

# **Matra Training for European Cooperation**

**(MTEC)**

## **Structural Funds in Bulgaria**

November 26<sup>th</sup> – December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2006



ECORYS Nederland BV

## Key Information

- Objective: Training Bulgarian participants in the implementation and management of EU Structural Funds
- Period: November 26<sup>th</sup> – December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006
- Location: Bankso, Bulgaria
- Accommodation: Hotel Strajite, Bankso
- Target group: officials from Implementing Bodies (IB's), Managing Authorities (MA's), Paying/Certifying Authority/ (P/CA), Audit Authority (AA) in Bulgaria
- Participants: 50 in total, divided in two groups. Each group will be trained for three days (1st group: Sunday - Wednesday and 2nd group: Wednesday - Saturday)
- Information: atze.verkennis@ecorys.com

## Introduction

Bulgaria will join the European Union on the 1st of January 2007. Part of the accession is Chapter 21 of the Acquis, which is related to regional policy and more specifically to the preparation for Structural Funds. For many decades the European Union has been supporting lagging regions with funds to improve economic and social conditions in these regions. To harvest the benefits from future assistance provided by the Structural Funds, the Acceding and Candidate Countries will have to continue their preparations to create an effectively functioning institutional and legislative system as well as sufficient administrative capacity to manage the funds.

Negotiations on Chapter 21 were opened with Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Poland and Slovenia in April 2000 and with Latvia, Lithuania, Malta and Slovakia in March 2001. Bulgaria and Romania followed in November 2001 and March 2002. The negotiations on this Chapter were closed with the 10 countries in December 2002 and with Bulgaria and Romania in 2004. The Chapter has been opened with Turkey and Croatia in 2005.

Government officials, especially from the Acceding and Candidate Countries, are thus faced with the tremendous challenge of dealing with the Acquis and the new developments in the EU as well as simultaneously dealing with domestically related affairs they are faced with in their daily work. In these circumstances it will be very difficult for government officials to obtain all necessary knowledge concerning the European policies as well as the required skills enabling them to contribute to the social dialogue both on the national and EU level. This MTEC course on Structural Funds is designed to help officials from Bulgaria to prepare for the day when they will have to find their own way in EU regional policy.

## Objectives of the course

The main objective of the course is to train *the participants in the management of EU Structural Fund mechanisms after the accession and to develop skills and attitudes necessary to play an active role in the development and implementation of national and European regional policies.*

The programme takes the participants through all stages of the policy life cycle, from programme management, programming, implementation to monitoring and evaluation and financial management and control, and will result in a robust group of well-trained executives

in Bulgaria. The focus will be as much as possible on the implementation of the Structural Funds.

After the training, the participants will:

- Know about different actors and institutions in the decision making and legislative procedures in the EU, especially in the field of regional policy;
- Be able to apply planning and programming techniques in the context of National Development Plan, National Strategic Reference Framework, Single Programme Document, Programme Complement, Sectoral Operational Programme and Regional Operational Programme process;
- Have fundamental skills, for programme implementation such as project development, project appraisal, project selection, risk analysis and cost and benefit analysis;
- Have fundamental skills and knowledge on financial management and control;
- Know about the monitoring and evaluation in a EU Structural funds context;
- Be able to help create an appropriate Administrative Capacity to manage the Structural Funds in Bulgaria;
- Be able to and feel confident to play a role in the management of the Structural Fund policy life cycle.

### Approach of the course

ECORYS uses an interactive approach as much as possible. Basic texts will be provided to be studied by the participants. The training modules contain a mix of teaching and interactive working.

### Structure and contents of the course programme

A distinctive feature of the programme is the policy life cycle. The policy life cycle is a commonly accepted systematic approach to programming, programme and project elaboration, project implementation, evaluation, and corrective action.

The programme of the course includes different modules. They are part of a coherent framework (policy life cycle) and based on the same principles (eg. logical framework). The accent in the programme will be on implementation and management skills. Intertwined to the content-related parts are activities targeted at skills improvement.

The modules include:

- *Administrative capacity*
  - Structures and models for organising and managing the Structural Funds;
  - Structural funds concepts and regulations.
- *Programming*
  - Key concepts in Structural Funds planning and programming;

- Structural Fund Programming in practice;
  - SWOT-analysis;
  - Setting Objectives and Priorities;
  - Establishing measures;
  - Logical Framework Analysis.
- *Implementation: project appraisal, risk analysis, cost-benefit analysis*
    - Project pipeline and absorption capacity;
    - Project promotion and project development;
    - Practice of project development
    - Project appraisal and project selection;
    - Risk analysis;
    - Cost Benefit Analysis.
- *Financial management and control*
    - Establishing financial tables;
    - Audit trail;
    - Co-financing;
    - The control process.
- *Monitoring and Evaluation*
    - Differences between pre-accession programmes and Structural Funds;
    - Establishing indicators;
    - The actors in the monitoring process;
    - Experiences with different monitoring systems;
    - Ex-ante, on-going and ex-post evaluation;
    - Contracting out evaluation exercises;
    - The functioning of a monitoring system
    - Concrete examples.

## Organisation

### **ECORYS Nederland BV**

ECORYS Nederland BV is a fully independent applied economic research and advisory institute currently involved in many projects in various disciplines all over the world. ECORYS Nederland BV is specialised in economic strategy development, Structural Fund interventions, economic impact assessment, programming and training.

ECORYS Nederland BV has large-scale practical experience in the EU Structural Funds in Western Europe. As a result it is aware of the major problems and potentials that arise during the implementation of Structural Funds. It is involved in numerous projects in Central and Eastern Europe for their pre-accession strategy, which includes the preparation for EU Structural Funds and the establishment of an institutional framework.

## Dates

The course will be held at Hotel Strajite (Bankso, Bulgaria) from the 26<sup>th</sup> of November through to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December 2006, in 2 periods of three days, each for 25 participants. Transport from Sofia to Bankso will be provided.

## Fees/Accommodation

The Netherlands Government will provide fellowships including costs such as travel, board and lodging, tuition fees and lecture materials insofar as included in the programme.

## Teaching Staff

The teaching staff will consist of:

- Staff Members from ECORYS Nederland BV;
- Staff Member from province of Flevoland (Dutch Objective 1 region);

## Admission Requirements

The course is designed for government officials from IB's, MA's P/CA and AA in Bulgaria. The officials will be nominated by the respective IB's, MA's, P/CA and AA in conformity with the quota principle. ECORYS will be responsible for the final selection of the candidates on advice by the Bulgarian Ministry of Economy and Energy as a National MTEC co-ordinator.

Quotas:

Institutions	Number of participants	Comments
Operational Programme “Human Resources Development”		
MA (MoLSP)	3	
3 IB	6	3 x 2 persons

Operational Programme “Development of the Competitiveness of the Bulgarian Economy” MA (MoEE) 1 IB	3 2	
Operational Programme “Regional Development” MA (MoRDPW) 6 IB	3 12	6 x 2 persons
Operational Programme “Environment” MA (MoEW) 1 IB	3 2	
Operational Programme “Transport” MA (MoT) IB (MoT)	2 2	MoT will function as MA and IB at the same time
Operational Programme “Administrative capacity” MA (MoSAAR) IB (MoSAAR)	2 2	MoSAAR will function as MA and IB at the same time
Operational Programme “Technical Assistance” MA (MoF) IB (MoF)	2 2	MoF will function as MA and IB at the same time
P/CA (MoF)	2	
AA (MoF)	2	

The maximum number of participants is 50, to be divided in two groups.

### Applications

The candidates for this course will be nominated by the respective IB's, MA's, P/CA and AA in conformity with the quota principle. After the management of IB's, MA's P/CA and AA have shown their interest to appoint their representatives to participate in the training, the nominated candidates will receive more information about the application procedure by the Bulgarian Ministry of Economy and Energy as a National MTEC co-ordinator.

**Applicants who have been accepted for the course are expected to attend!**

## Information and course organisation

### **ECORYS Nederland BV Region, Strategy & Entrepreneurship**

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### **Bulgarian MTEC coordinator:**

#### **Donor Programmes Directorate**

Ministry of Economy and Energy

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1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

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Contact person: Mrs. Angelina Pramatarova

## More information on the courses developed under the MTEC programme

- The Royal Netherlands Embassy in your country can supply more copies of this leaflet and information about the other courses.
- For further information, you can contact either the Royal Netherlands Embassy or EVD/CROSS:

### **EVD/CROSS**

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