National Actions related to Nature-Based Solutions in Bulgaria

The National Framework for Priority Actions for Natura 2000 and the National Development Programme of Bulgaria 2030 envisage reforms and measures aimed at improving the management of the network and Natura 2000 sites through legislative changes. The aim is to protect and restore at least 30% of the natural habitats and species subject to conservation in the Natura 2000 network. This includes assessment of the ecological status of ecosystems and ecosystem services, assessment of their monetary value, restoration of degraded key climate and forestry ecosystems, wetlands, swamps and peatlands by implementing nature-based solutions, creating ecological corridors and restoring cross-river connectivity. The National Framework for Priority Actions for Natura 2000 provides for agri- and forest-environmental payments, payments for the removal of invasive alien species, payments for the transition and implementation of organic farming, support for aqua-environmental measures and others.

Under the **Programme Environment 2021-2027** green infrastructure projects will be financed, including protection and improvement of existing green areas in cities and suburban environments and establishment of new green infrastructure. Nature-based Solutions for Flood Risk Reduction will also be supported. The total cost of the measures will be approximately 100 million Euro.

The **National Recovery and Resilience Plan of Bulgaria** envisages significant investments (a total of EUR 323,2 million) in environmental activities, related to: integrating the ecosystem approach and implementing solutions based on nature in the protection of Natura 2000 sites, restoration of key ecosystems, water supply and sewerage systems and digitization for integrated water management and control. The green transition occupies a leading position in the Plan, concentrating 53,66 % of the total projected costs (the required minimum according to the EU legislation is 37 %). The total budget of the Plan is about EUR 6 913 million.

The National Recovery and Resilience Plan envisages investments in activities for integrating the ecosystem approach, implementing solutions based on nature in the protection of Natura 2000 sites and restoration of key ecosystems. The plan provides for specific measures to support development of green and innovative infrastructure of industrial zones, parks and similar territories and to attract investment.

Bulgaria is already a part from the Commission plans to achieve the **"3 Billion Additional Trees Pledge"** in full respect of ecological principles. Planting new trees is not an alternative to preserving existing trees, but a complement to broader conservation action. The national afforestation campaign has been launched in 2022 and the plan is to plant 100 million trees by 2030. The initiative has a total value of 30 million Euro and should increase the area of forest and tree coverage, to increase the resilience of forests and their role in reversing biodiversity loss and to mitigate and help us adapt to climate change.