



REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER IN CHARGE OF ECONOMIC POLICY,
MINISTER OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND
MINISTER OF INVESTMENT PLANNING

COOPERATION PROGRAMME

“INTERACT III 2014-2020”

Partner State Agreement

Having regard to the EU regulations laying down provisions on the Structural Funds, in particular Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006, and Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on specific provisions for the support from the European Regional Development Fund to the European territorial cooperation goal (furthermore referred to as ETC Regulation), as well as the INTERACT III 2014-2020 Cooperation Programme (CCI 2014TC16RFIR002), as approved by the INTERACT III Programming Committee and with specific reference to Article 8 of the ETC Regulation, the partner state agrees to the following:

1. Republic of Bulgaria, represented by the Ministry of Regional Development confirms its agreement to the content of the INTERACT III 2014-2020 Cooperation Programme.

2. Having regard to the fact that INTERACT III work is for the benefit of the countries participating in the programme and not of the beneficiaries acting as INTERACT Offices;

Having regard to the need for un-interrupted transition between INTERACT II and III, as well as to build up on the knowledge acquired, by keeping the current staff;

Having regard to the fact that due to the new system of advance payments from the European Commission the amount of advance payments may not cover the costs of the beneficiaries in the first years of operations,

Republic of Bulgaria, represented by the Ministry of Regional Development:

- commits to provide the national co-financing necessary to implement the operational programme in the amount and according to the timetable set out in Annex 1 to this agreement.
- agrees that based on the Programming Committee recommendation and taking into account the liquidity on the account of the Certifying Authority, the Managing Authority will provide pre-financing to the INTERACT III beneficiaries by June 2015 at the latest, covering at least their fixed costs according to each beneficiary's specific needs;
- acknowledges that any delay can cause interruption of the operations and service delivery.

The Partner State: **REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA**

Title of the institution: **MINISTRY OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Place and date: **SOFIA, 2014**

Name and function of the person entitled to represent: **EKATERINA ZAHARIEVA**
Deputy Prime Minister in charge of Economic Policy,
Minister of Regional Development and
Minister of Investment Planning

Signature/Stamp: