



Report on national policies on general environmental issues



I.1. Situation and national strategies in environmental policy

Summary:

The environmental policy in all countries is embedded in and influenced by European and international frameworks. In addition to the requirements of the EU there are also national defined objectives (e.g. reduction of inherited pollution in Bulgaria). A Ministry of Environment plays in all partner countries a main role in environmental decisions, but there are differences in the implementation and monitoring. So in the Czech Republic the current national strategy (until 2020) is quite general and does not sort concretely the national priorities. In contrast, Germany implemented the National Sustainability Strategy in political decision-making processes and in the German government's everyday activities (all ministries have had to carry out a sustainability check (an impact assessment from the point of view of sustainability) for each draft law or ordinance).



Bulgaria



Given the heavy damage to the environment inherited from the socialist economy, the overriding priority of environmental policy in Bulgaria over the last two decades has been to reduce pollution. Issues such as climate policy, renewable water resources, forest policy and biodiversity have been put on the agenda by EU initiatives.

The main statutes relating to the environment are:

- the Environmental Protection Act (EPA), promulgated in State Gazette 91/2002, last amended by State Gazette 98/2014;
- the new Waste Management Act, promulgated in State Gazette 53/2012, in force as of 13 July 2012;
- the Biological Diversity Act, promulgated in State Gazette 77/2002, last amended by State Gazette 98/2014;
- the Protected Areas Act, promulgated in State Gazette 133/1998, last amended by State Gazette 98/2014;
- the Soils Act, promulgated in State Gazette 89/2007, last amended by State Gazette 98/2014;
- the Ambient Air Purity Act, promulgated in State Gazette 45/1996, last amended by State Gazette 98/2014;
- the Waters Act, promulgated in State Gazette 67/1999, last amended by State Gazette 98/2014;
- the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, promulgated in State Gazette 41/2001, last amended by State Gazette 107/2014;
- the Mineral Resources Act, promulgated in State Gazette 23/1999, last amended by State Gazette 98/2014;
- the Protection Against the Harmful Impact of Chemical Substances and Mixtures Act, promulgated in State Gazette 10/2000, last amended by State Gazette 61/2014;
- the Plant Protection Act, promulgated in State Gazette 91/1997, last amended by State Gazette 61/2014;

- the Protection of Environmental Noise Act, promulgated in State Gazette 74/2005, last amended by State Gazette 98/2014;
- Law on Renewable Energy, promulgated in State Gazette 35/2011, last amended by State Gazette 65/2014;
- the Administrative Procedure Act, promulgated in State Gazette 30/2006, last amended by State Gazette 107/2014;
- the Criminal Code, promulgated in State Gazette 26/1968, last amended by State Gazette 107/2014.

A main principle of the Constitution of Bulgaria is that the state has to ensure the protection and sustainability of the environment, the maintenance and diversity of wildlife and the rational utilisation of the natural wealth and resources of the country. This principle is further developed and implemented in sector-specific legislation through different acts and regulations.

The main influences on environmental policy in Bulgaria are related to the following spheres:

- Agriculture
- Atmosphere
- Biodiversity
- Desertification and Drought
- Energy
- Forests
- Freshwater
- Land Management
- Mountains
- Oceans and Coastal Areas
- Toxic Chemicals
- Waste and Hazardous Materials

The reduction of inherited pollution has been a priority for two decades. EU accession has put climate change and other issues on the agenda. CO₂ emissions are relatively low, and subsidies are given to renewable energy production. The country lacks a clear water-resources strategy. Forest and biodiversity protection are strengths.

The main objectives regarding the environment are defined by the government and in particular by the Ministry of Environment and Water of Bulgaria. Then the parliament makes the necessary legislative amendments.

The main objectives set in the agenda of Ministry of Environment and Water of Bulgaria for 2014 include:

- Reduction of pollution the water bodies by untreated domestic wastewater from the settlements and industry to achieve good status of surface water and groundwater in the country by 2015;
- Introduction of integrated approaches for improving water management. Integrated water management to protect and improve water resources, rational use and equitable distribution of the population, economy and ecosystems, and restoring the quantity and quality of water;
- Economic regulation towards efficient water usage;

- Establishing the basis for the development of the Maritime Strategy of Bulgaria and a Programme of measures for the Strategy, that will lead to achieving good environmental status in the Black Sea by 2020. Improvement of the Black Sea environment and the Bulgarian Black Sea coast;
- Prevention and reduction the negative impact of floods on human health, environment, cultural heritage and economic activity. Development of a strategic framework;
- Development of complex infrastructure for waste treatment in the country. Use of waste as a resource, and achieving high level of recycling, thus contributing to reduced use of the primary natural resources;
- Effective legal regulation of waste management. Reduction of administrative burdens and, where possible, the time limits for issuing administrative acts and the amount of fees;
- Introduction of new environmentally friendly approaches for treatment of specific waste streams.
- Conducting of long-term sustainable policy for improvement of air quality;
- Integration of environmental policies, prevention of climate change adaptation in their general development policies and synergy in sustainable development. Development and improvement of the legal framework for implementation the national policy for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions;
- Development of a strategic framework for implementing the national policy on adaptation to climate change;
- Successful participation of the country in European and international trade with greenhouse gas emissions and generation of revenue from the sale of emissions free.
- Completion, maintenance and management of the National ecological network of protected areas and territories;
- Preservation, maintenance and restoration of biodiversity as part of the natural potential for sustainable development of the regions;
- Improve control over use of genetically modified organisms;
- Ensuring a high level of protection of the environment and human health from the use of hazardous chemicals;
- Facilitate public access to reliable and timely information about environment using modern information technologies and tools;
- Development of conscious attitude and care for the environment and provoking environmentally positive behaviour;
- Carrying out effective, transparent and accountable control activity;
- Effective completion of the Operational Programme "Environment" (OPE) for this planning period. Programming management of funds from the EU funds to finance activities in environmental protection in the new programming period 2014-2020.

The decisions on environmental issues are made by the government and in particular by the Ministry of Environment and Water of Bulgaria. Then the parliament makes the necessary legislative amendments. For the implementation and control on the implementation of the decisions there is a structure of executive and regional agencies attached to the Ministry of Environment and Water of Bulgaria, which include one executive agency, 16 regional inspectorates of environment and water (RIEW) and 4 basin directorates (BD) and 3 directorates of national parks (DNP) as follows:

- Executive Environment Agency (EEA), web site: <http://eea.government.bg>

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- RIEW Sofia, web site: www.riew-sofia.org
 - RIEW Blagoevgrad, web site: www.blorisov.hit.bg
 - RIEW Burgas, web site: www.riosv.unacs.bg
 - RIEW Varna, web site: www.riew-varna.org
 - RIEW Veliko Tarnovo, web site: www.riosvt.org
 - RIEW Vratsa, web site: <http://www.vracakarst.com>
 - RIEW Montana, web site: www.riosv-montana.com
 - RIEW Pazardzhik, web site: <http://www.riewpz.org>
 - RIEW Pernik, web site: www.riosv-pernik.com
 - RIEW Pleven, web site: <http://riew-pleven.eu/>
 - RIEW Plovdiv, web site: www.riosv-pd.hit.bg
 - RIEW Ruse, web site: www.riosv-ruse.org
 - RIEW Stara Zagora, web site: <http://rstz.riew.e-gov.bg>
 - RIEW Smolyan, web site: <http://riewsm.-bg.eu>
 - RIEW Haskovo, web site: www.riosv-hs.org
 - RIEW Shumen, e-mail: riosv-shn@icon.bg
 - BD Blagoevgrad, e-mail: bdblg@wabd.bg
 - BD Varna, web site: www.bsbd.org
 - BD Pleven, e-mail: dunavbd@bDDR.org
 - BD Plovdiv, web site: <http://bd-ibr.org>
 - DNP Pirin, web site: www.pirin.bg
 - DNP Rila, web site: www.rilanationalpark.bg
 - DNP Central Balkan, web site: www.centralbalkan.bg

The environmental policy of Bulgaria affects both the business and personal life of its population. Probably the largest the impact is towards agriculture, energy, industry, tourism, etc...



Czech Republic

Traditionally the Czech Republic is an industrial country and moreover, the Czech Republic as a country with experience with the socialist system has certain knowledge of the possibilities of exploiting their environment and it also caused many natural damages. In its history, the population of the Czech Republic faced the dangers of air pollution, manages and uses water, using the resources of both, surface and subsurface materials, land managers.

The State Environmental Policy of the Czech Republic defines a plan for effective implementation of environmental policy until 2020. The main objective is to ensure healthy and good environment for the citizens living in the Czech Republic. This plan significantly contributes to the efficient use of all resources and minimizes negative impacts of human activity on the environment and improve the quality of the life. The national plan is focused on the following topics:

- Conservation and sustainable use of resources, including the protection of natural resources, ensuring water protection and the improvement of their condition, prevention, ensuring their maximum utilization and reduction of negative impacts on the environment, conservation and sustainable use of soil and bedrock.
- Climate protection and improvement of air quality in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reducing the negative impacts of climate change in the Czech Republic, demotion air pollution and promote the efficient and careful use against nature renewable energy and energy savings.
- Protection of nature and landscape consisting mainly of protecting and enhancing green functions of the landscape, preserving natural and landscape values and enhancement of the environment in the cities.
- Safe environment, including both prevention of consequences of natural threats (floods, droughts, slope instability, erosion, etc.)

The current national strategy (until 2020) is quite general and does not sort concretely the national priorities. In addition, the document is not coordinated with other strategic and conceptual documents at the government level (e.g. Energy and transport policy). Generally speaking, the degree of coordination of strategic and conceptual documents is insufficient.

The positive aspects of Czech current environmental policy are particularly complex legislation, institutional capacity building, governance and institutional support, and stable condition of the environment. At the current stage, it still cannot be considered as fully satisfying. In all policy areas, many challenges remain.

Protecting the environment (environmental law) is generally enshrined in both the Constitution of the Czech Republic and the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms. Environmental rights are regulated together with human rights, on the constitutional level was elevated to the time of the last several decades, but the current national strategy (until 2020) is quite general and does sort the national priorities. In addition, the document is not coordinated with other strategic and conceptual documents at the government level (e.g. Energy and transport policy). Generally speaking, the degree of coordination of strategic and conceptual documents is insufficient.

The environmental policy in the Czech Republic is mainly influenced by:

- Industrial history
- Agriculture
- Emissions of greenhouse gases
- Water pollution
- Extraction of non-renewable resources
- Air Pollution
- Transport
- Energy and materials management
- Water - water in small streams, groundwater, the need for a comprehensive view - the water in the landscape
- Risk of accidents - environmental security
- Hazardous chemicals - source distribution, effects.
- Improving the management of solid waste
- Environmental awareness and education

The main objectives are defined by the Ministry of Environment and are in accordance with the EU environmental policies. The main objectives are:

- Conservation and sustainable use of resources, including the protection of natural resources, ensuring water protection and the improvement of their condition, prevention, ensuring their maximum utilization and reduction of negative impacts on the environment, conservation and sustainable use of soil and bedrock.
- Climate protection and improvement of air quality in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reducing the negative impacts of climate change in the Czech Republic, demotion air pollution and promote the efficient and careful use against nature renewable energy and energy savings.
- Protection of nature and landscape consisting mainly of protecting and enhancing green functions of the landscape, preserving natural and landscape values and enhancement of the environment in the cities.
- Safe environment, including both prevention of consequences of natural threats (floods, droughts, slope instability, erosion, etc.)

The **Ministry of Environment** of the Czech Republic is responsible for the environmental policy. The Ministry issues the legislation and strategic documents in the environmental field.

The Ministry is also responsible for unified information system on the environment, including extensive monitoring. It is also a central government body for coordinating international cooperation in environmental matters.

The executive body is **National Environmental Fond**, that is also responsible for the funding of environmental projects and strategies.

The main control body of Czech environmental policy is **Czech Environmental Inspection**.



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The environmental policy has impact mainly on:

- industry,
- tourism
- and agriculture.



Germany



The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) is responsible for the environmental policy in Germany. The Ministry has worked to protect the public from environmental toxins and radiation and establish an intelligent and efficient use of raw materials; it has advanced climate action and promoted a use of natural resources that conserves biodiversity and secures habitats. German environmental policy is embedded in and influenced by the European and International frameworks (e.g. Europe 2020, Agenda 21, Kyoto-Protocol). The main objectives regarding the environment are defined by the Federal Government and in particular by the BMUB. Then the parliament makes the necessary legislative amendments.

Government policy in Germany is guided by the principle of sustainability. Germany's National Sustainability Strategy, which was adopted in 2002, sets out quantified goals for 21 key areas related to sustainable development. Reliably measurable indicators and concrete years for target achievement have been stipulated for these areas. The German government and the Federal Statistical Office regularly review to what extent these targets have been achieved and where further action is needed.

The following goals of the National Sustainability Strategy are particularly important for environmental policy:

- To double raw material productivity between 1994 and 2020.
- To double energy productivity between 1990 and 2020.
- To reduce primary energy consumption by 20 percent by 2020 compared to 2008, and by 50 percent by 2050.
- To reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 21 percent (compared to 1990 levels) by 2010/2012. This goal was already achieved in 2008. Climate gas emissions are to be cut by 40 percent by 2020 and by 80 to 95 percent by 2050 (both compared to 1990 levels).
- To raise the share of renewable energies in final energy consumption to 18 percent by 2020 and to 60 percent by 2050.
- To increase the share of electricity from renewable sources in total electricity consumption to at least 35 percent by 2020 and at least 80 percent by 2050.
- To limit, by 2020, the use of undeveloped land in Germany to 30 hectares per day. In the period between 1993 and 1996 that figure was 140 hectares per day, in 2012 74 hectares per day.
- To increase biological diversity in Germany to an index value of 100 by 2015. In the last 10 years of observation (2001 - 2011) the indicator value deteriorated to only 63 percent (2011) of the target value.

The strategy is based on four core principles: intergenerational equity, quality of life, social cohesion and international responsibility. Taking the strategy forward includes implementing the strategy in political decision-making processes and in the German government's everyday activities. The guiding principle of sustainable development is thus applied to government action and in other areas, such as public procurement and business trips.



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Since May 2009 ministries have had to carry out a sustainability check (an impact assessment from the point of view of sustainability) for each draft law or ordinance. The Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development is responsible for reviewing these results.

The Federal Committee of State Secretaries for Sustainable Development, which comprises permanent state secretaries from all federal ministries, is an important committee when it comes to the German government's sustainability policy. The Federal Committee is responsible for all important decisions concerning the Sustainability Strategy. It plays a key role in implementing the National Sustainability Strategy and ensures that it is continuously updated.

Source: Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB)
<http://www.bmub.bund.de/en/>



Turkey



Turkey established several mechanisms in order to solve the environmental problems. 1982 Constitution recognizes the right to live in a healthy environment. Turkey enacted the Environment Law at 1983 and established Ministry of Environment at 1991. People's awareness and demands on the environmental issues increasing day by day. As well; The number and effectiveness of the NGO's working on environment are also rising. Although all these developments, the environmental issues are not addressed adequately by the society. 56th article of 1982 Constitution (it is already in force) says "Everybody has the right to live in a healthy and balanced environment. Protecting the environment and preventing the environmental pollution are the duties of the State and all citizens. There are several provisions about the protection of the environment at Environment Law (Law number 2872) and some other legislations.

The main strategy document on environment policies in Turkey is National Environment Strategy and Action Plan that has been developed by the coordination of State Planning organization and support of Ministry of Environment and World Bank in 1998. This strategy document covers 20 years and will end at 2018.

Turkey is a candidate country to European Union and this objective has a critical role on environmental policies. Environment policies are being carried out in the context of EU Accession process. Ministry of Environment and Forestry declared the EU Integrated Environment Strategy (UÇES). EU Integrated Environment Strategy (UÇES) includes detailed information about Turkey's adaptation to EU's environment legal acquis, implementation of EU legislation in an effective way, technical and organizational capacity for adaptation to EU legislation, mandatory environmental improvements. EU integrated Environment Strategy gives also information about the current situation in Turkey, legislation and organizational structure, the environment policy until 2006, the problems encountered until 2006 on implementation of environment policies.

Turkey is a newly industrializing economy. This means Turkey couldn't conclude industrialisation process so we must still find a balance between the economy and environment. The environmental policy decisions may increase the costs of investment and this may influence competitiveness of Turkey at global market. This situation is a challenge on the policy makers. The measures for the environment may lead a loss of competitiveness of Turkish industrial companies. There are some heavy industry regions in Turkey like East Marmara. The employers object to some of the environment-friendly policies because of the increase of the costs. The government must take care of these objections because the unemployment is a big problem for Turkey.

Increase of energy consumption is a big challenge too. Turkey's energy consumption is increasing very fastly and we don't have natural gas resources. The energy import is 90% of Turkey's current deficit and Turkey has more than 5 % current deficit. This is the main economical problem in Turkey. Turkey's energy consumption increases approximately 7% in a year. So the government tries to increase the energy production of Turkey. This means nuclear thermic, hydroelectric power stations in all over the country. There are some investments on wind and solar energy too but these are not enough to meet Turkey's energy needs.



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The most important authority in Turkey for the environmental measures is Council of Ministers. Turkey has a very centralized administration system. The local authorities have the role of implementation of the decisions made by the central government. Ministry of environment and urban planning has the main role on environmental decisions. The participation of the NGO's and other actors is not sufficient but there is an environmental council to incorporate the other actors to decision making processes. The academicians, business associations, representatives of private sector, NGO's, and other experts in the environmental issues are selected by the Minister of Environment and Urban Planning for the Council. The Council consists of 300 members. Ministry gathers the Council in every four years. The decisions of the Council are advisory decisions. The government is free to implement these decisions. The government is responsible for all the environmental policies in Turkey.

Environmental measures have an influence on some other sectors too. Especially the industrial policies are affected by environmental policies. Environmental legislations generally increase the costs of the industrial investments so the government and the industry lobbies decelerate the environmental measures.



United Kingdom

The UK Government has the world's first long-term legally binding national framework to reduce emissions in order to tackle the dangers of climate change. The Climate Change Act 2008 put in place a system of five year 'carbon budgets' to set the trajectory towards a long term target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050 below 1990 levels.

The UK's first three carbon budgets, which cover the periods 2008–12, 2013–17 and 2018–22, came into force on 31 May 2009. These require emission reductions of just over 22%, 28% and 34% respectively, compared to 1990 levels. The UK is committed to tightening its carbon budgets in the light of a comprehensive global agreement, and the sharing out of a new EU target. The Government has followed the advice of the Committee on Climate Change in setting its budgets and does not agree that the UK should be prepared to take on a higher 2020 target and tighter carbon budgets in the absence of an ambitious global deal that sees the EU move to a 30% target and a tighter EU ETS cap. However, the Government has made clear that it will go further following an ambitious global deal and is in the meantime aiming to meet its carbon budgets through domestic action alone (outside sectors covered by the EU ETS) in order to be well placed to make the transition to the tighter carbon budgets to be set after a deal is reached. In terms of emissions reductions achieved, in 2008 greenhouse gases emissions in the UK were 1.9% lower than in 2007. This is in line with the Committee on Climate Change's analysis that "meeting carbon budgets requires annual average emissions reduction over the first three budget periods of 1.7% for the Interim (currently legislated) budget."¹

In July 2009 the Government released the UK Low Carbon Industrial Strategy² which identified drivers of fundamental change in four key areas: energy efficiency; boosting the low carbon energy infrastructure; low carbon vehicle development and production; and international recognition of skills, infrastructure, procurement, research and development, demonstration and deployment policies. It recommended that skills for low carbon goods and services be embedded into all professional training. The Industrial Strategy also recognised the key role of government in working with leading employers and key strategic partners to stimulate demand, support business innovation and create the framework for developing low carbon skills in the UK workforce. The Industrial Strategy defined a Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services sector (LCEGS) that can be broken down into three key areas of economic activity: Environmental sector; Renewable energy sector, and Emerging low carbon sector. In parallel with the Industrial Strategy, the Government published a Strategy for Climate and Energy³ and a Renewable Energy Strategy⁴, which shifted

¹House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee (2010) 'Carbon budgets: Government Response to the Committee's Third Report', *Second Special Report of Session 2009–2010*, accessed 25 August 2014 at <<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmselect/cmenvaud/479/479.pdf>>.

² Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) /Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) (July 2009) *The UK low carbon industrial strategy*.

³ DECC (July 2009) *The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan: National Strategy for Climate and Energy*.

the policy focus onto the renewable energy industries and supply chains. The publication of the Government's New Industries, New Jobs and Jobs for the Future advocated an active approach to ensure that the UK's skills capabilities and ability to secure jobs underpinned the UK's global competitiveness. This laid further emphasis on the importance of low carbon sectors.⁵

The five main objectives in the UK in 2014⁶

- ✓ Carbon emissions reporting
- ✓ Higher fines for environmental offences
- ✓ Water offsetting
- ✓ Fracking
- ✓ Green subsidy schemes

UK-listed companies now face a duty to incorporate carbon emissions reporting in their annual company reports. This is a requirement under the Climate Change Act and applies to all reports covering financial years ending on or after 30 September 2013.

The sentencing council guideline for environmental offences published in May 2014 introduces a tariff-based approach to the sentencing of environmental offences and the criminal courts will be required to take account of the guideline when sentencing offenders.

At an international level talk of water offsetting is gaining momentum. This is where companies commit to water reduction programmes and in the interim acquire water allowances to offset their consumption. It sits alongside the attempts of many companies to sketch out their water footprints.

The regulation of fracking in the UK is strict and the UK government is keen to resist the introduction of any further controls at an EU level – which is a real prospect. EU member states such as France and Germany are both lobbying for tighter EU-wide controls to avoid being put at a competitive disadvantage to countries such as the UK, which is keen to make the most of the opportunities presented by shale gas.

The government is seeking to simplify and broaden the scope of regimes such as the Renewable Heat Incentive and the Green Deal, recognising the take up of both has been poorer than expected. This conflicts with the government's approach to green tariffs on energy bills and a commitment to remove these, offering a classic case of giving with one hand and taking away with another and posing questions about how these schemes will be funded.

⁴ DECC (July 2009) *The UK Renewable Energy Strategy*.

⁵ South West Observatory Skills and Learning (2010) 'Green Skills, Green Jobs: Opportunities for the South West Low Carbon Economy', *SLIM Learning Theme Report*, accessed 28 August 2014 at <http://www.swslim.org.uk/documents/themes/LT18-green-skills-report.pdf>.

⁶ Simon Colvin (19 December 2013) 'Environmental Law in 2014: What Businesses Should Know', accessed 26 August 2014 at <http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/blog/environment-law-2014-business-should-know>.

I.2. Selected topics of environmental policy



Bulgaria



Renewable energy – Development of renewable energy sources is a priority policy of the European Union and Bulgaria as its member. As the potential of renewable energy in each Member State is different, each country draw up its own plan to achieve their national targets set out in Directive 2009/28/EC. In the tables bellow you can see the targets set in the National Action Plan for the Energy from RES.

A. Share of energy from renewable sources in the gross energy consumption in 2005 (S2005) (%)	9.40
B. The target for the share of energy from renewable sources in the gross energy consumption in 2020 (S2020) (%)	16.00
C. Expected gross energy consumption in 2020 (ktoe)	10 738
D. Expected amount of energy from renewable sources corresponding to the 2020 target (ktoe)	1 718

Indicative of the share of renewables by 2020	2010	2011-2012	2013-2014	2015-2016	2017-2018	2019	2020
Minimum estimated trajectory of RES%	10.1	10.7	11.4	12.4	13.7	14.8	16.0
Minimum estimated trajectory of RES (ktoe)	1025	1122	1205	1309	1459	1590	1718

Source: National Action Plan for the Energy from RES (see:

<http://www.google.bg/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=0CB8QFjAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.strategy.bg%2FFileHandler.ashx%3FfileId%3D2535&ei=JzbbVJ-ML8jlaIjvgZgB&usg=AFQjCNHrPPbeha I5YvDM-Wyr4MLecVlnA&bvm=bv.85761416,d.d2s&cad=rja>)

As a result of the national environmental policy and the initiatives at national and regional level the quantity of energy produced from RES in Bulgaria increased rapidly in the recent years. Bellow you can see the data till 12.04.2013:

INFO

Installed RES capacities
according to the guarantees of origin, issued by SEDA till 12.04.2013

No	RES source	Installed capacities by year							Total installed capacities until 12.04.2013 (MW)
		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
1	HPP above 10MW	1 968,83	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	86,30	0,00	2 055,13
2	SHPP	179,62	6,92	12,68	22,86	21,89	22,54	3,00	269,51
3	Wind PP	26,61	90,39	87,81	298,41	22,80	131,00	2,00	659,02
4	PV PP	0,02	0,45	9,09	29,21	172,78	721,04	1,10	933,69
7	Biogas under 1MW	0,29	0,00	0,00	0,00	5,52	15,83	0,00	21,64
		2 175,36	97,75	109,58	350,47	223,00	976,71	6,10	3 938,98

Source: Association of Producers of Ecological Energy (see: <http://apee.bg/documents/statistics/>)

Energy efficiency – On 19 May 2010, a recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (Directive 2010/31/EU) was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union in order to strengthen the energy performance requirements and to clarify and streamline some of the provisions from the 2002 Directive it replaces. The main requirements of EPBD Recast have been introduced in the Bulgarian legislation by amending the Energy Efficiency Act since March 2013. In addition to these legislative amendments there are a number of financial incentives for improvement of the energy performance of existing buildings. These financial incentives include:

- ✓ Incentives for individuals:
 - National project “Energy reonvation of Bulgarian homes”, Project Nr BG161PO001-1.2.01-0001 – see: <http://www.bgregio.eu/>
 - Residential Energy Efficiency Credit Line (REECL) – see: <http://www.reecl.org/bg/>
 - Fund “Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources” – see: <http://www.bgeef.com/display.aspx>
- ✓ Incentives for companies:
 - Operational Programme Competitiveness – see: <http://www.opcompetitiveness.bg/>
 - Fund “Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources” – see: <http://www.bgeef.com/display.aspx>
 - Bulgarian Credit Line for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy – see: <http://www.beerecl.com>
- ✓ Incentives for municipalities (public sector):
 - Operational Programme Regional Development – see: <http://www.bgregio.eu>

- Fund “Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources” – see: <http://www.bgeef.com/display.aspx>
- etc. ...

Source: <http://www.seea.government.bg/bg/finansiranje>

Organic farming – Organic farming has a priority for development in Bulgarian agriculture. Thus in 2007, under the Rural Development Programme was developed a special sub-programme called “Agro-ecological payments”. Under this sub-programme were allocated about € 435 million. Applying for grants under this sub-programme is very easy (much easier than other sub-programmes). The applicant must only submit an application form specifying the type of crops and the area of arable land. The advantage of the subsidies under sub-programme “Agro-ecological payments” is that the payments begin from the first year of application for organic certification, i.e. during the duration of the three years transitional period for certification. Currently the necessary legislative amendments are being done for the next program period 2014-2020.

Source: Rural Development Programme – see: <http://prsr.government.bg/> and <http://www.regal.bg/show.php?storyid=1757844>

Recycling, waste management – In December 2014 was published the final version of the National Plan for Waste Management 2014-2020. In this document are set the aims for the period as well as the strategy and the mechanisms for their achievement. The strategic aims set in this document are:

- ✓ Reduce the harmful impact of waste by preventing their formation and promotion of their reuse
- ✓ Increasing the quantities of recycled and reused waste by creating conditions for
- ✓ development a network of treatment facilities for all waste generated, that would reduce the risk for the people and the environment;
- ✓ Waste management, that will ensure a clean and safe environment;
- ✓ Inclusion of public and making it a key factor in applying the hierarchy of waste management.

Source: National Plan for Waste Management 2014-2020 – see: <http://www.moew.government.bg/?show=top&cid=376>

The importance of environmental issues in policy decisions is getting stronger and stronger. Currently in Bulgaria it is not possible to start any large business project or to take any decisions on urban master plans and regional plans without Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

EIA is a preventive tool to identify potential impacts on the environment and human health from the construction and operation of investment proposals in all sectors of the economy and infrastructure development, at the early stage of their research and development before a decision is taken to implement them in a specific place and with specific technology, method of construction and others. The results of the EIA must be taken into account in the design, construction and operation of investment proposals.

Source: Ministry of Environment and Water of Bulgaria <http://www.moew.government.bg/?show=top&cid=21&lang=bg>

Since 2007 when Bulgaria joined the EU, the main influences on the environmental policy come from the decisions of the EC.

Although, due to objective reasons, sometimes require changes in national legislation and plans on the environmental issues, the main objectives remain the same:

- protection and preservation of nature;
- increasing the share of renewable energy in the total consumption;

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- increasing the energy efficiency of the public, industrial and residential buildings;
 - increasing the independence of Bulgaria from energy imports;
 - improvement in the field of recycling, waste management;
 - etc. ...

The process of harmonisation of the Bulgarian legislation to the European and implementation of the national strategies related to environmental issues, require constant change and adaptation of the legislation. As you can see from section "I" of this report the last amendments of the laws related to environmental issues are from the end of 2014.

The tendency in decision making process is towards larger transparency and wider involvement of citizens and NGO sector.

N/A

In Bulgaria the so called green/eco organisations or other organisations that are related to environmental issues are not politically oriented. However, they play active role in the decision making process.



Czech Republic

Energy

The Czech Republic has one of the highest energy intensity in comparison with others EU Member States, the potential for energy savings is very significant. The aim is to reduce average annual energy consumption up to 9% in the period 2008 to 2016. The most significant potential for savings is in the Czech sector are households (30,5%). The sector with the second highest savings potential is the industrial sector (24.5%), followed by sector of transport (23.3%), followed by the tertiary sector (15.8%), the sector with the smallest savings potential is then agriculture (5.9%).

Organic farming

Every year, the area of organically cultivated land and grassland increases. The proportion of organically farmed agricultural land reached 10% of the total area of agricultural land. According to the new Action Plan for the Development, the organic agriculture will be fully developed agricultural sector with all relevant characteristics such as stable markets, services and supports the provision of state policy, public goods, including aspects relating to the environment and animal welfare by 2020. The aim is to achieve 15% share of organically farmed agricultural land in total agricultural land by 2020.

Air pollution

Significant air quality problems remain to limit concentrations of dust microparticles, which is exposed to a high proportion of the population. As a result of air pollution, the dust microparticles cause allergic disease of children, and also increase respiratory and cardiovascular disease through early death particularly in the elderly and chronically sick people. By 2020, there should be reached a reduction of emissions by more than 40%, compared to 2009.

Waste management and recycling

Since 2006, the recycling rate has increased (more than three time), however, from a European perspective the waste management and recycling is still below the average (21% of the waste is recycled or reused). The Czech policy focused on the waste management and recycling is based on the National Waste Management Plan 2015 – 2024 and the main objectives are:

- Waste prevention and reduction of specific waste production.
- Minimise the adverse effects of the generation and management of waste on human health and the environment.
- Sustainable development of society and move towards a European "recycling society".
- Maximal utilization of waste as a substitute for primary resources and transition to circulatory economy.

Renewable energy

This priority puts emphasis on efficient and environmentally friendly use of renewable energy, which alone can be considered as infinite. In the Czech Republic, the main renewable resource is especially energy derived from waste biomass, photovoltaic and solar thermal systems, wind and small hydroelectric plants.

The main objectives to be reached by 2020 are:

- To save 13% share of energy from renewable sources in gross final consumption
- To ensure the 10% share of renewable energy in transport by 2020
- To increase energy efficiency by 2020

The environmental policy influences the decision making process in legislation, as well as economy in the Czech environment. The pressure on the ecological aspects in decision making processes, as well as production, industry, transport or agriculture are becoming more serious and strict. Each product has to go through Environmental Product Declaration (EPD). EPD is a set of measurable information about the impact of product (good or service) on the environment throughout their lifecycle (ie. Energy and water consumption, waste production, impact on climate change, eutrophication, erosion ozone layer, etc.).

The main area of society-wide process changes for the period after 1989 was also the environmental policy, which in this period was among the key priorities. During the relatively short period, there was created a base for the development of environmental policy in the Czech Republic. Shaping environmental policy of the Czech Republic and corresponding management system required:

- creating an appropriate legislative base and its subsequent approximation in connection with the preparation for accession to the EU,
- completion of the conversion and subsequent institutional arrangement in connection with introducing a new territorial-administrative arrangement,
- creation of the whole set of programming documents, including a new formulation of goals and corresponding principles and instruments.

The main changes and adaptation occurred when the Czech Republic became a member of EU in 2004.

The State Environmental Policy of the Czech Republic 2012 - 2020 sets a framework for an effective protection of environment in the Czech Republic until 2020.

The main objective of the Policy remain continuously the same and ensure a healthy and high-quality environment for citizens living in the Czech Republic, to significantly contribute to a more effective use of resources and minimize negative impacts of human activities on environment, including cross-border impacts, and thus contribute to the improvement of quality of life in Europe and globally.

The Policy focuses on the following areas:

- Protection and sustainable use of resources,
- Climate protection and improvement of ambient air quality,
- Protection of nature and landscape,
- Safe environment.

The environmental policy is one of the most youngest policies in the Czech Republic and the legislation is still developing and adapting according to the current and future needs on the national, as well as EU level.

In the past the environment and environmental policy was not the priority of the Czech government and was not strictly taken into the consideration. Since 1989, after the fall of communism, the Czech Republic



Report on national policies on general environmental issues



became more open and keen concerning the environmental issues and is become more and more important in the decision making process, economy and the quality of life in general in the Czech Republic.

The main changes occurred in 1989 and 2004 and no serious changes are planned.



Germany



Climate and Energy

In order to reach the ambitious German climate protection goals the Federal Government has elaborated a comprehensive Integrated Energy and Climate Programme. Its goal is to ensure an ultramodern, secure and climate-friendly energy supply in Germany. It comprises measures for enhanced energy efficiency and expanded use of renewable energy sources.

In 2008, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) launched a comprehensive Climate Initiative, financed with additional funds from the emissions trading scheme. It aims to tap existing potential for reducing emissions in a cost-effective way and to advance innovative model projects for climate protection. Specifically, the BMUB promotes climate protection measures for increased energy efficiency and greater use of renewable energies.

The National Climate Initiative contributes to a successful transformation of the energy system. Existing potential for emissions reduction is tapped in a cost-effective way and innovative programmes and projects for climate protection are promoted. This paves the way to reaching the ambitious national climate protection goals stipulated in the Energy Concept: a 40 percent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in Germany by 2020, a 55 percent reduction by 2030 and an 80-95 percent reduction by 2050, compared to 1990 levels.

At the same time, the International Climate Initiative strengthens Germany's bilateral cooperation with developing, newly industrialising and transition countries in the field of climate protection and supports the ongoing negotiation process for a comprehensive global climate agreement.

Energy Efficiency

In energy savings and energy efficiency Germany is following a three-tiered approach consisting of requirements, support and information. The buildings sector is responsible for 40 percent of primary energy consumption in Germany and for approximately 33 percent of CO₂ emissions. 75 percent of buildings in Germany were erected before 1979, i.e. before the First Thermal Insulation Ordinance entered into force. The Federal Government will gradually raise minimum efficiency standards and introduce a long-term modernisation road map for existing buildings in order to meet the targets in the building sector. This will be achieved by further developing regulatory provisions (amendment of the Energy Saving Ordinance in 2013) and by considerably stepping up economic incentives for energy related refurbishment of buildings. Funds for the CO₂ building modernisation programme were stocked up to a volume of 1.8 billion euros for the 2012 to 2014 period.

Measures to save electricity take the lion's share of in primary energy savings due to their high primary energy factor of 2.5. Since 1990 electricity consumption has been distinctly decoupled from economic development (as a result of increasing energy productivity). Several surveys have confirmed that economic electricity savings potential in the sectors of households, commerce, trade, services and industry ranges

from 80 to 110 TWh (terawatt hours) which corresponds to approximately 20 percent of Germany's net electricity demand.

A wide range of European and domestic measures to improve efficiency in electricity consumption is already available. The new EU Energy Efficiency Directive specifies comprehensive electricity savings requirements covering the entire energy chain. The Directive aims to make an EU-wide primary energy saving of 20 percent by 2020. The final energy saving, for instance, must be 1.5 percent to achieve this target. The Directive entered into force in October 2012 and was transposed into domestic law in November 2014.

On a domestic scale, projects under the Energy Efficiency Fund and the National Climate Initiative will also play an important role in achieving these targets. Regulatory provisions for refrigeration equipment were, for example, initiated under the National Climate Initiative.

Organic Farming

Germany has promoted the introduction of organic farming with public funds since 1989. Up to 1992, organic farming had been promoted by a variant of the EU extensification scheme that banned the use of synthetically produced chemical fertilisers and pesticides on the entire farm. In addition, animal husbandry had to adhere to basic rules of organic farming.

Since 1994, the introduction and maintenance of organic farming has been supported under the Länder (federal states) programmes for rural development. This support is currently based on Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) (Art. 29 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013) as amended. The requirements laid down in this Regulation are relevant for the structuring of this support in the EU programming period from 2014 onwards. The co-financing of measures with EU funds is also based on this Regulation.

The Act on a Joint Task for the Improvement of Agricultural Structure and Coastal Protection (GAK Act – GAKG) forms the national legal basis for support under the joint task, i.e. for the financial participation of the federal government in support measures. Under the GAK framework plan, the support for organic farming is laid down in the aid section on "market-adapted and site-adapted land management". It is implemented by way of support guidelines at Land level under the responsibility of the Länder for the implementation of GAK measures. The national funds are therefore co-financed at a rate of 60 : 40 by the federal government and the Länder. The maximum EU contribution rate is 75% of the eligible public expenditure (85% in less developed regions and in the outermost regions) (Regulation (EU) No 305/2013).

In 2002, the Federal Organic Farming Scheme was set up to improve the general conditions for organic farming. The Scheme was extended to include other forms of sustainable agriculture under a resolution adopted by the German Bundestag on 26 November 2010.

The Federal Organic Farming Scheme and other forms of sustainable agriculture (BÖLN) aim at improving the general conditions for the organic agri-food sector and other forms of sustainable agriculture in Germany and at paving the way for a well-balanced expansion of supply and demand. Building on the identifi-

cation of problems and development potential, the Scheme envisages support measures where growth can be efficiently boosted by closing gaps in support.

A range of different measures for all areas of the production chain are included under this general aim: from agri-cultural production, data collection, and processing to trade, marketing and consumers.

Waste management and recycling

The German government aims to achieve almost complete high-quality recovery, at least of municipal waste, by 2020. This will eliminate the need to landfill wastes, which has adverse effects on the climate. Resource and climate protection will be incorporated into waste management to a greater extent at European and international level over the next years, for example by minimising methane and CO₂ emissions or substituting fossil fuels. Germany contributes know-how and innovative technology to reaching this target.

The German government wants to develop waste and closed cycle management into a sustainable resource-efficient materials flow management over the next years. By strictly separating wastes, through pre-treatment, recycling and the recovery of energy, Germany aims to make full use of substances and materials bound in wastes and therefore make landfilling of wastes superfluous. Significant ecological progress was made with the entry into force of the ban on landfilling untreated household wastes or general waste from industry on 1 June 2005.

Product responsibility is at the heart of waste management policy in Germany. It puts the idea into practice that waste avoidance is best achieved by holding the generator of waste responsible. This way, producers and distributors must design their products in such a way as to reduce waste occurrence and allow environmentally sound recovery and disposal of the residual substances, both in the production of the goods and in their subsequent use. The legal bases for this are the Act for Promoting Closed Substance Cycle Waste Management and Ensuring Environmentally Compatible Waste Disposal and the Federal Immission Control Act.

Sustainable waste management that includes modern and efficient treatment technologies for waste helps to protect both resources and climate. The German government therefore advocates the further development of waste management at European and international level. Germany often takes on a pioneering role in shaping EU waste law. At national level the German government supports sustainable waste management concepts for obtaining raw materials or energy from wastes. German waste management has the highest waste recovery quotas worldwide, and thus already contributes significantly to sustainable management and climate protection.

The German government advocates an efficient and economical supervision of waste. The act for simplification of supervision under laws pertaining to waste management, which entered into force on 1 February 2007, was an important step to ease the bureaucratic burden on waste management administration and industry and to strengthen the efficiency of supervision under waste management law. German commitment against export of e-waste. Every year, tonnes of valuable raw materials such as copper or platinum are lost to the German raw materials cycle due to export of waste. The German government champions a clear European regulation under which exporters must prove that the appliances to be exported still function and are not waste. Exporters will be charged for the costs of monitoring.

Renewable Energy

In 2013, renewables already accounted for 25.3 per cent of gross electricity consumption in Germany. Renewable energies are becoming increasingly important in the electricity sector primarily due to the Renewable Energy Sources Act (EEG) which went into force on 1 April 2000. Today, almost one out of every four kilowatt hours of electricity generated in Germany comes from wind, solar, biomass or other regenerative sources of energy. The German Government wants to expand this share. By the year 2025, we aim to produce 40 to 45 per cent of our electricity from renewable sources. This figure is to be 55 to 60 per cent by the year 2035.

Up until the amendment of the German Renewable Energy Act (EEG) that went into force on 1 August 2014, operators of plants that generate electricity from renewable energy sources could receive a fixed remuneration for each fed-in kilowatt-hour from the transmission system operators (TSO) for a period of usually 20 years. In the future, the operators of new wind and solar power, biomass and other facilities will need to sell their electricity themselves on the market. For this they will obtain a market premium as funding from the grid operators. The market premium compensates for the difference between the fixed feed-in tariff and the average trading price for electricity. The market premium is optional for older power facilities and small new facilities. They can continue to claim a fixed remuneration instead. The difference between grid operators' expenditures and revenues for the funding payments (the so-called EEG differential costs) will continue to be distributed over power consumption (final consumption liable to the EEG), as far as this is not privileged by special regulations, that is partially exempt from the surcharge. The resulting quantity is the so-called EEG surcharge. It is paid with the price of electricity and is currently 6.24 cents/kWh. After 1 January 2015, the EEG surcharge drops to 6.17 cents/kWh for the first time since the enactment of the German Renewable Energy Act (EEG). Thus, it was possible to break the cost dynamics of recent years.

In recent years, there has been a change in focus in Germany from traditional regulatory policies to new environmental policies such as ecotaxes, tradable permits and environmental agreements. German environmental policy is embedded in and influenced by the European framework; however, Germany has established itself as a pioneer and market driver in the fields of renewable energy, offshore wind farms, cogeneration, and the energy efficient redevelopment of buildings and other infrastructure.



Turkey



Turkey is a developing country so people view the economical development more important than the environmental issues. This influences the policy of the governments but in last years by the support of EU programs the environmental issues on people's agenda. There are several civil organizations on environmental subjects. Turkey has a EU integrated Environment Strategy for 2007-2023 years. This strategy focuses on the environment under 7 titles.

- a) Water Sector
- b) Waste sector
- c) Air Sector
- d) Industrial Pollution Sector
- e) Noise Sector
- f) Chemicals and GDO sector
- g) Nature Protection Sector

Environmental policy is directly related to EU accession process and there is a continuous legislation adaptation process. Law 5491 started a new principle in Environment policies of Turkey. This principle is polluter pays for the cost of cleaning. This law orders the payments of the entities for polluting the environment will be used only for the investment, maintenance or repair of the environmental structures.

Turkey's tax policy influences the environment policy too. The high tax load on the prices of oil and cars encourages people to use the low volume engine vehicles.



15 new environmental policies in the UK ⁷ (June 2013-August 2014)

- ✓ Reducing the UK's greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050
- ✓ Protecting and enhancing our urban and natural environment to improve public health and wellbeing.
- ✓ Simplifying farming regulations
- ✓ Improving the energy efficiency of buildings and using planning to protect the environment
- ✓ Maintaining secure water supplies, high standards of drinking water and effective sewerage services
- ✓ Improving water quality
- ✓ Protecting biodiversity and ecosystems at home and abroad
- ✓ Encouraging businesses to manage their impact on the environment
- ✓ Sustaining and enhancing trees, forests and woodland
- ✓ Making sustainable development a part of all government policy and operations
- ✓ Reducing the threats of flooding and coastal change
- ✓ Managing the use and disposal of radioactive and nuclear substances and waste
- ✓ Protecting and sustainably using the marine environment
- ✓ Reforming and managing marine fisheries for a prosperous fishing industry and a healthy marine environment
- ✓ Reducing and managing waste

⁷ GOV.UK (2014) 'Policies', accessed 28 August 2014 at
<<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies?keywords=&topics%5B%5D=environment&departments%5B%5D=all>>

III. Sustainability and its impact on customers and companies

Summary

In all partner countries environmental issues are getting more important for customers and companies. There is a trend to sustainable consumption and activities that beneficial to the environment (e.g. waste separation or car sharing). But there are differences: Increasing water consumption in Bulgaria, decreasing trend in Germany. The challenges for the companies in each country are similar. They need to adapt to the changes on the (global) markets and changes in the national (and international) environmental policy and legislation to be successful.



Bulgaria



In Bulgaria the environmental issues are getting more important for the customers for 2 main reasons:

- information – the access to a large and increasing amount of information related to environment, as well as the information campaigns and initiatives on different levels, makes the people more empathetic to environmental issues;
- economic – the increasing prices of fuels and electricity make people to buy more expensive but more energy efficient electrical appliances, more economic vehicles, to spent money and time to make their homes more energy efficient, etc...

According to the National Statistical Institute (NSI) between 2011 and 2012, energy consumption fell by 800 thousand tons of oil equivalent (about 9.3 GWh)

source: National Statistical Institute (see: <http://www.nsi.bg/>)

The forecast for total increase in water consumption in households period for 2010-2035 is from 274,066 thousand m³ to 286 232 thousand m³ or 4.4%.

The trends in water consumption of the business for the period 2010-2035 repeat trends of water consumption in households, i.e. the total water consumption of the business in the country will increase from 115 486 thousand m³ to 122 876 thousand m³ or 6.4%.

source: National Strategy for management and development of the water sector - analysis of the existing situation and prospects for future development (see:

www.mrrb.government.bg/docs/6efa2f0f3ea5a38ecaabf64a10d08b17.doc)

In the last years the carpool is getting more popular, especially among young people. Travelling to work or to the university in one care with people who are in your direction allow people not only to save money, but also to reduce their carbon footprint and to make friends. There are hundreds of websites and facebook pages for carpooling. Here are only a few of them:

- <http://spodeleno-patuvane.com/>
- <http://zaednonapat.com/>
- <http://vednaposoka.com/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/nastop/>

- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/spatuvane/>
- <http://www.spodelenopatuvane.com/>
- etc. ...

There is a trend in Bulgaria for increasing the consumption of organic/bio-products. National research from 2012 show, that Bulgarian consumers perceive organic food as high-quality food. They are healthier, more useful, more delicious and different appearance than other conventional foods.

source: Vitosha Research. 2012. "Production, distribution and consumption of organic products in Bulgaria. Marketing research", Sofia

A large part of Bulgarian people declare desire for constant purchases of organic food. Mothers show additional high interest in organic food, taking into account their usefulness and the desire to give their children the best possible food.

In the table below you can see Bulgarian's readiness to pay a higher price for organic food:

Price the people are willing to pay for organic food	Relative number of respondents in %
Up to 10% higher than the average product price	12.20
Up to 20% higher than the average product price	17.07
Up to 30% higher than the average product price	9.75
Over 30% higher than the average product price	26.83
The price doesn't matter	26.83
Non-responders	7.32
Total:	100.00

It should be noted that every second mother, participated in the study, is willing to pay for organic food price up to 30% higher than that of ordinary analogues, and for 17% of respondents in this group, the price of such useful products for children is irrelevant.

The research also show that Bulgarians prefer the following products to be organic:

- milk and dairy products (25%);
- meat and meat products (24%);
- vegetables and fruit (22%).

source: The organic products in Bulgaria, University of National and World Economy, 2012 Sofia

http://orgprints.org/22623/6/Organic_products_Bulgaria_D_Ivanova_E_Vasileva_2012.pdf

Generally, the people's behaviour is changing towards separate waste collection and recycling, but there is still much to be done in this direction (building the necessary infrastructure, plants for recycling of household waste, etc.). For instance, it is quite discouraging for people, who want to recycle, to know that

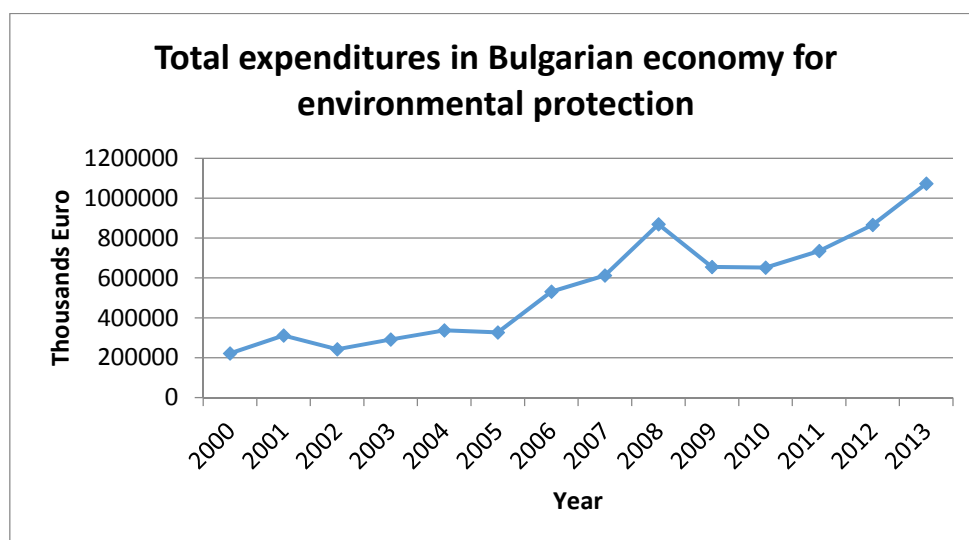
there is no plant for recycling of household waste and even if they separate the waste at the end it will go to one and the same place.

It is a two-way process. The consumer behavior and the civic organizations influence the environmental policy as well as the policy influence them.

For example in 2012 after protests were stopped several big investment projects for construction of resorts in the last wild places on the Bulgarian Black sea coast. So far, public opinion does not allow for the construction of ski resorts in Pirin Nature Reserve. At the same time national programs and initiatives change the people's behavior – it can be seen best in the field of RES and EE.

In the and the chart bellow you can see the total expenditures in Bulgarian economy for environmental protection in the last 14 years. There is not available official data for 2014 yet.

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
In thousands BGN	433282	608376	473533	569750	658923	639320	1038544	1197422	1700329	1280563	1273777	1438165	1693583	2098906
In thousands Euro	221534	311058	242114	291309	336902	326879	530999	612232	869364	654741	651272	735322	865915	1073154



source: National Statistic Institute (see: <http://www.nsi.bg>)

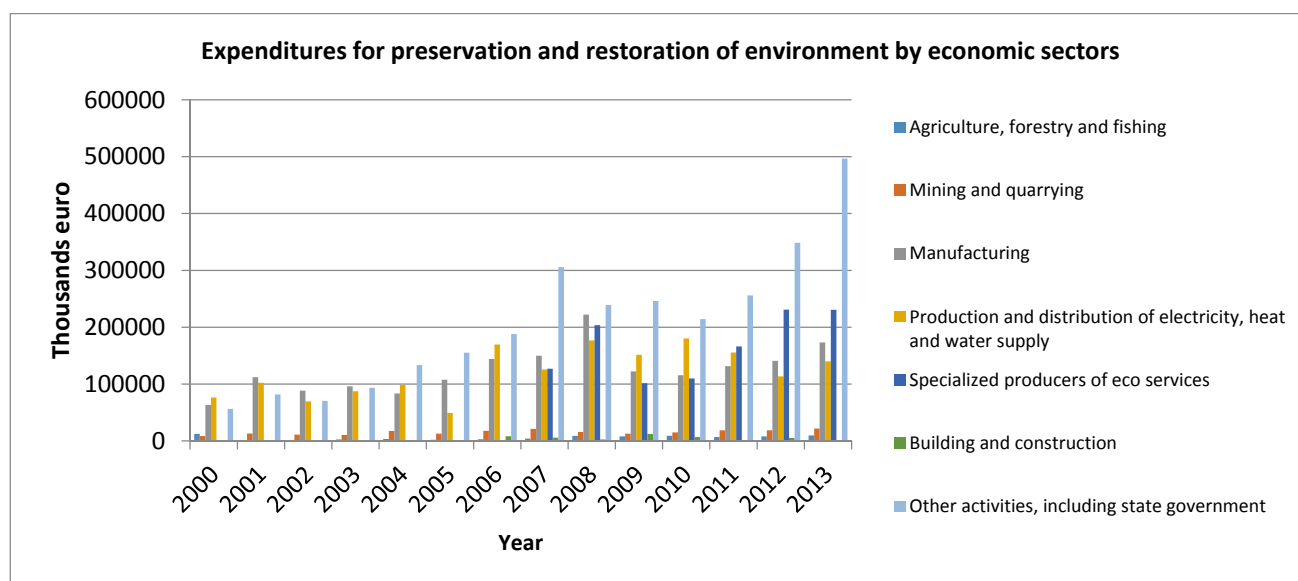
Data show that except for a small decline in 2009 and 2010, the Bulgarian economy has a tendency to continuously increase investment in environmental protection.

The following table presents the amounts invested for environmental protection by economic sectors.

Expenditures for preservation and restoration of environment by economic sectors

Year	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	Mining and quarrying	Manufacturing	Production and distribution of electricity, heat and water supply	Specialized producers of eco services	Building and construction	Other economic activities, including logistic, traffic and state government
2000	12,535	8,684	63,553	76,358	*	661	56,520
2001	933	12,955	112,077	102,222	*	1,179	81,692
2002	1,750	11,062	88,406	69,719	*	638	70,538
2003	2,751	10,655	96,127	87,371	*	768	93,636
2004	3,401	17,466	83,439	98,651	*	359	133,587
2005	2,051	12,737	107,613	49,249	*	*	155,230
2006	2,858	17,847	144,300	169,675	*	8,221	188,099
2007	4,024	21,254	149,849	125,551	127,017	5,719	305,835
2008	8,930	15,867	222,193	176,936	203,711	2,524	239,204
2009	8,143	12,895	122,397	151,616	101,354	12,169	246,168
2010	9,161	14,975	115,591	180,274	109,992	6,948	214,331
2011	6,919	18,585	131,462	155,577	166,185	691	255,903
2012	7,976	18,704	140,871	113,533	231,018	5,124	348,690
2013	9,695	21,831	173,192	139,921	230,739	1,104	496,670

* - there is no available official data



source: National Statistic Institute (see: <http://www.nsi.bg>)

As you can see from the data above the highest investments in preservation and restoration of environment are done in the following economic sectors:

- Other economic activities, including logistic, traffic and state government;
- Specialized producers of eco services;

- Manufacturing;
- Production and distribution of electricity, heat and water supply.

The data also show that since 2009 there is a trend of continuously increasing investment in environmental protection in the following economic sectors:

- Other economic activities, including logistic, traffic and state government;
- Specialized producers of eco services;
- Manufacturing;
- Mining and quarrying.

While in the other sectors of economy the investments vary in the years.

In mid-term and long-term period, the behavior of the companies about environmental issues is oriented toward harmonisation of their business activities with the European standards and requirements as well as with the existing international standards and regulations. The general aim is to achieve the standards of the corporate social responsibility. In some companies, especially SMEs, some of the CSR standards have been already achieved but in a silent way, so even their owners are not aware that they are socially responsible. The main challenge that the companies and especially SMEs face in terms of environmental issues is related to funding and competition. The data of the National Statistic Institute show that in 2013 almost 33% of the environmental investments made by companies were funded by Operational Programme "Environment". That means that without the support of the government and EC a great part of the environmental investments would not happen.

The changes in the companies' behavior is influenced by the following main factors:

- The changes in the market environment, including customers' behaviour, competition, etc... For example the orientation of the customers towards organic food, energy efficient and environmentally friendly products force the producers to certain changes. At the same time the increasing prices of fuel and electricity makes the companies to search for more energy efficient solutions for their business in order to stay on the market.
- The changes in the environmental policy and legislation both at national and European level – since 2007 started a process of harmonisation of the Bulgarian legislation to European. As a result many Bulgarian companies invested a lot of money in order to fit to the legislative requirements of EC and to stay in business. That was and still is a difficult process because these additional investments make the products of the Bulgarian companies more expensive and thus they lose their competitive advantage.



Czech Republic

Nowadays, in the Czech Republic the companies and customers become more responsible and keen about the environment and search for environmentally friendly approaches, products and processes. Many companies buy eco products and focus on eco skills. Because of the growing landfills, many companies have introduced sorting of waste.

The big issue in the Czech Republic is the price and costs connected to the environmentally friendly behaviour of the customers or companies, as this way of living and production is more expensive and due to the social and economic level of the Czech people not so accessible for everybody.

For activities that are beneficial to the environment. (Eg. Waste sorting) are improved international comparisons and even talking about a relatively good situation in the Czech Republic. Research shows that the behavior of environmentally friendly (especially waste separation) had a tendency to increase until 2007 and then came to a halt, respectively. even a slight decline. Consistent with the decline in willingness and attenuation friendly behavior is a growing proportion of those excuses that are not environmentally plenty to do, or it is more important than the individual efforts of organizations. Similarly, when asked for the perception of the hazards of environmental pollution Czechs showing greater optimism than a decade ago.

The surveys show that people clearly prefer energy production from renewable sources - should be supported in particular the development of hydropower, wind and solar energy.

According to the surveys, almost up to half of Czech people waste water during the personal hygiene.

The transport and air pollution is very sensitive issue, especially on the Moravia-Silesian region, where the pollution reaches the high limits and numbers every year. The main sources of pollution is especially transportation, home heating and industrial sources. In general, the Czech people are used to use trains, as the railway network is very well organised in the Czech Republic. However the use of cars is still increasing.

The waste of food is a very hot world topic, however in the Czech Republic the resources necessary to combat this phenomenon are quite limited and not easily achievable. There are no precise data, statistics or researches, nevertheless, it is estimated that Czech people waste every year 70 kilograms of food.

The Czech Republic just recently went through revolution in waste separation. While in 2009 only 2% of municipal waste was recycled, in 2014 this number increased to 21%. In the waste management still dominates landfills and incineration plants. Minimum of biological waste (2%) is composed or transported to one of 57 biogas station in Czech Republic. Since 2015, according to the new legal act, the municipalities should ensure the containers for biological waste.

The Czech environmental policy does not really influence the customers behaviour, as there is not high importance given to the education and awareness in the field of environmental issues. The customers are rather more demanding for good quality of their life, high quality products, not polluted environment and the educational and information are rather spread by NGOs and other initiatives.

In general, the environmental behaviour of the Czech companies is connected and considered also in accordance with the production and economical aspects of the company. The environmental strategies of the Czech companies are mainly connected to the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), which is not widely reached in the Czech Republic. The main reason of the low prevalence of CSR is quite high ignorance of the company and orientation on the profit. In 2010, the research conducted by Ipsos Tabor, who, however, showed that while consumers care about whether it is a product or service is provided under ethical conditions with regard to environmental conservation, but theoretical knowledge of CSR have. And even though the concept of CSR is not known by the acronym, the survey suggests that its expansion is in great demand among the population. 80% of respondents said that it is essential for them whether or not their employer is socially responsible. Three quarters of respondents said they would be willing to pay more if the product or service are environmentally friendly and part of the proceeds intended for charitable purposes. Currently we demonstrate phenomena such as fair trade, eco products, farmers markets, social enterprises or organic farms that are interested in products that arise in the context of ethical business and are produced with respect to sustainability are not only social benefits, but also economically profitable. It is therefore only a matter of time before this concept will apply a wider range of companies.

To promote the concept of CSR and facilitate the communication within the company or outward to business partners, customers, the public, the media, etc., Used a formal award. These include: "Price Futurum. Health, Safety and Environment," the awarding organization Business Leaders Forum, "CSR Award", which is published every two years, "Top Responsible Company" organization Business for Society and "National Award for CSR CR" Czech Society for Quality.

Formal support for the concept of corporate social responsibility from the state to the Czech Republic does not yet exist.

The Czech companies, or the market, will face the need of the respectation and integration of the CSR concept.

- customer preferences and requirements
- marketing and PR
- financing and grants received
- International strategies
- Local production



Germany



Sustainable consumption has become a trend in Germany. Facts and figures confirm this: double-digit growth rates, considerable willingness to buy, and also high market shares for energy efficient white goods.

With only a few exceptions, sales of green products and services are growing steadily. Growth rates are often in the double-digit range and in some cases as high as three or even four digits. A++/ A+++-rated dishwashers are a shining example here, posting a 1,134 % increase in sales in 2011, and further growth of 33.4 % in 2012.

Higher sales growth cannot be equated to rising market share, as conventional markets also continue to expand. Green products and services are nonetheless conquering a greater proportion of the market in the majority of product categories examined here. Although the gains in the organic food and public transport segments are less than one percentage point, other product categories are expanding much more rapidly. Household appliances, for example, have advanced by between 5 and 28 percentage points, clearly showing that green products are entirely good enough for the mass market.

Even with products that are less in demand, willingness to buy sustainable alternatives is much higher than their current market shares would suggest. For example, in 2010 12 % of survey respondents said that they make carbon offset payments or would make them in the future, and 24 % said that they buy or would buy green power. Meanwhile, 34 % of respondents said that organic food was very or fairly important to them. This certainly does not mean that willingness to buy can be transformed easily into actual purchases, but it is an important indication that the market potential of sustainable products has not yet been exhausted.

A wide variety of more sustainable alternatives exists in all relevant consumer sectors, and they are increasingly becoming part of standard product ranges. This is true of the homes and living sector, where sufficient heat insulation is the norm when buildings are renovated, and with the large selection of energy-efficient A+++-rated appliances. It applies to mobility, with carsharing schemes in all major towns and cities, and to efficient cars that produce less than 100g CO₂ /km in emissions. While choice is gradually improving, so, too, is availability. Internet shopping is one of the reasons for this, as is distribution via supermarkets and do-it-yourself stores.

It is still too soon to describe the trend to sustainable consumption as a roaring success. There are still many obstacles to overcome, not to mention counter-trends in some areas.

There have been setbacks in the growth of green products and services. Heat pumps lost market share between 2008 and 2012, for example. Rising sales and market shares thus cannot be taken for granted. Instead, they require sustained and repeated marketing efforts.

While environmental impact – in the form of per-capita CO₂ emissions, for example – fell marginally between 2000 and 2007, they continuously increased again until 2010. This clearly shows that growth in sales of green products and services does not automatically result in a decline in environmental impact. In addi-

tion, if we look at global environmental impact as a whole, we observe that developing countries are catching up with our non-sustainable levels of consumption much faster than we are moving towards sustainable products and services.

The Ecodesign Directive has recorded impressive successes so far with household appliances and the regulation of standby power consumption. That said, even this political instrument has its limits with regard to the promotion of green products. For example, the market share of energyefficient light bulbs increased only very slightly between 2008 and 2012, which shows the depth of inertia that established markets sometimes display. The long lead times required to regulate individual products under the Ecodesign Directive should also make the policy-makers wary of a certain "tortoise and hare" approach, in that new products have already reached the market by the time an older product has been included under the Directive, or relative efficiency gains are cancelled out by rising expectations, such as more efficient, but larger TV screens.

The more sustainable product alternatives become established in different markets, the more help consumers need to find their way around. Labels are, in principle, important signposts here. Although Germany is some way away from the somewhat unrealistic target of a single, all-encompassing sustainability label, there is still considerable room for improvement in practice. Even the relatively well-established and well-known EU energy efficiency label is still creating unnecessary confusion with its opaque "+++" categories. In many segments – such as clothing, wood products and green energy – there is a proliferation of competing labels. Those such as the EU Ecolabel remain largely unknown and are barely relevant on the market. Environmental labels also still have a long way to go before they become established in online shopping.

It should not attach too much weight to the "willingness to buy" expressed in surveys. There is considerable distance between willingness to buy and an actual purchase, because the purchase decision always incorporates a wide range of differing criteria in addition to environmental considerations. However, fundamental acceptance from the consumer base is a good starting point for advertising campaigns by the companies concerned, and for public-sector promotion schemes for green products. At relatively little expense, such endeavours can finally open doors among the consumer public.

The differences in market trends between green products clearly show that successful market penetration relies on a variety of determining factors – from costs, availability and confidence in ecological credentials, to how these products and services fit into different lifestyles.

The "consumption" of water, i.e. use of water, has been decreasing in Germany over the past ten years. Currently, the average consumption of drinking water is at around 120 litres per person and day (down from 144 litres in 1991). Compared to other industrialised countries, that figure is rather low.

Ecological aspects such as pollution, climate change, resource depletion and loss of biodiversity give rise to completely new risks for companies. The public's expectations that companies should behave in a socially responsible fashion, assume social and ecological responsibility and contribute to sustainable development have also grown enormously and become economically relevant. Many Companies, especially small-medium-enterprises (SME), need to find new strategic, conceptual and operational answers to these risks and challenges.

This offers major economic opportunities for companies. That is because it gives rise to new, dynamically growing markets for “green” goods and services, and also great savings potential, especially through improvements in energy and material efficiency. Many companies undertake strategic reorientation aimed at sustainable management and the assumption of social responsibility to enhance their competitiveness.

Systematic environmental management is for many companies a fundamental requirement for comprehensive and credible sustainability management. Suitable environmental management systems include DIN EN ISO 14001, the European Eco-Management and Audit Scheme EMAS, and the Energy Management standard DIN EN 16001 (future ISO 50001).

The behavior of the companies, especially SMEs, about environmental issues is also oriented toward harmonisation of their business activities with the national and European standards and requirements as well as with the existing international standards and regulations. The general aim is to achieve the standards of the corporate social responsibility. In some companies, especially SMEs, some of the CSR standards have been already achieved but in a silent way, so even their owners are not aware that they are socially responsible.

Environmental and efficiency technologies will therefore play a key role in the 21st century. Especially on the “classic” markets – e.g. in the motor industry and mechanical engineering – the use of such technologies is becoming increasingly important and is a major factor determining a company’s competitive strength.

Some green markets of the future have two major characteristics: firstly, they play a key role in safeguarding the existence of human beings and satisfying their basic needs, and secondly, they are of special economic importance. These markets include green energy generation, energy efficiency, resource and material efficiency, sustainable mobility, sustainable water management and closed cycle and waste management. Environmental technologies which can be linked to these markets earned about 13 percent of Germany’s gross domestic product in 2013 (8 percent of Germany's gross domestic product in 2008).



Turkey



Technological developments urbanization population growth and industrialization increases the pressure on environment. Every kind of waste because of the ever-growing consumption pattern also threatens the human health. More place for environmental issues at media, the effectiveness of the NGO's and legislation changes raises the awareness level of the consumers in Turkey. The increase on the conscious of environment leads the marketing departments of the companies to focus on the green consumers. As a result; the consumers' sensitiveness increase influence the marketing strategy of the companies.

The right to live in a healthy environment is a popular trend in all over the World. This right enables the implementation of green marketing. Today's consumers show awareness on environmental issues and force the companies to be aware of their responsibilities and expect them to be more careful on environmental issues.

There are some researches about the perception of consumers in Turkey. In a research made on consumer behaviours on purchasing processes.

88.9% of the pconsumers says YES to the question "Do you watch the news about the environment?"

72,5 of the consumers say they didn't seperate the solid wastes as glass, paper, metal etc. Only 27.2 of them make this classification.

51.9 of the participants say they don't read information about the environment on the package of the product when they are purchasing it.

Another question fo the research was how many percentage do you pay more for a product that doesn't harm to the environment. The results are as below:

1-5%	35,6
6-10%	26,1
11 and more %	15,3

Nevertheless 63,9 of participants say that "I choose the less harmful product to environment."

As a result we can say that the consumers try to transform their awareness to the behaviour.

There is a strong relation between the education level and awareness and sensitiveness to environmental issues. The percentage of the people who say "I don't buy environmentally hazardous products" increases directly proportional to income level. The researchs show that the awareness level influences the



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purchasing behaviours but the behaviour changes occur slower and the other factors like income level, education level affects also the behaviours.



United Kingdom



There are no details.

3. Examples of national, regional or local sustainability initiatives and projects

Summary

On the following pages you can find a wide range of sustainability projects, initiatives or campaigns from the partner countries. The national campaign "Let's clean Bulgaria in a day" to raising awareness about environmental issues and eliminating illegal dumpsites. A campaign to promote organic food from the Ministry of Agriculture in the Czech Republic. The National Development Plan for Electric Mobility from Germany with the aim to bring one million electric vehicles on the roads by 2020. Activities of regional NGOs in Turkey against polluting buildings. Or a British website database that allows a user to access absolute and relative to class CO2 emissions data for any major vessel in operation today.



Bulgaria



- Operational Programme "Environment" and all sub-programmes attached to it;
 - National Campaign "Let's clean Bulgaria in a day";
 - National project "Energy renovation of the Bulgarian homes";
 - Informational campaign "The empty box is full of natural resources" and Project "The great collecting of milk and juice boxes";
 - Initiative "Burgas is recycling"
-
- Operational Programme "Environment" (OP Environment) and all sub-programmes attached to it – objectives:
 - ✓ The main strategic objective of OP Environment is: "Improvement, preservation and restoration of the natural environment and development of environmental infrastructure."
 - ✓ The specific objectives include:
 - Protection and improvement of water status;
 - Improvement of waste management and soil protection;
 - Biodiversity conservation and protection of nature.
 - ✓ For the next programming period the specific objectives include also:
 - Protection of the environment and promoting resource efficiency;
 - Promoting adaptation to climate change, risk prevention and management;
 - Strengthening the R&D, technological development and innovations.
- see more at:
<http://ope.moew.government.bg/bg>
http://ope.moew.government.bg/files/useruploads/files/Programirane/present/priority_axes_2014-2020.pdf
- National Campaign "Let's clean Bulgaria in a day" – objectives:
 - ✓ raising public awareness about environmental issues;
 - ✓ making urban areas better place to live;
 - ✓ elimination of illegal dumpsites;

see more at:

http://www.btv.bg/da-izchistim/video-chistene/video/498752364-Kakvo_svarshihme_za_edin_den.html

<https://www.facebook.com/daizchistim>

- National project “Energy renovation of the Bulgarian homes” – objectives:
 - ✓ Increasing the energy efficiency of residential buildings in 36 cities and townssee more at:
<http://www.mrrb.government.bg/?controller=category&catid=5>
- Informational campaign “The empty box is full of natural resources” and Project “The great collecting of milk and juice boxes” – objectives:
 - ✓ raising public awareness about environmental issues and especially on recycling;
 - ✓ to reduce the waste going to landfills and to increase the quantities of tins and boxes collected separately and recycled;
 - ✓ reducing the volume of landfill sites;see more at:
<http://www.ecopack.bg/bg/ekopak-balgariya-ad-i-obshtina-burgas-s-novi-informatsionno-obrazovatelni-initsiatiivi/333/view/>
<http://www.ecopack.bg/bg/informatsionna-kampaniya-za-opolzotvoryavane-na-kartoneni-opakovki-ot-technosti-praznata-opakovka-e-palna-s-resursi/297/view/>
- Initiative “Burgas is recycling” – objectives:
 - ✓ raising public awareness about environmental issues and especially on recycling;
 - ✓ to encourage the separate collection of waste among the youngest students.see more at:
<http://nauka.bg/forum/index.php?showtopic=16575>
- Operational Programme “Environment” and all sub-programmes attached to it – governmental;
- National Campaign “Let's clean Bulgaria in a day” – non-governmental. The campaign was started by one of the biggest Bulgarian media bTV in the spring of 2011. It is part of a worldwide movement Let's Do It World!, which started 5 years ago in Estonia;
- National project “Energy renovation of the Bulgarian homes” – governmental. It is a part of Operational Programme “Regional Development”;
- Informational campaign “The empty box is full of natural resources” and Project “The great collecting of milk and juice boxes” – non-governmental initiative of ECOPACK BULGARIA with the support of the local authorities of 3 municipalities (Burgas, Sofia, and Plovdiv);
- Initiative “Burgas is recycling” – non-governmental initiative of 2 NGOs (Association Hamalogica and Association Forum Science) with the support of Municipality of Burgas
- Operational Programme “Environment” and all sub-programmes attached to it:

Operational Programme "Environment" is one of seven operational programs developed as part of the National Strategic Reference Framework of the Republic of Bulgaria for the programming period 2007-2013. **Based on the analysis of the current situation the program defines the priority areas of the country regarding sector "Environment"**, which will find its realization and financing within this document and in this period. You can see more about the programme and how it works at: <http://ope.moew.government.bg/en>

- National Campaign "Lets clean Bulgaria in a day":
The National Campaign "Lets clean Bulgaria in a day" is a **long-term volunteer project** which started in 2011 with cleaning Sofia. The campaign was initiated by one of the biggest Bulgarian media bTV and later was supported by a large number of companies. You can see more about the companies, medias and other organisations and authorities that supported the campaign at: <http://www.btv.bg/dai-izchistim/partners2014>
- National project "Energy renovation of the Bulgarian homes":
"Energy renovation of the Bulgarian homes" is a national project and is a part of Operational Programme "Regional Development" co-financed by the European Union through the European Regional Development Fund. Project finance implementation of energy efficiency measures in residential buildings in 36 Bulgarian cities and towns. You can see more about the project and how it works at: <http://www.mrrb.government.bg/?controller=category&catid=5>
- Informational campaign "The empty box is full of natural resources" and Project "The great collecting of milk and juice boxes";
The initiative was started in 2014 by ECOPACK BULGARIA with the support of the local authorities of 3 municipalities (Burgas, Sofia, and Plovdiv). The initiatives are focused directly on the children and their families, because they are the biggest consumers of products with packaging made of cardboard, plastic, and aluminium. **The initiatives combine a large information campaign with games, competitions and awards for the children.** You can see more about the initiatives and how they work at:
<http://www.ecopack.bg/bg/informatsionna-kampaniya-za-opolzotvoryavane-na-kartoneni-opakovki-ot-technosti-praznata-opakovka-e-palna-s-resursi/297/view/>
<http://www.ecopack.bg/bg/ekopak-balgariya-ad-i-obshtina-burgas-s-novi-informatsionno-obrazovatelni-initsiativi/333/view/>
- Initiative "Burgas is recycling"
The initiative was started in April.2014 by two NGOs (Association Hamalogika and Association Forum Science) and lasted 5 weeks. **At the beginning it was focused on educating the younger generation through specialized activities.** The organizers developed a program including presentations about the objectives and benefits of recycling and technology in which it is performed, then they continued with events, games and competitions for the practical application of information as well as alternative use of the waste materials. You can see more about the initiative and how it works at:
<http://nauka.bg/forum/index.php?showtopic=16575>
<http://hamalogika.com/bg/projects>
- Operational Programme "Environment" and all sub-programmes attached to it – results:

Up to 16th of December 2014 under the operational programme are contracted grants amounting 5,589 billion BGN or more than 158 % of the total amount of the funds. The total number of projects implemented under the operational programme is 242. Successfully completed projects are 201.

You can see more about the results of the programme at:

<http://ope.moew.government.bg/en/pages/napredak/26>

<http://ope.moew.government.bg/en/pages/benefitsienti/11#1>

- National Campaign “Lets clean Bulgaria in a day” – results:

Started in April 2011 the campaign became the most massive public initiative supported by 323 thousand volunteers. During the campaign were cleaned more than 1494 dirty areas and over 2136 illegal dumps.

You can see more about the results of the campaign at: <http://www.btv.bg/da-izchistim/kampania-novini>

<http://www.btv.bg/da-izchistim/partners2014>

- National project “Energy renovation of the Bulgarian homes” – results:

The project started in 2014 and is open for applications till 15th of January 2015. Till 15.01.2015 the results are as follows:

✓ applications submitted – 429;

✓ approved applications – 404.

You can see more about the results of the project at:

<http://www.mrrb.government.bg/?controller=category&catid=101>

- Informational campaign “The empty box is full of natural resources” and Project “The great collecting of milk and juice boxes” – results:

The official end of this part of the initiative was 19.10.2014. One hundred schools from Sofia, Varna and Burgas took part in it. More than 48 000 milk and juice boxes were collected and recycled by the students. Primary school “Bratya Miladinovi” from Burgas won the award in the competition between the schools.

You can see more about the results of the project at: <http://www.ecopack.bg/bg/priklyuchi-golyamoto-sabirane-v-sofiya/339/view/>, <http://btvnovinite.bg/video/videos/news/goljamoto-sabirane-v-sofiya-priklyuchi.html>

The next phase of the initiative is called “Change this place”. You can see more at:

<http://www.ecopack.bg/bg/ekopak-balgariya-ad-i-obshtina-burgas-s-novi-informatsionno-obrazovatelni-initsiativi/333/view/>

- Initiative “Burgas is recycling”

The pilot phase of the initiative took place from 7th of April till 17th of May 2014. 270 first grade pupils from 4 schools in Bourgas took part in the pilot phase. The project was implemented by conducting several school classes. The volunteers from Association Hamalogica and Association Forum Science made presentations, organised games and contests related to the recycling of household waste. Small baskets for separate collection were given for the classrooms. The opening session started with a theater story about where must not throw garbage. Recycling became an entertaining game during which the children learned that from old, unused and seemingly junk items can make new and

interesting things. When classes ended their children received certificates for successfully completed course in recycling.

You can see more about the results of the initiative at: <http://hamalogika.com/bg/projects>

- Operational Programme “Environment” and all sub-programmes attached to it:
All projects implemented under OP “Environment” receive funding from EC and national funding. The EU funding is between 80% and 85% (depending on the priority). See more at: <http://ope.moew.government.bg/en>
- National Campaign “Lets clean Bulgaria in a day”:
The campaign is a voluntary initiative. It was started by one of the biggest Bulgarian media bTV and later was supported by a large number of companies. You can see more about the companies, medias and other organisations and authorities that supported the campaign at: <http://www.btv.bg/dazchistim/partners2014>
- National project “Energy renovation of the Bulgarian homes”:
The project is a part of Operational Programme “Regional Development”. All projects implemented receive funding from EC and national funding. The EU funding is 75%. See more at: <http://www.mrrb.government.bg/en/>
- Informational campaign “The empty box is full of natural resources” and Project “The great collecting of milk and juice boxes”:
The initiative was started in 2014 by ECOPACK BULGARIA with the support of the local authorities of 3 municipalities (Burgas, Sofia, and Plovdiv). The financing of the initiative is private (from ECOPACK BULGARIA). See more at: <http://www.ecopack.bg/bg/ekopak-balgariya-ad-i-obshtina-burgas-s-novi-informatsionno-obrazovatelni-initsiativi/333/view/>
- Initiative “Burgas is recycling”:
“Burgas is recycling” is a voluntary initiative of 2 NGOs from Burgas (Association Hamalogika and Association Forum Science) with the support of municipality Burgas. See more at: <http://nauka.bg/forum/index.php?showtopic=16575>, <http://hamalogika.com/bg/projects>



Czech Republic

Campaign to promote organic food from the Ministry of Agriculture

Think. Eat. Save. – organised by national body of United Nations.

1. Campaign to promote organic food from the Ministry of Agriculture

Main objective: to verify the efficacy of the first phase of the communications campaign (which aimed to raise awareness about organic farming and strengthen brand awareness of organic food).

2. Think. Eat. Save.

Main objective: to promote the prevention of the food waste, it is an informational campaign organised on the national level in order to educate the Czech population. It is composed from various events, publications, happenings etc.

1. Campaign to promote organic food from the Ministry of Agriculture - governmental
2. National body of United Nations

1. Informational campaign
2. Informational campaign composed from various events, publications, happenings etc.

In both cases, the awareness of the given topic increased and became an issue of discussions, as well as thanks to it more initiative (on local level, or based on bottom up approach) were established.

1. Ministry of Agriculture
2. Resources of United Nations



Germany



National Development Plan for Electric Mobility (Regierungsprogramm Elektromobilität)

Objectives:

- Make Germany a lead supplier and a lead market of electric mobility.
- Aim one million electric vehicles on the roads by 2020.

The years 2015 to 2017 are decisive for the rapid development of the electric mobility market.⁸

General description:

The National Development Plan for Electric Mobility plans to put one million electric vehicles on German roads in 2020. These vehicles will be fuelled by renewable energy and thus help to protect the climate. In its Energy Concept the German government aims to raise this number to 6 million by 2030. By the end of 2014 24.000 electric vehicles were on the road, the objective was 100.000. But this aim can be still achieved by major efforts and a broad range of measures. To fulfil the schedule by 2020 (see above) there is a need for swift action.

An example of practical implementation:

“On April 2012 four „Schaufenster Elektromobilität (Showcases for Electro Mobility)“ was chosen for funding by the Federal Government: Living Lab BW E-Mobil (Baden-Wuerttemberg), “Internationales Schaufenster der Elektromobilität (International Showcase of Electro Mobility)” (Berlin/Brandenburg), “Unsere Pferdestärken werden elektrisch (Our horsepower will get electric)” (Lower Saxony), Elektromobilität verbindet (Electro Mobility connects us)” (Bayern/Sachsen)... The Federation provides funds in the amount of approximate 180 Mio. Euro for the programme set up for three years. 90 joint projects are currently implemented.”⁹

Financing aspects:

The government programme will be implemented by public funding, f. e. by tax exemption for electro vehicles (new: for 10 years) with first-time admission until 31st December 2015, by a supportive taxation system for company cars or by the use of transferable number plates. Also the procurement of public or industrial vehicles fleets is to be started. „In 2012 the Federal Government f. e. launched an initiative to buy more than 10 percent environmentally friendly cars in the field of new vehicles.”¹⁰ „Depending on the stage

⁸ Fortschrittsbericht 2014 –Bilanz der Marktvorbereitung, Nationale Plattform Elektromobilität (NPE), Bundesministerium für Verkehr und digitale Infrastruktur, S.43

⁹ Regierungsprogramm Elektromobilität – Bislang umgesetzte Maßnahmen–, Gemeinsame Geschäftsstelle Elektromobilität der Bundesregierung, Berlin, 15.06.2015, S. 1-2

¹⁰ Fortschrittsbericht 2014 –Bilanz der Marktvorbereitung, Nationale Plattform Elektromobilität (NPE), Bundesministerium für Verkehr und digitale Infrastruktur, S.49

of development there are other ways to support the market: KfW-credits for electro vehicles, extending vehicle tax exemption for PHEV and REEV, tax adjustment of electro vehicles."¹¹ Elektromobilitätsgesetz (EmoG, Law about Electro Mobility) from 12th June 2015

Until 2011 the Federal Government already has invested 500 Mio. Euro by funds of the economic stimulus package II. Furthermore it has been decided to provide subsidies in the amount of 1 billion in 2011. This enables the authorisation of new projects in the field of research and development (FuE).¹²

Financial Support of Energy Management Systems (Förderrichtlinie für Energiemanagementsysteme of 18th March 2015)

Objectives:

The objective is to support measures and systems of dealing with energy in companies. In this way it will be ensured that the energy consumptions will be methodically registered and the foundations will be laid to use effective energy efficiency measures. The federal Government has created a fund for efficient and economical use of energy with integrated support of energy management systems.¹³

General description:

The objective in the Government's energy concept of 28th September 2010 is the increase of energy efficiency. Substantial savings are expected in the fields of industry and business/trade/services consuming approx. 43 percent of the German annual energy consumption. The required measures to save have to be identified from the responsible persons in the companies to become operational. The key element of continuous and methodical detection of energy-saving potentials are the energy management systems.¹⁴

Financing aspects:

As support a grant will be given not to be repaid. Public funding from other federal support programmes for the same project is not possible.¹⁵

The support will range ...

- ... by initial certification according to DIN EN ISO 50001 up to a maximum of 80 percent of eligible expenditure, maximal 6.000 Euro,

¹¹ Fortschrittsbericht 2014 –Bilanz der Marktvorbereitung, Nationale Plattform Elektromobilität (NPE), Bundesministerium für Verkehr und digitale Infrastruktur, S.50

¹² Regierungsprogramm Elektromobilität – Bislang umgesetzte Maßnahmen–, Gemeinsame Geschäftsstelle Elektromobilität der Bundesregierung, Berlin, 15.06.2015, S. 1

¹³ Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Energie Richtlinie für die Förderung von Energiemanagementsystemen Vom 18. März 2015, S. 1

¹⁴ Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Energie Richtlinie für die Förderung von Energiemanagementsystemen Vom 18. März 2015, S. 1

¹⁵ Energiemanagementsysteme Merkblatt als Hilfestellung für Anträge nach der Richtlinie für die Förderung von Energiemanagementsystemen (ab 1. Mai 2015), Bundesamt für Wirtschaft und Ausfuhrkontrolle, S. 4

- ... by initial certification of an alternative system up to a maximum of 80 percent of eligible expenditure, maximal 1.500 Euro,
- ... by consultation regarding development, implementation or maintenance of an energy management system up to a maximum of 60 percent of eligible expenditure, maximal 3.000 Euro,
- ... by staff training to become energy commissioner/management representative of an energy management system up to a maximum of 30 percent of eligible expenditure, maximal 1.000 Euro,
- ... by acquisition of measuring technology up to a maximum of 20 percent of eligible expenditure, maximal 8.000 Euro,
- ... by acquisition of software up to a maximum of 20 percent of eligible expenditure, maximal 4.000 Euro.¹⁶

Energy efficiency checks (Caritas) (StromsparChecks für einkommensschwache Haushalte)

Objectives: Helping and supporting low-income households to save energy and water

General description:

Caritas also offers free energy efficiency checks specifically for low-income households together with the Association of Energy and Climate Protection Agencies and regional partners in Germany [Bundesverband der Energie- und Klimaschutzagenturen Deutschlands — eaD]. These checks are performed by 'energy-saving assistants'. Long-term unemployed people are trained as energy-saving assistants in this respect. After you an appointment has been made for a power saving check, power saving helper team comes to the house and provides an overview of individual house power consumption. The electricity consumption of refrigerators and freezers is measured and an inventory check of other household appliances including lighting is carried out. The collected data is strictly confidential and is not disclosed to third parties. With the data and the other particulars provided, the power saving helpers will work on specific savings proposals for the house. In second visit, the power-saving helpers will have a suitcase with modern quality energy-saving lamps and other power-saving utensils therein. From one these different products, products will be installed according to identified need, with which electricity and water can mostly be saved. Everything is immediately put into operation and explained in detail. The power saving check PLUS and all required energy-saving devices are free for all participants of the action. A detailed "power saving schedule" is also given to the household and significant information on how to save energy and the money in the long term.

Financing aspects:

- financed by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) and third-party funds (e.g. regional energy utilities)
- if necessary a part of the staff costs by the Federal Employment Agency)

¹⁶ Energiemanagementsysteme Merkblatt als Hilfestellung für Anträge nach der Richtlinie für die Förderung von Energiemanagementsystemen (ab 1. Mai 2015), Bundesamt für Wirtschaft und Ausfuhrkontrolle, S. 4-5



Turkey



Turkey needs the bodies who monitor evaluate, report on environmental issues. So that the capacity of the organizations should be increased form the aspect of human resources, technical capacity and equipment.

EU integrated Environment Strategy is the main strategy document of Turkey. There is a steering committee to implement this strategy. The members of this steering committee are from; prime ministry, Undesrsecretary of Treasury, Ministry of Development, Ministry of Interior Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of EU, Ministry of Health, General Directorate of Ilbank, Ministry of Transportation and Communication, Ministry of Science Industry and Technology, Ministruy of Energy, Ministry of Environment and urbanning.

There are several local environment platforms consisting of NGO's working on environmental issues. The environmental NGO's are mostly local anda re interested in local problems in their region. They generally have activities against the investments that are risky for for environment.



See Annex 1 - Datasets at UK level

4. Funding opportunities for vocational training, training courses and university studies

Summary

In all partner countries there is a large number of funding and financing models and mechanisms for funding of vocational training, training courses and qualification for people who have left the educational system. Especially national programs in Bulgaria and state funding by the Federal Employment Agency in Germany encourage and support the (continuous) training of employed and unemployed people. But in all partner countries the governmental support is only a mean of co-financing. But in Czech Republic there is a trend of using the EU funds, rather the personal or companies budgets.



Bulgaria



State and municipal schools, vocational training centers, vocational guidance centers and training centers for qualification of learners are funded by:

- state budget;
- municipal budgets;
- sponsorships, donations and bequests;
- own revenues;
- national and international programs;
- other sources.

The subsidy from the state budget and municipal budgets provide funding for:

- the cost of vocational education and training in state and municipal schools;
- the administrative and financial servicing of the state and municipal vocational training centers, vocational guidance centers and training centers for qualification of learners;
- the cost of vocational guidance in state and municipal centers for qualification and guidance;
- support of the qualification of persons performing vocational training in the guidance and training centers.

Source: Law on Vocational Education and Training, promulgated in State Gazette 68/1999, last amended by State Gazette 107/2014

There are a large number of national programs and projects that encourage and support the continuous training of the people after they leave the educational system. Some of them are presented below:

- for youngsters
 - ✓ Programme "Career Start" - The main objective of the program is to provide opportunities for internships for unemployed young people who have completed secondary or higher education in order to acquire work experience and to facilitate the transition between education and employment. The duration of the internships is between 6 and 9 month. The salary, the taxes and

all social security costs related to the internships are recovered by the programme. See more at: <http://www.az.government.bg/pages/programa-start-na-karierata/#>

✓ Project "First job" under the Operational Programme "Human Resources Development" – Under this project the employers who hire unemployed young people will receive money for their salaries, taxes and social security contributions for a period from 6 to 12 months. Depending on the needs expressed by employers, the unemployed youths will receive vouchers for inclusion in vocational training or training in key competencies. After the training they will start working on the acquired qualification or competence. See more at:

<http://www.az.government.bg/bg/news/view/pyrva-rabota-za-mladeji-do-29-godishna-vyzzrast-143/>

✓ etc.

- for people with disabilities:

✓ National Programme "Employment and training for people with disabilities" – The main objective of the programme is increasing the employability and employment of people with disabilities. See more at: <http://www.az.government.bg/pages/nacionalna-programa-zohtu/>

✓ National Programme "Assistants for People with Disabilities" – The main aim of the programme is providing home care for people with disabilities or seriously ill people by providing employment to unemployed persons as personal and social assistants. All people who join the programme pass a specialised training course. See more at:

<http://www.az.government.bg/pages/nacionalna-programa-ahu/>

✓ etc.

- for working people:

✓ National project "I can do more" – It is a part of the Operational Programme "Human Resources Development". In 2013 and 2014 under the project is provided training to employed workers and their training is paid by the Employment Agency through vouchers. Vouchers are issued after the approval process of applicants who must meet certain requirements. See more at: <http://azmoranovetche.com/> http://ophrd.government.bg/view_doc.php/5045

✓ National project "Adaptivity" – It is a part of the Operational Programme "Human Resources Development". The aim of the project is to increase the vocational qualification and working adaptability of the employees. The workers will receive additional funds in the form of vouchers for vocational training for the period in which they are employed part-time as well as a monthly scholarship for the training period, but not longer than six months. See more at: http://ophrd.government.bg/view_doc.php/3751

✓ etc.

- for people close to retirement age:

✓ National project "Employment Opportunities 2013" – The aim of the project is to encourage economic activity of unemployed persons over 50 years by providing motivation training, key competencies and training of 1,100 unemployed persons aged over 50 in order to increase their skills and competences, continuing their active working life through practice and ensuring decent work. See more at: <http://www.az.government.bg/pages/proekt-shans-za-rabota/>

✓ etc.

State funding of higher education institutions in Bulgaria is subject to the rules laid down in the Higher Education Act. Funding is determined by the Ministry of Finance on the basis of enrollments for training students and doctoral candidates.

Other opportunities for funding university studies are the different types of scholarships, paid internships and practices and student loans.

Source: Higher Education Act promulgated in State Gazette 112/1995, last amended by State Gazette 107/2014 and http://ime.bg/var/images/higher_education_funding.pdf

All programmes project and initiatives presented in section “4 a i and ii” receive governmental support.

According to the Law on Vocational Education and Training the state and municipal schools are funded by the state budget and municipal budgets.

The state and municipal vocational training centers and vocational guidance centers are funded by the state budget and municipal budgets, according to the number of the trainees that are enrolled for qualification and the number of the trainees that have successfully passed the training courses.

According to the Higher Education Act the universities receive governmental funding based on the number of the enrolled students and PhD students.

There is also a large number of financing models and mechanisms for funding of vocational training courses and qualification for people who have left the educational system.

Sources:

- the Environmental Protection Act (EPA), promulgated in State Gazette 91/2002, last amended by State Gazette 98/2014;
- the new Waste Management Act, promulgated in State Gazette 53/2012, in force as of 13 July 2012;
- the Biological Diversity Act, promulgated in State Gazette 77/2002, last amended by State Gazette 98/2014;
- the Protected Areas Act, promulgated in State Gazette 133/1998, last amended by State Gazette 98/2014;
- the Soils Act, promulgated in State Gazette 89/2007, last amended by State Gazette 98/2014;
- the Ambient Air Purity Act, promulgated in State Gazette 45/1996, last amended by State Gazette 98/2014;
- the Waters Act, promulgated in State Gazette 67/1999, last amended by State Gazette 98/2014;
- the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, promulgated in State Gazette 41/2001, last amended by State Gazette 107/2014;
- the Mineral Resources Act, promulgated in State Gazette 23/1999, last amended by State Gazette 98/2014;
- the Protection Against the Harmful Impact of Chemical Substances and Mixtures Act, promulgated in State Gazette 10/2000, last amended by State Gazette 61/2014;
- the Plant Protection Act, promulgated in State Gazette 91/1997, last amended by State Gazette 61/2014;
- the Protection of Environmental Noise Act, promulgated in State Gazette 74/2005, last amended by State Gazette 98/2014;
- the Administrative Procedure Act, promulgated in State Gazette 30/2006, last amended by State Gazette 107/2014; and
- the Criminal Code, promulgated in State Gazette 26/1968, last amended by State Gazette 107/2014.
- Ministry of Environment and Water of Bulgaria <http://www.moew.government.bg/>
- SGI Sustainable Governance Indicators 2014 Bulgaria Report <http://www.sgi-network.org/2014/>
- Aims of the Ministry of Environment and Water of Bulgaria for 2014 <http://www.moew.government.bg/?show=227&lang=bg>
- Operational Programme “Environment” <http://ope.moew.government.bg/bg>
http://ope.moew.government.bg/files/useruploads/files/Programirane/present/priority_axes_2014-2020.pdf

- National Campaign "Lets clean Bulgaria in a day" http://www.btv.bg/da-izchistim/video-chistene/video/498752364-Kakvo_svarshihme_za_edin_den.html , <https://www.facebook.com/daizchistim> and http://www.burgas.utre.bg/gallery/2013/04/20/917-16_000_burgazlii_v_golyamoto_chistene_snimki/13981
- National project "Energy renovation of the Bulgarian homes" <http://www.mrrb.government.bg/?controller=category&catid=5>
- Informational campaign "The empty box is full of natural resources" and Project "The great collecting of milk and juice boxes" <http://www.ecopack.bg/bg/ekopak-balgariya-ad-i-obshtina-burgas-s-novi-informatsionno-obrazovatelni-initsiativi/333/view/> <http://www.ecopack.bg/bg/informatsionna-kampaniya-za-opolzotvoryavane-na-kartoneni-opakovki-ot-technosti-praznata-opakovka-e-palna-s-resursi/297/view/>
- Initiative "Burgas is recycling" <http://nauka.bg/forum/index.php?showtopic=16575>, <http://hamalogika.com/bg/projects>
- National Employment Agency: <http://www.az.government.bg/bg/#>
- Operational Programme "Human Resources Development" <http://ophrd.government.bg/>
- Law on Vocational Education and Training, promulgated in State Gazette 68/1999, last amended by State Gazette 107/2014
- Higher Education Act, promulgated in State Gazette 112/1995, last amended by State Gazette 107/2014
- National Action Plan for the Energy from RES see: http://www.google.bg/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=0CB8QFjAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.strategie.bg%2FFileHandler.ashx%3FfileId%3D2535&ei=JzbbVJ-ML8jIaljvgZgB&usg=AFQjCNHrPPbeha_I5YvDM-WYr4MLecVlnA&bvm=bv.85761416,d.d2s&cad=rja
- Association of Producers of Ecological Energy: <http://apee.bg/en/>
- National Statistical Institute: <http://www.nsi.bg/>
- National Strategy for management and development of the water sector - analysis of the existing situation and prospects for future development: www.mrrb.government.bg/docs/6efa2f0f3ea5a38ecaabf64a10d08b17.doc
- Vitosha Research. 2012. "Production, distribution and consumption of organic products in Bulgaria. Marketing research", Sofia
- "The organic products in Bulgaria", University of National and World Economy, 2012 Sofia: http://orgprints.org/22623/6/Organic_products_Bulgaria_D_Ivanova_E_Vasileva_2012.pdf
- Sustainable Energy Development Agency (SEDA): <http://www.seea.government.bg/bg/finansirane>
- Rural Development Programme: <http://prsr.government.bg/>
- National Plan for Waste Management 2014-2020: <http://www.moew.government.bg/?show=top&cid=376>
- National Statistic Institute: <http://www.nsi.bg>



Czech Republic

Funding opportunities for vocational training:

- National state budget (coming mainly from the Ministry of Education resources)
- EU funds

Funding opportunities for training courses:

- National state budget
- EU funds
- Private resources and companies

Funding opportunities for finance university studies:

- National state budget
- EU funds
- Private resources

The governmental support is only a mean of co-financing. There is a bog trend of using the EU funds, rather the personal or companies budgets.



Germany



Funding opportunities for vocational training and training courses beside own financial resources or revenues

Vocational training assistance

Vocational training assistance (Berufsausbildungsbeihilfe - BAB) is provided by the Federal Employment Agency and is granted during vocational training as well as for the duration of a work preparation scheme, including preparation for a subsequent acquisition of a lower secondary school-leaving certificate or a similar school-leaving certificate. Apprentices are entitled to vocational training assistance if they do not live with their parents during their vocational training.

Vocational training allowance is granted on application. The application has to be filed with the Employment Agency of the area in which the apprentice has his/her place of residence or habitual abode. If the application for vocational training assistance is filed after the beginning of the vocational training or preparation scheme, it is paid retrospectively as of the beginning of the month of application at the longest.

Disabled persons are entitled to vocational training assistance when participating in general vocational training measures. A guidance counsellor of the Employment Agency can tell you if you are entitled to vocational training assistance (BAB) or training allowance (Ausbildungsgeld) during vocational training, the participation in a work preparation scheme, basic training or other measures leading to the participation in working life.

Source: Federal Employment Agency;

<http://www.arbeitsagentur.de/web/content/EN/Benefits/index.htm>

Training allowance

Training allowance is a benefit for securing a livelihood and is only provided by the Federal Employment Agency (Bundesagentur für Arbeit - BA) for disabled persons. The same regulations apply for training allowance as for vocational training assistance (Berufsausbildungsbeihilfe). Additionally, there are special regulations applying only to training allowance. This applies especially to the determination of requirement for training allowance and consideration of income. The amount of training allowance depends on the rate of requirement of training allowance and the income to be considered in case of vocational training.

Source: Federal Employment Agency;

<http://www.arbeitsagentur.de/web/content/EN/Benefits/index.htm>

Benefits during further training

The training voucher contains among other things information on the education aim, the duration required until reaching this education aim, the regional scope and the validity of no more than three months in which the training voucher must be redeemed. On the conditions defined on the training voucher, the person interested in education can redeem the training voucher at an institution approved for supported further education of his/her choice. But also the measure must be approved for supported further education.

With receipt of a Training Voucher the Employment Agency certifies, among other things, that and which of the following expenses for further training are absorbed: training expenses, travelling expenses, expenses for external accommodation and board, expenses for child care and services for livelihood.

Source: Federal Employment Agency;

<http://www.arbeitsagentur.de/web/content/EN/Benefits/index.htm>

Continuing Education Grant

The "Continuing Education Grant" consists of two components: the Prämiengutschein which is a bonus voucher (absorbed 50% of the training expenses; max. 1,000 euros) and the Spargutschein which is an advanced training savings voucher. Both kinds of vouchers may also be combined. With these instruments, the "Continuing Education Grant" aims at supporting and improving the participation in advanced training programmes of those gainfully employed people who have so far refrained from engaging in advanced training activities for financial reasons.

Sources: Federal Ministry of Education and Research; Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training

<http://www.bildungspraemie.info/> (only German)

<http://www.bibb.de/en/742.php>

Funding opportunities for university studies beside own financial resources or revenues

Students loans

Giving out student loans and grants is seen as a means to pave the way to higher education for children whose parents can't afford to fund their children's education otherwise. The federal law that regulates these student loans and grants is called "Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz" (Federal Training Assistance Act) or "BAföG" ['ba:fœk] for short, and the loans, grants, and combinations thereof are usually referred to simply as "BAföG" by students (as in "I'm getting BAföG"). Eligible groups include high school students, part-time and full-time university students, second path education students (i.e., those starting to study after having been in the workforce), and students of schools for professional training.

The eligibility for student loans is (usually) dependent upon parent income, as parents are required by law to fund their children's education (including higher education), and therefore students could theoretically sue their parents for funds for their education (although this is rarely done for obvious reasons). For low-income families, BAföG loans take over when these obligations can not reasonably be met by parents.

BAföG-loans are usually given out half as zero interest loan (to be repaid only after the receiver exceeds a certain income level after graduation) and half as grant money to university students. High school students get the full amount as grant money if they are eligible. The current maximum amount per month (for a university student) is 670 euros. This can be lowered gradually if student or parent income or student assets exceed certain amounts. Thus the amount paid out can be lower than the maximum amount and even loans of 1 euro per month are given out if the calculation returns that amount. Such low grants seem nonsensical at first, but they are usually accepted by students (loans can be refused by the student), because eligibility for a BAföG loan (even at the minimum of 10 euro per month) makes the student eligible for some other benefits like cut-rate telephone service or waiving of public television licence fees (which otherwise are paid by everyone who manages a household).

Generally, BAföG loans are independent on student achievement or grades at least for two years. After that, a certain minimum grade level has to be met and proof of participation in required, but ungraded courses, needs to be provided to stay eligible. Change of field of study is allowed once during the first two years without becoming ineligible. For university studies, every field of study has predefined a maximum study duration (usually around five years), after which the student becomes ineligible for BAföG. Further funds can be granted as low-interest loan for another two years if certain criteria (like reasonable likelihood that the student will graduate during that time) are met.

To qualify for BAföG, one must generally be a citizen or permanent resident of Germany and/or have lived in Germany for five consecutive years. There are some exceptions.

Other than with BAföG you can also finance your studies with Bildungskredit from Kresditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), Bildungsfonds, or a Scholarship. However, in most cases to qualify for a private loan, one must have German citizenship, have EU citizenship and have resided in Germany for three consecutive years, or have graduated from a German secondary school.

In some cases, like most notably if the student has worked full-time for a number of years before returning to student status, BAföG eligibility is calculated independent from parent income, because parents' obligation to fund their children's education ends once the children enter the workforce full-time. In those cases, only student income and assets are consulted for BAföG eligibility and amount calculation.

Sources:



Turkey



There are no details.



The actual budget for 2011-12 and indicative budgets year on year until 2014-15 reflects the new policies in the Skills Strategy relating to changes to the funding eligibility criteria which outlines which learners and provision are eligible for government funding; and, plans to simplify the Further Education and Skills Funding System and Methodology.¹⁷

¹⁷ House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee (2010) Green Jobs and Skills: Government Response to the Committee's Second Report' *First Special Report of Session 2009–2010*, accessed 25 August 2014 at <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmselect/cmenvaud/435/435.pdf>