



Twinning Project BG 06 IB SPP 01

“Improvement of the coordination, management and implementation mechanisms of EU Structural Instruments in Bulgaria”

Activity 2.1 Strengthening capabilities of all institutions involved in effective management of Operational Programmes, including: financial and management control, State aid, Public Procurement and on-the-spot checks



MINISTERIO DE ECONOMÍA Y HACIENDA SECRETARÍA DE ESTADO DE HACIENDA Y PRESUPUESTOS

Study Visit Report

Madrid/Toledo, 20 – 24 October 2008

Foreword

The Study visit was held from 20 till 24 of October 2008 in Madrid and Toledo, Spain.

The Bulgarian Delegation was invited at the Ministry of Economy and Finance and his General Directorate for Community Funds. (*Paseo de la Castellana 162, 28046 – Madrid*)

The Training Programme will be officially presented during the Conference held on 3rd of October 2008. In the same time, the Twinning Team informed the Participants regarding the organization of the 1st Study Visit to Spain. According to the Twinning Work Plan, representatives from OPs Managing Authorities and Intermediate Bodies are involved in the Component 2 training activities and in two Study Visits.

The Twinning Project envisages that 10 Bulgarian Representatives from CCU, Managing Authorities and Intermediate Bodies attend to the Study Visits in order to ensure concrete and effective exchange of experiences with MS Institutions involved in the Structural Funds management and implementation.

The participants visited the relevant institutions related with the management of the Spanish NSRF and Operational Programmes, in Madrid and in Castilla La Mancha Region (Toledo).

The Study Visit was focused on the overall Operational Programme management and implementation, including evaluation, information and publicity, technical assistance, certification and payments, ex-ante control as well as Intermediate Body function.

Meetings focused and exchange of experiences on different aspects of the Management and Control System and Information System were also organized with the aid of the relevant officers and executives.

In the spirit of the Study Visit, the participants have been able to review the organizational structure, tasks and responsibilities of their Spanish colleagues of the General Directorate for Community Funds at Ministry of Finance and of other relevant Administrations involved in the Structural Funds management and implementation.

Meetings with Managing Authorities for the ERDDF and ESF, Managing Authorities for the Cohesion Fund and Institutions in charge of Operational Programme at Regional level funded by ERDF and CF, were carried out.

It is strongly recommend that the participants will ensure transfer of experiences, materials and knowledge gained during the Study Visit to their colleagues and Structures.

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Spanish Ministry of Economy and Finance
Twinning Component 2 Leader

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List of Participant

№	INSTITUTION (Directorate)	NAME	MIDDLE NAME	SURNAME
1	Head of Department Coordination projects and programmes, Management of EU Funds Directorate, Ministry of Finance	Jenya	Ivanova	Bahchevanova-Dinkova
2	Junior Expert, Strategic Investments Department, Management of EU Funds Directorate, Ministry of Finance	Lyubomir	Ivanov	Stoyanov
3	Senior expert, OP technical Assistance Department, Management of EU Funds Directorate, Ministry of Finance	Dessislava	Petrova	Yordanova
4	Deputy General Director Programming of Regional Development Directorate, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works	Snezhina	Slavcheva	Petrova
5	Head of Unit Preliminary control, Coordination of Projects and Programmes Directorate, Ministry of Transport	Tsvetelina	Dimitrova	Raduncheva
6	Senior expert, Cohesion Policy for Environment Directorate, Ministry of Environment and Water	Dimitrinka	Zhivkova	Marinova
7	Director of European Funds for Competitiveness Directorate, Ministry of Economy and Energy	Ivette	Stefanova	Jablyanova
8	State expert, Financial control Department, European Funds, International Programmes and Projects General Directorate, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy	Kremena	Nacheva	Grigороva
9	Head of Department Monitoring and Publicity, Management of Programmes and Projects Directorate, Ministry of State Administration and Administrative reform	Mariya	Dimitrova	Dimitrova
10	Director of EU Funds for Environment Directorate, Ministry of Environment and Water	Milena	Kancheva	Dimitrova

Study visit activities description

Monday, 20 October 2008

Mr. José Antonio Zamora, General Director at Ministry of Economy and Finance, General Direction for Community Funds, made a welcome speech for the Bulgarian Delegation. He expressed his satisfaction of the Twinning Project in which the Spanish Ministry of Finance and Economy is junior partner.

The first presentation was made on FIIAPP (International and Ibero-American Foundation of Public Administration and Policies). During the abovementioned presentation was showed the experience in Twinning and Cooperation Projects and possible future cooperation initiatives of the Organization.

After the presentation of the FIIAPP, the Bulgarian delegation was introduced to the Cohesion Fund in Spain and the Management and Implementation that the Spanish administration was adopted.

The speakers were members of the Management Authority for the Cohesion Fund, General Sub-directorate for Cohesion Fund and European Territorial Cooperation.

There were discussed several topics:

- The role and the experience of the Managing Authority (within Spanish Ministry of Finance) and Intermediate Bodies
- Selection of Projects and Operations
- Management and Control systems
- Monitoring Committee
- Evaluation
- Information and Publicity
- Technical Assistance Axis

After the presentation, the Bulgarian delegation has a possibility to make a questions and the Spanish expert give their competent answers.

Tuesday, 21 October 2008

The first presentation was regarding the Management and Control System in Spain.

The main topics that were presented are:

Management Information System “Fondos 2007”

Management and Control tools

The speakers that were selected are in charge of IT management in role of technical specialists.

For better understanding of the Spanish situation, the Bulgarian Delegation was invited to visit an Intermediate body.

The meeting was held on Calle Sor Angela de la Cruz 3. The speakers were members of the ADIF.

The Intermediate body that was chosen is ADIF (Intermediate Body for Transport). The IB presented the transport infrastructure and the Management Body of it, also showed the implementation of the project regarding the High Speed train. The functions, relationship and exchange of information between the Intermediate body and the Managing Authority were described as real experience.

After the lunch break, the Bulgarian Delegation proceeds with the scheduled meetings at the building of the Ministry of Finance and Economy.

The presentation was on ERDF and his Management and Implementation issues. The principal topics that were discussed are:

- General Framework of OPs funded by the ERDF
- Research and Development Programme

The speakers were from the Managing Authority of the ERDF.

The last meeting for the day from 17.00 to 18.00 was regarding the Certification and payments. The speakers were members of the General Sub-directorate for Certification and Payments.

Wednesday, 22 October 2008

The third day of the Study visit began with the presentation of the ERDF and his Management and Implementation. The speakers of the Managing Authority for the ESF underlined their presentation on the two relevant and interesting for the Bulgarian delegation, issues:

- Monitoring Committee
- Technical Assistance OP

After the Lunch break the works proceed with Ex-ante Control presentation. The speakers that were selected are members of the General Sub-directorate for Controls.

The last presentation was made on Information and Publicity from people responsible for the issue in the General Directorate

Thursday, 23 October 2008

The Study visit proceeds with the visit of the Intermediate Body and an environmental project for Solid waste treatment plant that. The plant is situated in Toledo in Castilla La Mancha Region. The participants take a (high speed) train form Madrid to Toledo. At 10:00 o'clock the Bulgarian Delegation was welcomed by the Regional Government.

The members of the Intermediate Body showed his:

- functions
- management and control system and
- relationship and exchange of information with the Managing Authorities

The Bulgarian delegation was invited to visit a solid waste treatment plant near Toledo. There their have the possibility to see a practical use of the European funds.

On Friday 24 October the Bulgarian participants come back from Spain to Bulgaria. At 08.00 the Delegation takes the train from Toledo to Madrid and was sign the end of the Study visit.