress reports, eligible expenditures, reimbursement claim and other themes important for the implementation of the projects.

About **280 participants** attended all meetings.

Three formal and informal meetings organised in the framework of Romania-Bulgaria Cross Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013

Date & Location: towns form the eligible area of RO-BG Programme (See Annex 4)

Target groups: Decision-makers at national, regional and local level.

Financing source: Technical Assistance of RO-BG Programme (JTS TA beneficiary).

Short description: Formal and informal meetings were organized with the decision-makers at national, regional and local level. The aim of these meetings was to promote the programme information among the potential beneficiaries in order to help them understand the programme. These meetings took place observing the target groups (representatives of the Programme and representatives of the NGOs from the eligible area, representatives of the educational system, national institute etc.).

About **132 participants** attended all formal and informal meetings.

One information session for minorities organized by the Joint Technical Secretariat

Date & Location: towns form the eligible area of RO-BG Programme (See Annex 4)

Target groups: representatives of organizations and associations of the minorities in the eligible area of the Programme (Roma people, women, disabled people and other categories of minorities).

Financing source: Technical Assistance of RO-BG Programme (JTS TA beneficiary).

Short description: The information session was organised in order to promote the Programme and to present the results achieved on this area with the representatives of organizations and associations of the minorities in the eligible area of the Programme (Roma people, women, disabled people and other categories of minorities).

About **44 participants** attended the information session.

Open Day - May 9th organized by the Joint Technical Secretariat

Date & Location: towns from the eligible area of RO-BG Programme (See Annex 4)

Target groups: Potential applicants of the Programme and the lead partners/partners whose projects were approved for funding in the framework of Romania-Bulgaria Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013.

Financing source: Technical Assistance of the Programme RO-BG (JTS TA beneficiary).

Short description: On Europe's day, May 9th, 2010, the JTS has organized an event at its premises with potential applicants of the Programme. JTS prepared and disseminated information materials about the programme and answered the guests' questions. Also on 10.05.2010 in Calarasi was organized a seminar "exchange of best practice" type. During the seminar, winning applicants were invited to speak about their positive experience when applying under the Programme and their experience on projects implementation.

About **90 participants** attended the information session.

Annual conference for Romania-Bulgaria Cross Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013

Date & Location: towns from the eligible area of RO-BG Programme (See Annex 4)

Target groups: Mass-media representatives, potential beneficiaries and beneficiaries from the entire eligible area of the Programme.

Financing source: Technical Assistance of RO-BG Programme (JTS TA beneficiary)

Short description: The progress in Programme implementation was presented to the participants by MA, NA and JTS representatives. Representatives of the European Commission, Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism, Ernst&Young and of the Programme's beneficiaries also had short interventions. A session of questions and answers followed the presentations - all participants were given the possibility to address questions related to the Programme.

About **67 participants** representing both Romanian and Bulgarian applicants, beneficiaries, stakeholders and media attended the meeting.

More than **10 articles** were published in the central, local and on-line media after the event.

Please find below the distributions of the events (number and number of participants) organized by JTS in the eligible area of the Programme:

County	Constanța	Calarasi	Giurgiu	Olt	Teleorman	Dolj	Mehedinti	Bucuresti
Number of the events	3	3	0	1	1	3	1	1
Participants number	184	205	0	29	44	175	30	67

Districts	Dobrich	Silistra	Ruse	Razgrad	Pleven	Veliko Tarnovo	Montana	Vratsa	Vidin
Events Number	1	1	2	1	1	2	0	1	0
Participants number	39	79	115	37	43	168	0	36	0

7.3. Information materials

Information materials (MA)

In order to help the Programme's potential applicants and beneficiaries, the Managing Authority published 2 **brochures**, namely *"How to implement a project within Romania-Bulgaria Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013 context"* and *"Frequent mistakes made by the applicants of the Romania-Bulgaria Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013"*.

Target groups: potential applicants/applicants, beneficiaries of the Romania-Bulgaria Cross Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013, mass-media, bodies involved in the management and implementation of the Programme.

Financing source: Technical Assistance of the Programme (MA TA beneficiary).

Quantity:

- Brochure *"How to implement a project within Romania-Bulgaria Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013 context"* - 1000 pcs.;
- Brochure *"Frequent mistakes made by the applicants of Romania-Bulgaria Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013 in the project implementation process"* - 1000 pcs.

The content of these brochures is based on the analyses carried out by the Programme's structures for identifying the mistakes made by the

applicants/beneficiaries in the submission/implementation of the projects. The objectives of these information materials are:

- to briefly present the current situation of the Programme implementation for the target groups;
- to present the frequent mistakes identified by the Programme's structures within the project implementation process in order to avoid repeating them by the beneficiaries/future beneficiaries;
- to familiarise beneficiaries with the main steps and documents required by the Programme for a good project implementation;
- how to observe the provisions of the Programme's documents (e.g. documents concerning the eligibility of expenditures, the Visual Identity Manual etc.);
- to understand the responsibilities of each party involved into the project implementation (at Programme's level and Project level);
- minimizing the errors within the documents elaborated by the beneficiaries (progress reports, FLC requests, reimbursement claims, publicity and information reports etc.).

As the brochures were published by the end of 2010, we expect to see the first results of this activity during 2011.

Short description: Both brochures are split into two parts, half in Romanian and half in Bulgarian, containing the progress that the Programme registered during 2010, a list of the frequent mistakes made by the applicants, the steps and requirements (documents, reports, procedures etc.) for implementing the projects.

The brochures are written in a very simple language with clear and simple messages for beneficiaries.

The brochures will be distributed during the meetings with beneficiaries and during the events organized by the Programme's structures.

Results expected: As the main reason for publishing these brochures was to provide a clear image of the requirements raised by the project implementation process within the Programme's context, the expected results of this activity are the following:

To eliminate the frequent mistakes made by the beneficiaries within the main steps of project implementation (e.g. pre/contracting stage, financial flow of the projects - request of First Level Control, reimbursement claims, audit trail, information and publicity activities).

Leaflets presenting the progress and achievements for each Priority Axis

Target groups: applicants, potential beneficiaries/beneficiaries of the Programme, mass-media, bodies involved in the management and implementation of the Programme, general public etc.

Financing source: Technical Assistance of the Programme (MA TA beneficiary).

Quantity: 1500 pcs. in Romanian (500 pcs. for Priority Axis 1, 500 for Priority Axis 2, 500 for Priority Axis 3), 1500 pcs. in Bulgarian (500 pcs. for Priority Axis 1, 500 for Priority Axis 2, 500 for Priority Axis 3).

Short description: The leaflets were designed in an attractive way for the addressees (public), containing the most important details about the calls for project proposals. The main subjects tackled were projects submitted, selected and contracted, financial information, examples of projects in implementation stage, short description of a representative project for each priority axis, brief interviews with beneficiaries.

The leaflets will be distributed during the meetings with beneficiaries and during the information and promotion events which will be organized by the Programme's structures in 2011.

Information materials (JTS)

Flier - 2.000 pcs.

Target groups: Potential beneficiaries, beneficiaries of the Romania-Bulgaria Cross Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013, mass-media, bodies involved in the management and implementation of the Programme.

Financing source: Technical Assistance of RO-BG Programme (JTS TA beneficiary).

Quantity: 1000 pcs. in Romanian, 1000 pcs. in Bulgarian.

Short description: The flier was designed in an attractive way in order to promote the Joint Technical Secretariat and the Programme's website, in two versions, in Romanian (1000 pcs.) and Bulgarian (1000 pcs.). The flier contains brief information about the two issues:

- The role of the Joint Technical Secretariat and of the other management structures of the Programme and their contact details (postal address, e-mail address, phone and fax number, contact persons from JTS);
- Brief description of the Programme's website (Name of the website, sections, type of information).

The fliers were distributed during the meetings, events organized by the JTS with potential beneficiaries/beneficiaries of the Romania-Bulgaria Cross Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013.

7.4. Electronic channels for information and communication

www.cbcrromaniabulgaria.eu

Target groups: potential beneficiaries/applicants/beneficiaries of the Romania-Bulgaria Cross Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013, mass-media, bodies involved

in the management and implementation of the Programme, stakeholders and general public.

Financing source: Technical Assistance of RO-BG Programme (JTS TA beneficiary).

Short description: The website is updated by the JTS, continuously with new information: documents, news, events, useful announcements for the beneficiaries, press releases, information on the activity of the Joint Monitoring Committee, Joint Steering Committee, the list of the approved projects, the list of the selected and contracted projects, procedures to follow, useful contacts, etc.

7.5. Promotion materials

7.5.1 Promotional materials (MA)

Target groups: beneficiaries of Romania-Bulgaria Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013, decision-makers, representatives of the European Commission, National Authority, Managing Authority and Audit Authority, officials and experts of the county/district councils and mayoralities in the eligible area, of Regional Development Agencies, of the Authority for the Coordination of Structural Instruments, of the Sectoral Operational Programmes, representatives of the civil society, mass-media.

Financing source: Technical Assistance of the Programme (MA TA beneficiary)

Types and quantities of the materials produced: The materials were purchased and branded with the visual identity elements of the Programme (See Annex 3: Promotional materials, Romania-Bulgaria Programme).

These promotional materials are distributed to relevant stakeholders in the context of Romania-Bulgaria Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013, in all the events organised by the Programme's structures.

7.5.2 Promotional materials (JTS) - Wall maps

Target groups: potential beneficiaries/applicants/beneficiaries of Romania-Bulgaria Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013, decision-makers, representatives of the National Authority, Managing Authority and Audit Authority, officials and experts of the county councils and mayoralities in the eligible area, of Regional Development Agencies, representatives of the civil society and mass-media.

Financing source: Technical Assistance of RO-BG Programme (JTS TA beneficiary).

Types and quantities of the materials produced: The wall maps were purchased and branded with the visual identity elements of the Programme and delivered to the target groups (See Annex 3)

7.5.3 Promotional materials (JTS) - Banners

Target groups: Joint Technical Secretariat of Romania-Bulgaria Cross Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013.

Financing source: Technical Assistance of RO-BG Programme (JTS TA beneficiary).

Types and quantities of the materials produced: The banners were purchased and branded with the visual identity elements of the Programme and delivered to the target groups (See Annex3).

Short description: The banners were designed in an attractive way according to the Visual Identity Manual of the Programme. The banners were used during the meetings with potential applicants/beneficiaries, during of the events organized by the JTS and during the meetings of Joint Monitoring Committee and Joint Steering Committee.

7.5.4 Promotional materials (JTS)

Target groups: potential beneficiaries/ beneficiaries of Romania-Bulgaria Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013, decision-makers, representatives of the European Commission, National Authority, Managing Authority and Audit Authority, officials and experts of the county councils/district administration and mayoralities in the eligible area, of Regional Development Agencies, of the Authority for the Coordination of Structural Instruments, of the Sectorial Operational Programmes, representatives of the civil society, mass-media.

Financing source: Technical Assistance of RO-BG Programme (JTS TA beneficiary).

Types and quantities of the materials produced: The materials were purchased and branded with the visual identity elements of the Programme and delivered to the target groups (See Annex 3).

7.5.5 Promotion on GPS system (JTS)

Target groups: potential beneficiaries/ beneficiaries of Romania-Bulgaria Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013, decision-makers, representatives of the European Commission, National Authority, Managing Authority and Audit Authority, officials and experts of the county councils/district administration and mayoralities in the eligible area, of Regional Development Agencies, of the Authority for the Coordination of Structural Instruments, of the Sectorial Operational Programmes, representatives of the civil society, mass-media.

Financing source: Technical Assistance of the Programme RO-BG (JTS TA beneficiary).

Types and quantities of the materials produced: The following system was purchased:

- Promotion on GPS system - 1 pcs.

Short description: Through this GPS system the Joint Technical Secretariat headquarters will be easily localised by the target groups.

7.5.6 Interactive cross-border region map on the Programme's (JTS)

Target groups: potential beneficiaries/ beneficiaries of Romania-Bulgaria Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013, decision-makers, representatives of the European Commission, National Authority, Managing Authority and Audit Authority, officials and experts of the county councils/district administration and mayoralities in the eligible area, of Regional Development Agencies, of the Authority for the Coordination of Structural Instruments, of the Sectorial Operational Programmes, representatives of the civil society, mass-media.

Financing source: Technical Assistance of RO-BG Programme (JTS TA beneficiary).

Short description: The Joint Technical Secretariat contracted a service for the implementation of the interactive cross-border region map on the Programme's website. The map reflects the achieved results of the financed projects in the eligible area of the Programme. This map will be available in 2011 on the website of the Programme's, also the map will be represented as a working tool for the related reports on the Programme progress.

7.6 Monitoring and evaluation of the Communication Plan (JTS)

Target groups: Joint Technical Secretariat of Romania-Bulgaria Cross Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013.

Financing source: Technical Assistance of RO-BG Programme (JTS TA beneficiary).

Short description: A specialized press-cutting service was contracted by the Joint Technical Secretariat in order to monitor the presence of the Programme in the media, in December, 2011.

7.7 Other information and promotion activities

Electronic and phone communication

The Joint Technical Secretariat ensured the help-desk activities (receiving questions and providing answers) at the email addresses helpdesk_robg@calarasicbc.ro and robg@mdrl.ro (Managing Authority).

Over 50 emails (in 2010) and approximately 100 phone calls per month were received from potential applicants/beneficiaries, most of the questions referring to the submitted projects on the accessibility and economic and social development axis and to the implementation of the projects.