

Study on EU member states operational development structures

VOL 2 - Country fiches

BULGARIA

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The country fiches contain information on the key aspects of the operational development structures and systems of each EU Member State. They are structured in a standard form to allow for easier comparison. The information contained in the country fiche is based on publicly available sources and data, including from relevant ministries and public administration websites, EU reports, OECD-DAC peer reviews and statistics. This information was also complemented by data and feedback gathered through questionnaires and interviews with EU Member States' focal points. Unless specified otherwise, all country fiches have been reviewed and approved by the Member States' focal points. The fiches provide a snapshot at a given moment in time, and will need to be updated regularly and as appropriate in order to remain relevant.

BULGARIA

This draft country fiche has not yet been reviewed/approved by the focal point.

At a glance

- **Mid-term programme for humanitarian aid and development cooperation (2016-2019)**
- **Development Cooperation Directorate within the MFA; no implementing agency**
- **Total aid budget for 2017: €55 million (0.11% of GNI)**
- **Multilateral ODA: 84%** (most of which is provided through the EU); **Bilateral ODA: 16%** (2017)
- **Thematic priorities:** peace and stability, gender, sexual and reproductive health and rights, human rights, children, migration
- **Geographic priorities:** Western Balkans and Black Sea area

1. Political and legal framework for development and international cooperation

i. Legislation

Bulgaria does not have an overarching law for development cooperation (although there have been attempts to develop one).

Government Decree No. 234/2011 on the policy of the Republic of Bulgaria to participate in international development cooperation defines the tasks, mechanisms and institutional framework of the country's development co-operation. It also provides guidelines for planning, implementing, monitoring, evaluating and auditing Bulgaria's development co-operation.¹

ii. Development policies - policy framework

A "**Concept on the policy of Bulgaria for participation in the international development cooperation**" was adopted in 2007 by the Council of Ministers and guides international development cooperation.

The medium-term programmes for development cooperation and humanitarian aid, covering three- or four-year periods, determine the specific areas of intervention and expected outcomes, as well as financial allocations among priority partner countries and sectors.² The government continues to implement the **mid-term programme for humanitarian aid and development cooperation (2016–2019)**. The objectives and areas of development assistance, identified in the mid-term programme, are mainly oriented towards sharing experience with the Western Balkan countries and the Eastern Partnership countries.³

iii. Overall institutional setting

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs leads and coordinates Bulgaria's development cooperation activities, in cooperation with line ministries, elaborates ODA policy and annual action plans, and negotiates agreements with partner countries.

iv. Key figures for country ODA

¹ OECD Development Cooperation Report 2018

² OECD Development Cooperation Report 2018

³ <https://en.unesco.org/creativity/policy-monitoring-platform/mid-term-programme-development>

- **total annual volumes 2015 to 2017 (or 2018 if/when available)**

	2015	2016	2017
Million € (% of GNI) ⁴	37 (0.09%)	61 (0.13%)	55 (0.11%)

- **share multilateral/bilateral (share to EU and other multilaterals)**

The share of bilateral aid decreased from 18.03% in 2016 to 15.88% in 2017. A considerable share of this decrease in 2017 is in the funds allocated to expenditure on migrants and refugees. The portion of the aid reported through multilateral channels is 84.12%.⁵

Multilateral ODA is provided primarily through the European Union (accounting for 72% of its multilateral ODA in 2016, while the World Bank Group accounted for 19% and regional development banks for 5%).⁶

- **share channelled through MFA and through other entities (e.g. line ministries, agencies) - if available, figures on share of aid per type of beneficiary (e.g. NGOs, public administrations...)**

N.a.

- **main partner countries (top 10 recipient countries)**

The priority regions for Bulgaria's bilateral aid spending are the Western Balkans and the Black Sea area,⁷ where Bulgaria has interests and thinks it can make a difference through its transition knowledge.⁸

In 2017, Bulgaria's top 10 recipients of bilateral ODA were Turkey, Serbia, Syria, Iraq, Ukraine, Georgia, Afghanistan, North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Armenia.⁹

- **sectoral distribution of aid**

The mid-term programme 2016-2019 defines the following thematic priorities: peace and stability, gender, sexual and reproductive health and rights, human rights, children, migration.

The sectoral expenses include strengthening beneficiaries' administrative capacity and spending on social infrastructure.¹⁰

In 2016-2017, the main sector of Bulgaria's bilateral development cooperation was humanitarian aid (almost 28% of gross bilateral ODA).¹¹

⁴ European Commission, Investing in Sustainable Development, The EU at the forefront in implementing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Staff Working Document, April 2018 <https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/report-investing-sustainable-dev-20180423-2_en.pdf>

⁵ Concord AidWatch Report 2018

⁶ OECD Development Cooperation 2018

⁷ Concord AidWatch Report 2018

⁸ Interview with Codev delegate

⁹ https://public.tableau.com/views/AAAA_nonDAC/Dashboard2?:embed=y&:display_count=yes&:showTabs=y?&:showVizHome=no#1

¹⁰ Concord AidWatch Report 2018

¹¹ Almost 11% of gross bilateral ODA was allocated to 'other social infrastructure' and 57% was 'unspecified'. See <https://public.tableau.com/views/AAAA_nonDAC/Dashboard2?:embed=y&:display_count=yes&:showTabs=y?&:showVizHome=no#1>

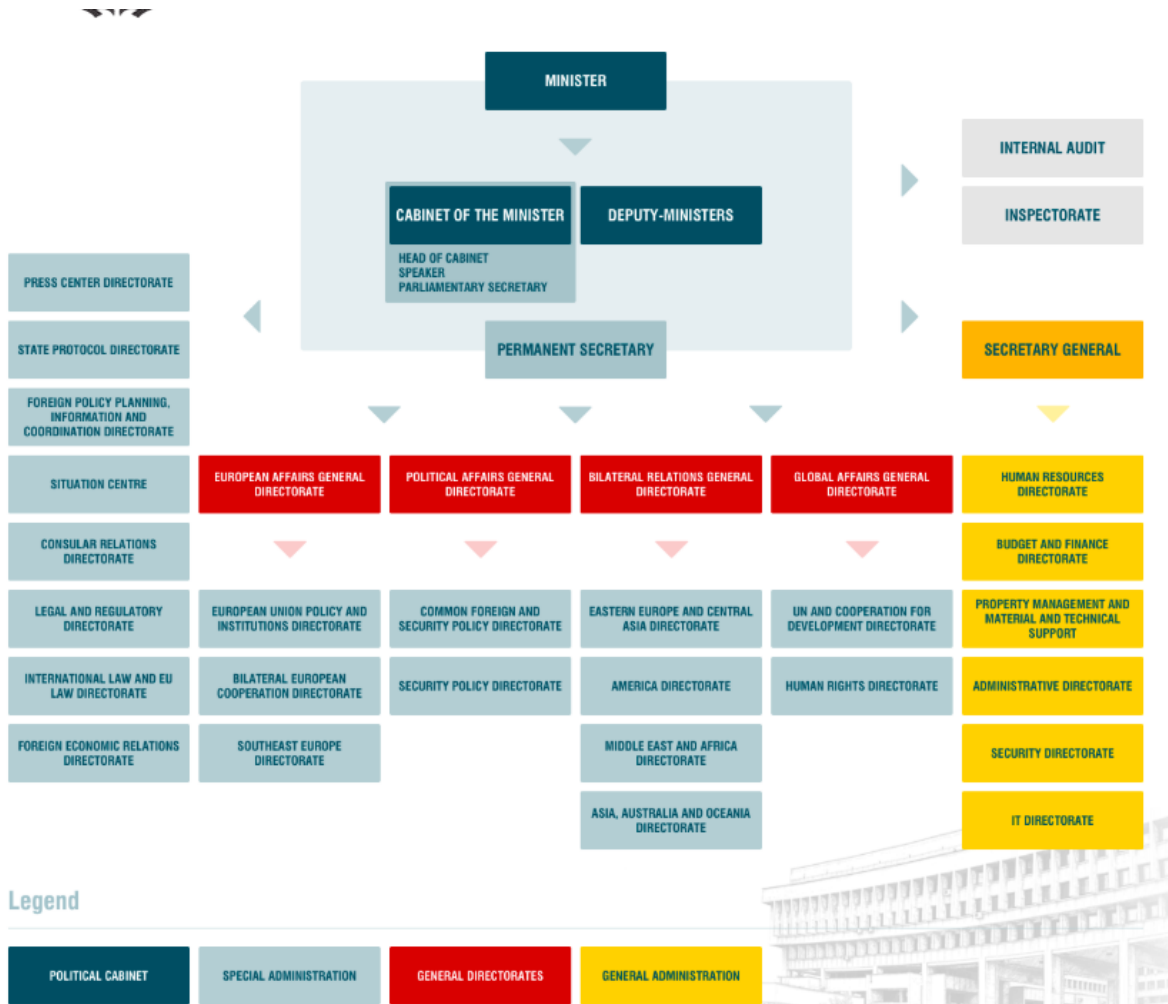
v. EU joint action

Bulgaria does not engage in joint programming. It is interested in engaging in joint implementation or delegated cooperation.¹²

2. Operational structures for aid implementation/management

i. MFA

- management structure and responsibilities (specialised units, etc)



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has a **Department for International Cooperation for Development** within the United Nations and Development Cooperation Directorate.

- **mandate**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs leads and coordinates Bulgaria’s development cooperation activities, in cooperation with line ministries, elaborates ODA policy and annual action plans, and negotiates agreements with partner countries. It is thus responsible for both the formulation and implementation of projects.

- **staff and resources (HQ and field level)**

About 8 people work in the International Cooperation for Development Department.

¹² Interview with Codev delegate

- **country presence (through Embassies)**

Bulgaria has 77 embassies in the world and is represented in the Western Balkans and the Black Sea area.

- **type of instruments/tools and means of implementation**

In 2016 Bulgaria provided its bilateral development cooperation mostly in the form of grants for financial and technical support, as well as expenses for in-donor refugee costs.¹³

Bulgaria has experience in twinning in Georgia.

ii. **Main development agency (if applicable)**

Bulgaria has no development agency.

iii. **Other important entity/agencies/DFIs (if applicable)**

The **inter-institutional International Development Cooperation Council**, a consultative body created in 2007, assists the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in programming and promoting Bulgaria's development cooperation. The Council draws up mid-term programmes and annual action plans and promotes the development cooperation policy.¹⁴

iv. **Other relevant actors (briefly mention their role and importance)**

1. **Line ministries**

The Ministry of Finance plays a role in ODA programming and planning and determines the selection of financial mechanisms and instruments.¹⁵

2. **NGOs**

The [Bulgarian Platform for International Development](#) (created in 2009) currently brings together 23 development NGOs which implement projects. The platform supports civil society engagement and promotes effective development aid.¹⁶

3. **Contact details of the focal point**

Ms. Rossalina Madjirova, Codev delegate <Rossalina.Madjirova@bg-permrep.eu>
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¹³ OECD Development Cooperation 2018

¹⁴ OECD Development Cooperation 2018

¹⁵ EU donor profile (2015)

¹⁶ EU donor profile (2015)