

BULGARIA PUBLIC EXPENDITURE REVIEW FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION

Key Findings and Recommendations

Virtual Workshop

February 2, 2022

Workshop Background

From March 2020 until November 2021, the World Bank, working in collaboration with Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) and Executive Agency for Operational Programme Science and Education for Smart Growth (EA OPSG), has implemented the **Bulgaria Public Expenditure Review for Science, Technology, and Innovation (PER STI) project**. The objective of the project is to provide an analytical background for improving the effectiveness of public investments for STI through reallocation of resources, redesign and rationalization of STI policies and instruments. The project utilizes the PER STI methodology, a results-based framework to logically link inputs, outputs, outcomes, and impacts of public spending on research and innovation.

This work has been conducted with the support of MoES, EA OPSG, the Ministry of Economy and Industry (MoEI), as well as the National Science Fund (NSF), SME Promotion Agency (SMEPA), and other relevant stakeholders.

The project has three primary components:

- **Country needs and policy mix assessment:** a comprehensive overview of the flow of funds in the STI system, the budget structure and policy mix, and how well STI support policies and investments respond to country's needs for research and innovation.
- **Functional and governance analysis:** an in-depth assessment of the design, implementation and governance of instruments and institutions, and their position within the policy mix. This component includes a capacity building task aiming at sharing international best practices and equipping policy makers and practitioners with design, implementation, and monitoring tools.
- **Efficiency analysis:** an analysis of outputs and outcomes for selected programs which includes looking at the relationship between inputs and outputs and monitoring the progress of the outcomes of interest.

The findings from these three components informed a set of recommendations that aim to improve Bulgaria's STI support policies and programs. The Government of Bulgaria has prepared its National Recovery and Resilience Plan to facilitate economic and social recovery in the aftermath of the pandemic, which will allocate approximately €1.25 billion in funding for innovation-related activities. At the same time, Bulgaria's preeminent STI implementing bodies are defining the priorities and targets for the new programming period (Bulgaria's third since EU accession), which will include a research and innovation budget of approximately €1.17 billion. The PER STI project provides a thorough review of the implementation and coordination of the current period's policy portfolio and makes recommendations for new policies and reforms to reforms aimed at ensuring that this substantial funding yields productive impacts on the STI system.

WORKSHOP AGENDA

February 2, 14:00 – 16:30 pm	
14:00-14:20	<i>Opening remarks</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Fabrizio Zarcone, World Bank Country ManagerMinister of MoES or Deputy Minister of MoES (tbc)
14:20-14:30	<i>Project Overview and key findings</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Łukasz Marć, World Bank Economist
14:30-15:00	<i>Country Needs and Policy Mix Analysis</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Daniel Querejazu, World Bank Innovation Policy Consultant
15:00-15:30	<i>Functional Analysis</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Łukasz Marć, World Bank Economist
15:30-15:50	<i>Efficiency Analysis</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Daniel Querejazu, World Bank Innovation Policy Consultant
15:50-16:00	<i>Key recommendations</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Łukasz Marć, World Bank Economist
16:00-16:20	<i>Questions and answers</i>
16:20-16:30	<i>Closing remarks</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Karina Angelieva, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Innovation and Growth