



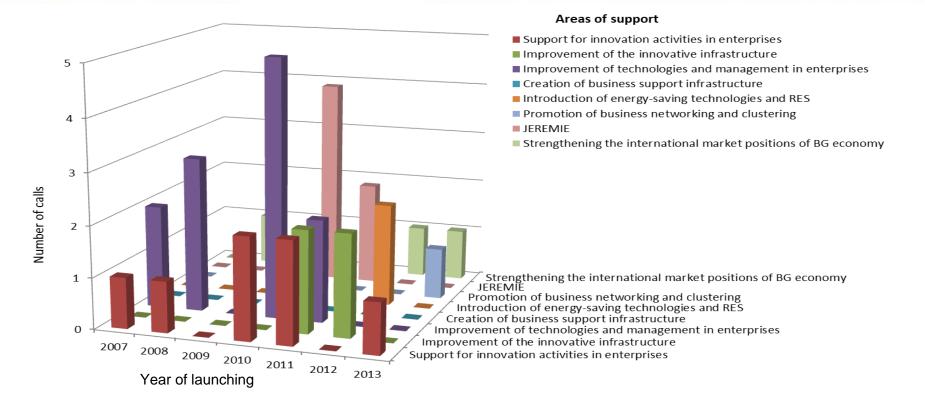


Lessons learned from closing the operational programmes and launching the new competitiveness operation programmes **Ministry of Economy** MA of OP Competitiveness 2007-2013 and OP Innovation and **Competitiveness 2014-2020**

Where are we now ?

Area of support	Contracted budget	Share of contracted
Support for innovation activities in enterprises	188 063 019	138.59%
Improvement of the innovative infrastructure	76 007 594	101.34%
Improvement of technologies and management in enterprises	300 252 146	116.38%
Creation of business support infrastructure	5 426 031	30.14%
Introduction of energy saving technologies and RES	182 972 148	76.88%
Business networking and clustering	16 914 089	112.76%
JEREMIE	349 790 412	99.94%
Strengthening the international market positions of Bulgarian economy	37 076 367	98.46%
ТА	38 370 403	110.05%
TOTAL	1 194 872 210	102.81%

The way we passed through



Bottlenecks and measures 2007-2013 1/3

Heavy administrative structure - presence of MA and IB (24 - 30 signatures to approve project report)



Shortage of own funds of beneficiaries under PA1 &PA2 – (more then 30 % from the contracts were terminated due to that reason)

Too narrow definition of "innovation" under PA 1 (only Innovation developed by applicants themselves)



Merging the two structures in one body since 2012 and constant effort to improve the work process within MA

Increase of the advance payments from 20 to 65%; Timely verification of the received claims for payments

Modification of the OP (included possibility for purchase of innovation from third parties on market principles)

Bottlenecks and measures 2007-2013 2/3

Difficulties in projects under implementation:

- almost all calls under PO1
- half of the calls under PO2

Lack of enough expertise to evaluate innovative projects



Regular (quarterly) request for information on progress achieved On-the-spot visits, if necessary, to clarify project's progress

Attraction of external experts, provision of certification for innovation from habilitated person

Provision of advance funds Extension of projects' implementation period

Assistance to beneficiaries Facilitation of project implementation and reporting, incl. working meetings

Public procurement procedures – delays, financial corrections

Administrative difficulties

Bottlenecks and measures 2007-2013 3/3

Difficulties to attract private capital on behalf of the selected financial intermediaries



Too late start of some of the measures under the OP (Energy and resource efficiency)

Low level of absorption of the PA for the institutional beneficiaries and the one for innovations



New FI where the attraction of private capital is made at the level of enterprise

New design of the calls; Outsourcing of some of the activities to other structures.

Modification of the OP to increase the share of the FIs

Risk of loss of funds

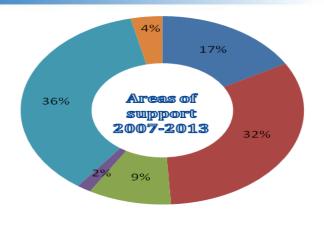


Overcontracting

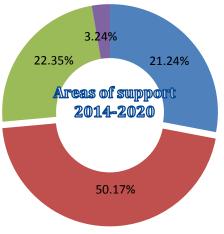
Achieved results 2007-2013

- Optimization of the grant procedures and decrease of the administrative burden for the candidates and beneficiaries of OP;
- Considerably improved design of the grant procedures;
- Less number of projects rejected on the basis of formal criteria;
- Increased interest for innovative projects as result of the modification of the OP;
- Accelerated reporting and verification of projects;
- Decreased number of terminated projects with every following procedure;

What is the money for?



- Innovation and R&D support
- Technology modernization and QMS
- Energy efficiency and green economy
- Business infrastructure and cooperation
- Financial engineering instruments
- Business support services



- TO 1: Technological development and innovation
- TO 3: Competitiveness of SMEs

- TO 6 and 7: Low carbon economy and Resource efficiency
- T07: Removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures

Launching the new programming period

- OP "Innovation and competitiveness" 2014-2020 was approved from the EC on 13th of March 2015;
- The first grant scheme under the new OP is under public discussion;
- Two other grant schemes are in process of designing and ready to be launched till the end of year;
- The unified management information system (UMIS 2014-2020) is already designed and will be operational until June 2015 allowing on-line application, evaluation and reporting;

Identified issues in OP 2007-2013 and their translation in the new OP

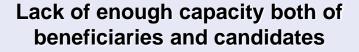
Lack of strategic approach for determining priority sectors for SMEs support



Financial instruments and institutional beneficiaries organized in separate priority axes - lack of flexibility



Broad support for innovations with no specific focus







Support for SMEs under TO 3 according to the National Strategy for SMEs

Integrated approach – FIs and measures for institutional beneficiaries contributing to achieving the specific objectives of the Investment Priorities under the applicable TOs

Focused support for innovations in accordance with RIS3

Envisaged specific activities under the TA axis dedicated to increase their capacity through trainings and other initiatives

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

GENERAL DIRECTORATE "EUROPEAN FUNDS FOR COMPETITIVENESS"

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