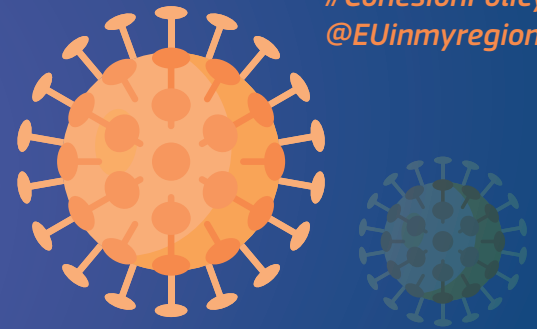




#CohesionPolicy
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THE CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE INVESTMENT INITIATIVE IN BULGARIA



EU COHESION POLICY FUNDING SUPPORTING THE HEALTH SECTOR, HELPING THE ECONOMY AND PROTECTING JOBS

In 2014-2020, the EU invests in Bulgaria **€7.4 billion** through cohesion policy.

Thanks to the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative, so far **€750 million** are being mobilised to tackle the current crisis and its effects.

Some examples:



HEALTH SECTOR

€20 million from cohesion policy funding to help the country's health sector better respond to the emergency by purchasing new top class medical equipment and delivering life-saving medicines and personal protective equipment.

- 317 ventilators
- over 2 million faces masks
- 177,000 tests
- 140,000 consumables
- beds, specialized portable unit, specialized equipment for COVID-19 laboratories
- Personal protective equipment and clothes for hospitals, regional health Inspectorates, centers for transfusion hematology and centers for emergency medical care



SMALL BUSINESS

• €88.5 million, out of which €75.2 million from the European Regional Development Fund, will specifically support micro and small companies, including self-employed, throughout the country across all sectors with vital working capital

• Another €327 million, out of which €278 million from the European Regional Development Fund, will support small and medium sized enterprises for working capital and investments through grants and special loan guarantee schemes

• €150 million, out of which €127.5 million from the European Regional Development Fund, will support small and medium-sized enterprises in the form of equity and quasi-equity investments



EMPLOYMENT

• €130 million for temporary employment schemes and subsidised employment

• €30 million for compensations and hiring up to 14,000 medical and non-medical staff and covering the costs of training, transport, meals and personal protective equipment

• €23 million for additional assistance to 30,000 elderly and vulnerable people

OTHER PROJECTS CO-FUNDED BY THE EU HELPING WITH THE CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY

In 2014-2020, cohesion policy invests €71 million in better equipped, more efficient and more accessible emergency healthcare services in Bulgaria. The project covers:



- the modernisation of 237 emergency care facilities throughout the country with better emergency rooms with state-of-the-art medical equipment



- the purchase of 400 new ambulances equipped with modern communication and life-saving devices, allowing them to intervene rapidly and effectively, especially in more remote areas and for the most vulnerable groups of patients



- The already delivered 182 ambulances are equipped with the necessary equipment for emergency medical activities in the conditions of coronavirus

Cohesion policy is also supporting elderly and people with disabilities and quarantined in Bulgaria through the European Social Fund. Created in 2019, the service, called **Patronage Care** for adults, aims at providing the most vulnerable groups with social and health workers in their home to monitor their health status or receive support to maintain their lifestyle. Since the outbreak of the coronavirus crisis, the scope was extended to allow local authorities to deliver packages of food, medicines and other essential goods to elderly or to people under quarantine during the crisis. The extension is financed by allocating additional funds of €23 million.