

Support from EU funds to achieve balanced territorial development – Integrated territorial investments

Information

- To achieve a more balanced territorial development and equalize economic indicators between the northern and southern regions, a specialized methodology was devised for resource allocation under the Programme “Development of regions” (PDR) 2021-2027. This methodology takes into account population size, territory dimensions, gross domestic product, and the region’s position in the “Infrastructure” component of the European Regional Competitiveness Index. This approach ensures that over 50% of the resources allocated under the PDR will benefit the three northern regions of the country. The methodology was applied, including in the distribution of resources for the integrated territorial approach through the instrument of integrated territorial investments (ITI).
- In July 2023, the Managing Authority (MA) of the PDR, serving as the leading programme for ITI implementation, organized informative events by region. These events aimed to present the Uniform Application Guidelines with ITI concepts, fostering public awareness regarding the application and selection process. Additionally, they targeted the expert composition of the individual units within the Regional Development Councils participating in the initiative.
- A total of 165 ITI concepts were submitted during the application period under the ITI concept procedure announced on June 27, 2023. Currently, these concepts are undergoing evaluation and selection in accordance with the provisions outlined in Appendix No. 4 of the Regulations for the implementation of the Regional Development Act.
- The overall number of submitted ITI concepts intended for implementation in Northern Bulgaria, including those designed for execution in more than one region, is 67.
- Following the completion of the administrative compliance and eligibility verification process, as well as the prioritization of ITI concepts, they will be open to public discussions at various locations.

Distribution of submitted ITI concepts by region and programme

Region	Total	Development of regions	Environment	Competitiveness and innovation in enterprises	Research, Innovation and Digitization for Intelligent Transformation	Development of human resources	Education
NWR	22	19	5	0	1	10	11
NER	19	16	7	1	0	9	10
NCR	26	22	12	2	4	14	12
SWR	48	44	20	8	12	34	22
SER	28	25	11	3	6	12	17
SCR	35	28	18	0	2	18	16
Total	165	141	63	13	21	92	81