

**ASSIGNMENT / SCOPING REPORT/ FOR DETERMINING THE  
SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSESSMENT REPORT OF**

**the projects of the Cross-Border Cooperation Program 2021-2027, co-financed  
under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance, between the Republic of  
Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey and the Territorial Strategy for  
Integrated Measures**

*(according to art. 19a of the Ordinance for the conditions and the order for  
carrying out ecological assessment of plans and programs and art. 86, para. 3 of  
the Environmental Protection Law)*

**Contracting authority:** Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<b>BOD<sub>5</sub></b>	Biological oxygen demand - oxygen consumed per liter of sample at a constant temperature of 20 ° C for 5 days incubation period
<b>BC</b>	Border checkpoint
<b>EAR</b>	Environmental assessment report
<b>EA</b>	Environmental assessment (Strategic environmental assessment within the meaning of Directive 2001/42)
<b>ICT</b>	Information and communication technologies
<b>ISP</b>	Interreg specific purpose
<b>AQ</b>	Air quality
<b>MSME</b>	Micro, small and medium enterprises
<b>MoEW</b>	Ministry of Environment and Water
<b>MRDPW</b>	Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works
<b>SME</b>	Small and medium enterprises
<b>Ordinance on EA</b>	Ordinance on the terms and conditions for carrying out environmental assessment of plans and programs
<b>NA</b>	National authority
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-governmental organizations
<b>EIA</b>	Environmental impact assessment
<b>PAH</b>	Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
<b>PM</b>	Program of measures
<b>CBCP</b>	Cross - border cooperation program
<b>RBMP</b>	River basin management plan
<b>FRMP</b>	Flood risk management plan
<b>MA</b>	Managing authority
<b>FDP</b>	Fine dust particles

## I. INTRODUCTION

The assignment /scoping report/ for the scope and content of the Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) of the projects of the Cross-Border Cooperation Program 2021-2027 (CBCP), co-financed under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance, between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey and the Territorial Strategy for Integrated Measures prepared within the environmental assessment procedure (AP), in compliance with the requirements of Art. 19a of the Ordinance on the terms and conditions for carrying out environmental assessment of plans and programs (AP Ordinance). The assignment is in accordance with the instructions in a letter of the Ministry of Environment and Water (MoEW) with ref. № EC-16 / 29.06.2021, by which the Minister of Environment and Water has determined to carry out a mandatory environmental assessment of the projects of CBCP and TSIM.

**The purpose of this Terms of Reference for the scope and content of EAR** is to propose the scope and content of EAR, on which stakeholders can make suggestions, comments and recommendations. The received opinions will be reflected / implemented in the preparation of the EAR, which will ensure the achievement of the objectives of the AP procedure for integration of environmental considerations in the draft program and strategy and protection of the environment and human health in their implementation..

According to Art. 19, para. 1, para. 3 and para. 4 of the AP Ordinance, during the different phases of preparation of CBCP and TSIM and AP, the Contracting Authority should consult with the public, stakeholders and third parties who may be affected by the implementation of the program and strategy, in order to obtain and comply with their opinions and comments, according to a consultation scheme, which was prepared as a separate document.

On *the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria* The terms of reference for the scope and content of the EAR are submitted for consultations by the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works to *Ministry of Environment and Water (MoEW)* – according to art. 19a, item 1 of the AP Ordinance, *Ministry of Health (MoH)* – according to art. 19a, item 2 of the AP Ordinance and to *the public, other interested bodies and third parties identified in the consultation scheme* – according to art. 19a, item 3 of the AP Ordinance.

*The terms of reference for the scope and content of the TEC are provided by the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, in its capacity of the Managing Authority (MA) of the program, the National Authority (NA) of the CBCP and TSIM – Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Directorate for EU Affairs - Republic of Turkey, for consultations in the partner country on the program and strategy.*

## **II. CONTACT INFORMATION WITH THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY**

### ***1. Name, registered office and unique identification number of the legal entity***

Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works

### ***2. Full postal address***

17-19 “St. Cyril and Methodius” str., Sofia; postal code: 1000

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### III. ASSIGNMENT FOR DETERMINING THE SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The assignment for determining the scope and content of the EAR has been prepared in compliance with the requirements of Art. 86, para. 3 of the Environmental Protection Act and the instructions in a letter of the Ministry of Environment and Water with reference EO-16/29.06.2021.

**The Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) will be prepared in the following structure, scope and content:**

#### ***1. Description of the content of the main objectives of CBCP and TSIM and connection with other relevant plans and programs***

##### **1.1. Grounds for drawing up CBCP and TSIM**

The drawing up of cross-border cooperation programs is based primarily on the the Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy (General Regulation) and Regulation (EU) 2021/1059 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on specific provisions for the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) supported by the European Regional Development Fund and external financing instruments (Interreg Regulation).

At the national level, the leading documents for preparation of the programs are:

- Draft Partnership Agreement containing a list of Interreg programs;
- ***Decision № 196 of the Council of Ministers of 11 April 2019 approving the Analysis of the socio-economic development of Bulgaria 2007-2017 for determining the national priorities for the period 2021-2027, on a list of policy objectives that should be supported during the programming period 2021-2027, and a list of programs and lead agencies for their development, with which the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (MRDPW) has been designated as the lead agency for the development of programs under the European Territorial Cooperation Interreg) 2021 - 2027.;***
- ***Decree № 142 of the Council of Ministers of 2019 for development of the strategic and program documents of the Republic of Bulgaria for management of the funds from the EU for the programming period 2021-2027.***

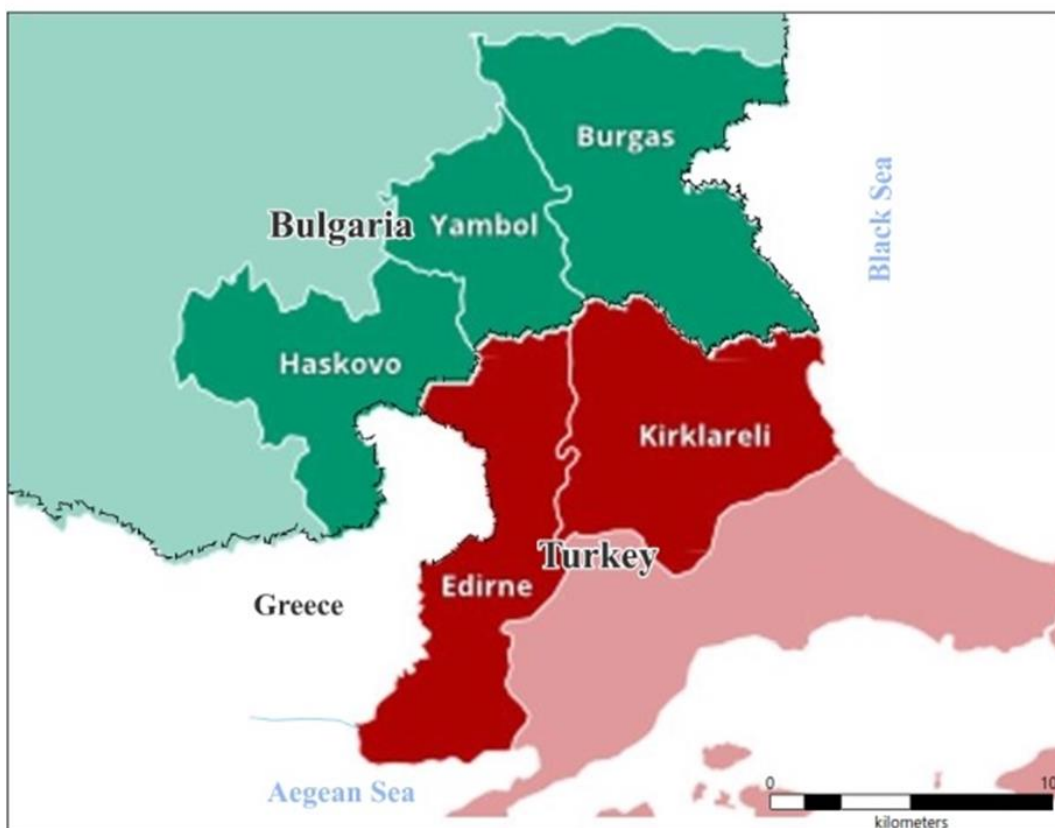
CBCP and TSIM are funded by the European Union with funds from the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance.

The Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works is the MA under the bilateral Interreg programs for cross-border cooperation between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Serbia, the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Northern Macedonia.

## 1.2. Main goals and expectations of CBCP and TSIM

**A. The CBCP 2021-2027 between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey has a geographical scope:**

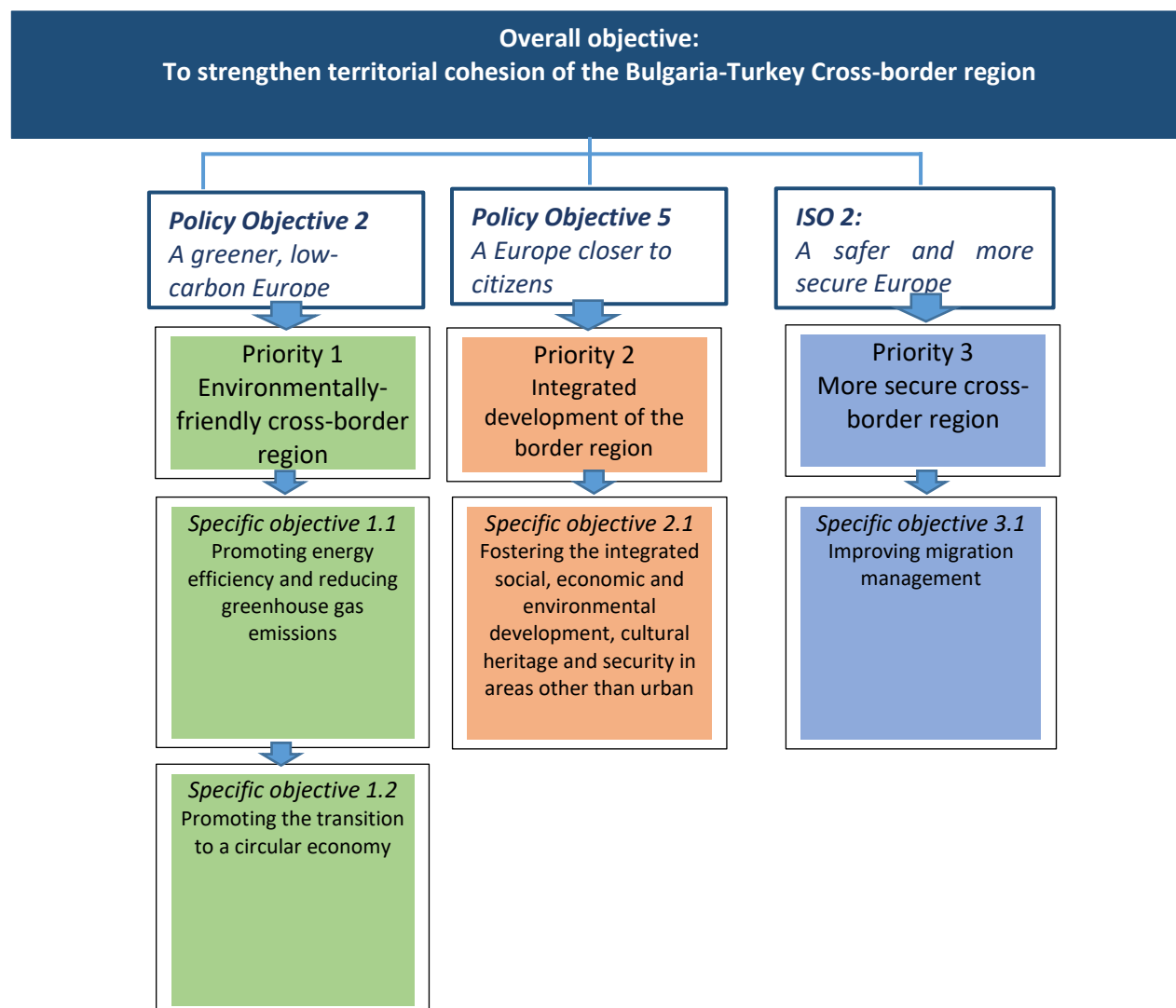
- **Republic of Bulgaria:** 3 NUTS III regions: *Burgas, Haskovo and Yambol*;
- **Republic of Turkey :** 2 NUTS III areas: *Edirne and Kirklareli*



**Figure № 1.2-1** Territorial scope of the CBCP 2021-2027 between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey

The program identifies the following **Overall Objective, Policy Objectives** (from the Proposal for a General Regulation) **and related Priorities, Specific Objectives and Support Activities / Investments:**





**Figure № 1.2-2** Thematic concentration of CBCP 2021-2027 between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey

The content of the **priorities** is as follows:

**Priority 1 Environmentally-friendly cross-border region**

Policy Objective 2 “A greener, low-carbon Europe”

Specific objective 1.1 “Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions”

Types of activities / investments, object of support:

- Investments for reducing GHG emissions and energy consumption in the entire industry lifecycle;
- Developing and introducing smart energy systems where the usage of renewable energy resources is put on central (in conformity with Directive 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and the Council on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources);
- Developing new technological solutions and energy capacities;

Target groups:

Government bodies, Existing and newly established SMEs, NGOs, Academic institutions, Individuals

Бенефициери:

ММСП

Target groups:

Regional and local authorities, existing and newly established MSMEs, NGOs, academic institutions, natural persons

Beneficiaries:

MSMEs

Policy Objective 2 “A greener, low-carbon Europe”

Specific objective 1.2 “Promoting the transition to a circular economy”

Types of activities / investments, object of support:

- Development of last-longer and suitable for reuse, repair, and recycling products;
- Improvement of technological infrastructure of selected sectors to meet circularity objectives;
- Development of new business models based on renting and sharing goods and services (the so-called product-as-service models)

- Development of circular business models to favour the establishment of regional close-loop value chain<sup>1</sup> by employing B2B, B2C and C2C models of cooperation;
  - B2B (business-to-business) - legal entities that work not for the end user, but for other such companies, ie for another business;
  - B2C (business-to-consumer) - retail trade - sale of goods and services to end users for personal consumption
  - C2C (consumer-to-consumer) - an e-commerce scheme between end users (customers), in which the buyer and seller are not entrepreneurs pursuant to the legal definition. Usually, such trade relations involve a third party - an intermediary, which organizes an electronic trading platform, such as an online auction, a site with announcements for sales, etc.
- Development of circular bio-based business models, solutions and products;
- Supporting measures for knowledge sharing, design methodology, innovation labs/ hubs, clustering as approaches to promote circular products and circular production processes;
- Development of regional certification practices that reward regional products based on their different sustainability performance, environmental impact and circularity potential

Target groups:

Regional and local authorities, existing and newly established MSMEs, NGOs, academic institutions, natural persons

Beneficiaries:

MSMEs

## Priority 2 Integrated development of the border region

Policy Objective 5 “A Europe closer to citizens”

Specific objective “Fostering the integrated social, economic and environmental development, cultural heritage and security in areas other than urban”

Priority 2, for the implementation of *Policy Objective 5 "Europe closer to the citizens"*, provides for the development of **Territorial strategy for integrated measures (TSIM)**, to

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<sup>1</sup> The value chain is a chain of activities through which the products go sequentially, increasing their value after each activity. The value creation system of a company operating in a given industry covers the value chains of suppliers, the company itself, the distribution channels and the consumer of the product.

address the measures (identified eligible support activities under the program) for specific territorial needs.

The integrated approach for meeting / addressing the needs and potentials of the territory in the developed TSIM is manifested in three main aspects:

- territory defined on the basis of achieving sustainable results in terms of common needs and development potentials;
- participation of a wide range of partners in the whole process of preparation, discussion, adoption and implementation of the strategy.
- derived package of interconnected and complementary (integrated) measures, based on close coordination of different public policies according to local specifics, meeting local needs and development potentials and bringing common benefit to partners and the region.

Through TSIM it will give priority to the support for some projects / actions / activities over others – they are described below in the TSIM description.

Target groups:

Civil society, local/ regional bodies and authorities, regional structures of central public authorities, NGOs, R&D, academic and training institutions, Social institutions, SMEs, residents, tourists

Beneficiaries:

Will be known at a later stage, but in general these are local/ regional bodies and authorities, regional structures of central public authorities, NGOs, academic and training institutions, social institutions, SMEs

**Priority 3 More secure cross-border region**

Interreg specific objective (ISO) 2: “A safer and more secure Europe”

Specific objective “Improving migration management”

Types of activities / investments, object of support under the stated specific objectives:

- Conducting trainings of the staff, exchange of experience and good practices in order to improve institutional cooperation

- Joint implementation of surveillance measures, operational and investigative activities through innovative methods and technologies in urban and suburban areas of the cross-border region ( include supply of equipment and trainings)
- Delivering specialised equipment to improve the technical capabilities of the project authorities (strategic project related to capacity building and cooperation between the law enforcement authorities on the territories of Haskovo, Burgas and Yambol districts, Edirne and Kirklareli provinces in the field of migration management network to ensure a safer and more secure Europe.)

Target groups:

Migrants and asylum seekers, public authorities and service providers, citizens, local economic operators, law enforcement authorities

Potential beneficiaries:

Regional Directorates of the Ministry of Interior in Haskovo, Burgas and Yambol and the Police department in the Edirne and Kirklareli province

Potential partner:

DG Customs Enforcement of the Ministry of Trade, Turkey

**B. TSIM 2021-2027 between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey**

TSIM determines **the vision of CBCP strategic objective, specific objectives (also described above for CBCP Priority 2) and measures.**

Vision: The territory of the cross-border cooperation program between Bulgaria and Turkey - a place where cross-border cooperation is important and through an integrated response to local needs and realization of local potential, contributes to the balanced territorial development of the region.

The vision defines the desired role of the strategy as part of the organized implementation of policies for sustainable socio-economic development of the territory.

The vision will be achieved through the use of a balanced and territorial needs-oriented integrated approach, key to achieving an overall cumulative effect.

The identified key (priority) areas of intervention provide the basis for defining the strategic objectives, which in turn provide the basis for the specific objectives of the strategy.

The specific objectives are the basis for defining, in close connection with the specific needs and potentials and the priority measures at a higher level, a multisectoral package of

measures (integrated measures). For this purpose, the implementation of the necessary minimum of territorially focused interventions in the various areas will be ensured.

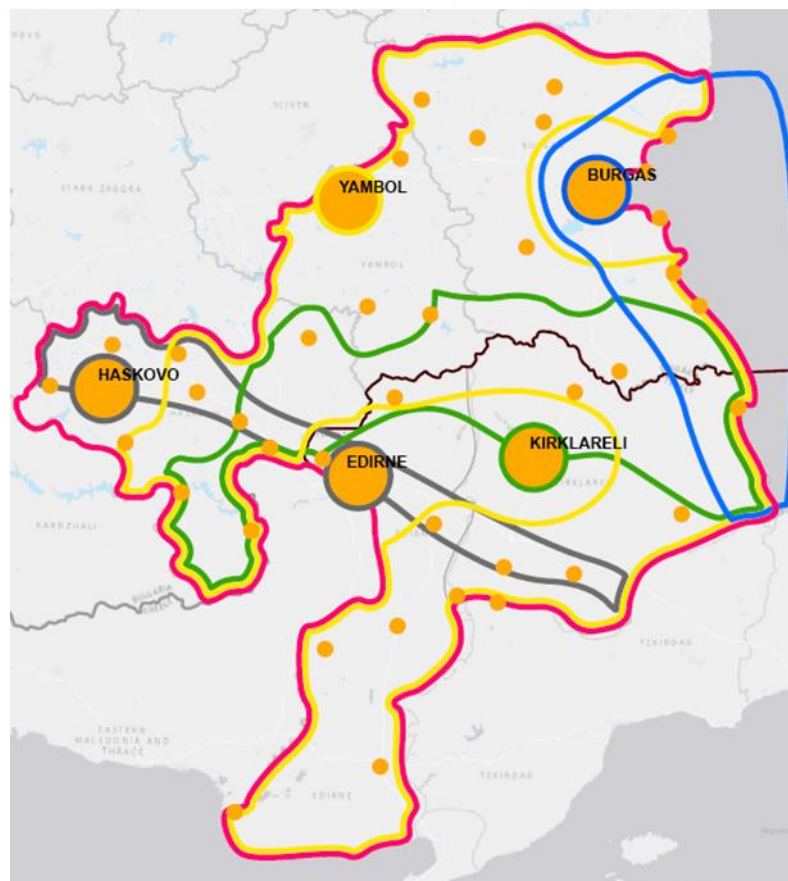
At the heart of the territorial coherence of the measures integrated in a multisectoral package is the goal of meeting the identified needs by strengthening the polycentric model of development and thus reducing spatial imbalances. The priorities of the Territorial Agenda 2030, adapted to the context in the national and regional strategic documents, determine the crucial role of the polycentric networks of cities as engines of economic and social development. The importance of small and medium-sized cities for "regional economic development, social well-being and adequate access to services" at local level is emphasized.

The core of the polycentric network in the developed territory consists of five large urban centers (Burgas, Yambol, Haskovo, Edirne, Lozengrad) and the urban axes connecting them. Around this core is developed a network of smaller centers with municipal and supra-municipal functions.







The territory within the geographical scope of the Strategy is characterized by common needs and potentials for development and is essentially a functional area, but a more deeply tailor-made approach to interventions allows to highlight **Intensive intervention zones**. In their scope, the more intensive implementation of some of the integrated measures in the overall package is expected to give a better result and bring more tangible benefits to the whole territory. In this way, the measures envisaged and applied in the entire functional area for which the Strategy is being developed increase not only their effectiveness, but also the effectiveness of the package of integrated measures as a whole.

The specifics of the local context determine the definition of six such zones (**Figure 1.2-3**). Each of them also contains at least one higher-level development center (large city) and is thus connected to the core of the polycentric network. Apart from the spatial dimension, this connection also has a functional dimension - in larger and more developed cities it is easier to achieve results in the field of new technologies (green, circular, digital) and it is most likely to take the first steps and give impetus in the development of the whole territory.

The zones overlap / intersect. The different cities and the territories around them fall simultaneously in several different zones, which determines their profile in terms of the intensity of the different interventions / measures.



*Legend:*

-  The whole functional area (the whole territory of the strategy)
-  Area of high - level urban centers (the core of five major cities)
-  Area of municipal and supra-municipal centers (small and medium-sized cities to counterbalance the development of large core cities)
-  Zone of active transport communication (the main transport artery across the border),
-  Area of land-sea interactions (sustainable development in the maritime space)
-  European Green Belt area (enhanced role of biodiversity conservation)

**Figure № 1.2-3** *Identified zones for intensive intervention in TSIM 2021-2027 between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey*

**Strategic objective 1:** Achieve sustainable economic growth based on increased competitiveness of the local economy, digital and green transformation

**Specific objective 1.1:** Increase the competitiveness of the local economy and improve the business environment

**Measure 1.1.** Promoting entrepreneurship, joint actions (initiatives, programmes and projects), development of industrial zones, technological renewal, participation in foreign markets, use of various financing opportunities, participation in European and national programmes,

development of innovative ideas for products and services and products and services with high added value.

- Interventions zone: The entire functional area
- Intensive interventions zone: Zone of centres at municipal and supra-municipal level

Relevant needs and development potential

- Encouraging the development of the entrepreneurial ecosystem of the region and promoting entrepreneurship in general, as well as interventions to increase the attractiveness of the CBC area for foreign direct investment are necessary as long-term policies;
- Improving the culture of cooperation between SMEs, including for participation in programs and solving common challenges, as well as building a positive attitude towards various financing opportunities is an important condition for their successful development in a highly competitive environment;
- Assistance in solving the specific problems of family SMEs (obtaining adequate qualification, planning and management of the inheritance process, etc.);
- Encouraging the emergence and development of new ideas for products and services offered by SMEs as imperative of their development;
- Continuous technological renewal of SMEs, related to new knowledge and skills, machines and software products, required by the market;
- Continuation of the gradual and sustainable development of SMEs in the “Manufacturing” sector;
- Existence of untapped potential for development through the creation of industrial zones;
- Activation of the potential for development of the local handicrafts, through its adaptation to the modern markets;
- The significant contribution to the GDP of SMEs and the large number of employees in them determine the serious potential of the measures, related to the development of
- SMEs with their wide positive effect on the economy as a whole;
- The development of SMEs in the field of ICT provides an opportunity to create products with high added value;
- The significant number of SMEs and the variety of areas in which they operate, has the potential to increase the competitiveness of SMEs through their participation in joint initiatives, programmes and projects;
- Identification of Bulgaria as a major foreign trade partner of the Province of Edirne creates potential for joint action in cross-border cooperation related to exports and imports, respectively;
- Encouraging entrepreneurs in the SMEs to commit to improving the skills of their employees;



- The well-developed educational infrastructure in the CBC area, have the potential to link vocational training and business needs in the long term;
- Support/increase of the competence for participation of SMEs in European and national financing programmes and improvement of the qualification, related to research, planning and export of SMEs;
- Provision of up-to-date information on markets, technologies, raw materials, innovations and financing programs for the needs of SMEs.
- **Specific objective 1.2:** Increase the level of digitalization and climate neutrality of the local economy

**Measure 1.2.** Transformation of the local economy through measures for digital and energy transition, and implementation of the circular economy model

- Interventions zone: The entire functional area
- Intensive interventions zone: Zone of high-level urban centres

**Relevant needs and development potential**

- Specific targeted support for the implementation of digital technologies in SMEs;
- Support for implementing circular economy models by various economic operators, incl. municipal enterprises;
- Development of the potential for export of goods and services by maintaining their competitiveness on the international market by orienting part of the investments towards green transition

**Specific objective 1.3:** Improving the qualification of local communities for successful integration in the labour market

**Measure 1.3.** Building and developing knowledge and skills adequate to the modern challenges in the local population

- Interventions zone: The entire functional area
- Intensive interventions zone: Intensive interventions zone

**Relevant needs and development potential:**

- Improving qualifications by acquiring key skills - leadership, management, marketing, digital and other competencies, as a key condition for increasing the competitiveness of SMEs;
- Urgent policies and measures to address the shortage of qualified staff, especially in the areas with higher unemployment;

**Specific objective 1.4:** Tourism development

**Measure 1.4.** Overcoming the seasonality and increasing the occupation rate of the tourist infrastructure through integrated regional tourist products that combine different activities and location and are based on sustainable development

- Interventions zone: The entire functional area
- Intensive interventions zone: The entire functional area

**Relevant needs and development potential**

- Improvement and expansion of the existing network of bike lanes through field signalling, involvement of local communities in the initiative and promotion of the provided opportunities.
- Potential for overcoming the seasonality and increasing the usability of the tourist superstructure, through the possibility to combine different leisure activities in time and space;
- Creating a regional tourist product for the CBC area, based on natural resources, cultural heritage, mineral springs and relatively good tourist infrastructure, and implementation of regional marketing and advertising;
- The realization of the potential of the CBC area, which is directly dependent on the compliance of the implemented tourism policy with the policy priorities in a wider European context, including increasing of competitiveness of the sector and promoting the development of sustainable, responsible and high-quality tourism;
- Use of the untapped potential for development of SMEs from the region in the tourism sector;
- The development of cycling routes in the region has the potential to create conditions for rediscovering and developing unpopular destinations and supporting local communities.

**Specific objective 1.5:** Increasing the contribution of the natural heritage to the balanced sustainable socio-economic development of the region

**Measure 1.5.** Promoting joint actions for the development of ecosystem practices and services in the management of natural assets with tourism potential

- Interventions zone: the entire functional area
- Intensive interventions zone: Zone of the European Green Belt, Land-Sea Interaction zone

**Relevant needs and development potential:**

- Development of the potential of the rich natural heritage of the region to contribute to balanced sustainable development through the implementation of nature protection policies, taking into account the ecological, scientific, cultural, economic, social and recreational requirements, as well as regional and local peculiarities;

**Strategic Objective 2:** Development of better access to services of general interest (SGI)

**Specific objective 2.1:** Developing digital and green solutions for better servicing the population in a cross-border environment

**Measure 2.1.1** Support for actions aimed at wide implementation of consumer-centered approaches in the provision of services of general interest

- Interventions zone: The entire functional area
- Intensive interventions zone: Zone of centres at municipal and supra-municipal level

**Relevant needs and development potential:**

- Observed disparities between the demand and the supply of health services across urban and rural areas and between different income groups; Turkey is more advanced in health, while Bulgaria lags behind;
- Vulnerable and disadvantaged groups of people continue to have limited access to services of general interest, therefore integrated measures for service quality enhancement and active economic inclusion of vulnerable persons should be determined with priority and of ICT perspective allowing for more digital solutions;
- Growing level of ICT adoption on the Bulgarian part of the CBC area, while Turkish counterpart is less advanced. Yet, both countries operate in a less digitally transformed environment, which opens room for development of more digitalized solutions across various policy domains

**Specific objective 2.2:** Reduce pollution and the negative effects of climate change and foreseeable natural disasters of a transboundary nature

**Measure 2.2.1** Implementation of joint actions to reduce pollution and provide clean air, water and food and to mitigate and adapt to climate change

- Interventions zone: The entire functional area
- Intensive interventions zone: The entire functional area, Land-Sea Interaction zone, Zone of active transport communication

*Relevant needs and development potential*

- Reduction of seasonal air pollution with PM<sub>10</sub> by encouraging the abandonment of solid fuels for heating, modernizing road transport and improving the condition of adjacent infrastructure.
- Joint actions for reduction of transboundary pollutants;
- Implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, a prerequisite for sustainable development in the CBC area;

### 1.3. Alternatives to CBCP and TSIM

The drafts of the program and strategy submitted by the Contracting authority do not contain alternatives. Possible identification at a later stage of alternatives and options that will be analyzed in the EAR in terms of their impact on the environment and human health.

*A detailed examination of the alternatives available at the time of its preparation will be made in the EAR, incl. The "zero alternative", if such are developed for CBCP and TSIM.*

### 1.4. Relationship of CBCP and TSIM with other relevant plans, programs and strategies

The sub-item of the EAR will analyze the relationship and correlation of the projects of CBCP and TSIM 2021 - 2027 with other plans, programs and strategies:

- at European and international level;
- at national, regional and local level (falling within the territorial scope of the program and strategy in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey).

#### **A. Plans, programs and strategies at European (including bilateral) and international level related to CBCP and TSIM 2021-2027.**

- The United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 “Transforming the World“;
- Territorial agenda 2030;
- European Green Deal / European Green Pact;
- Roadmap for an action plan aimed at zero pollution of water, air and soil (**under development**);
- Circular Economy Action Plan;
- EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030.;
- Other.
-

**B. Plans, programs and strategies on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, related to CBCP and TSIM 2021-2027:**

- Draft Partnership Agreement for the programming period 2021-2027;
- National Development Program: Bulgaria 2030;
- National Strategy for Regional Development for the period 2012-2022;
- National Concept for Spatial Development for the period 2013-2025 - Update 2019;
- National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy 2018-2030;
- National Strategy for Road Safety in the Republic of Bulgaria with horizon 2021 - 2030 and Action Plan for its implementation for the period 2021 - 2023;
- Recovery and sustainability plan (project);
- National Program for Air Pollution Control (2020 - 2030);
- National Program for Improving Atmospheric Air Quality 2018-2024;
- The National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change and Action Plan until 2030;
- Integrated plan in the field of energy and climate of the Republic of Bulgaria 2021 - 2030;
- National Program for Protection, Sustainable Use and Restoration of Soil Functions 2020-2030;
- National Waste Management Plan 2021-2028;
- National Strategy for Management and Development of the Water Sector in the Republic of Bulgaria and Action Plan to it in the short-term (2013-2015), medium-term (2016-2021) and long-term (2022-2037) perspective;
- National plan for protection of the most important wetlands in Bulgaria 2013-2020;
- River Basin Management Plan in the East Aegean Region (2016-2021);
- Flood risk management plan in the East Aegean region for basin management 2016-2021, incl. updated Preliminary flood risk assessment for the East Aegean Basin Management Region. / March, 2021 /
- River Basin Management Plan in the Black Sea region (2016-2021);
- Flood risk management plan in the Black Sea region for basin management 2016-2021, incl. updated Preliminary flood risk assessment for the Black Sea basin management region / March, 2021 /
- National Priority Framework for Action for Natura 2000 for the period 2021-2027 (project).
- Integrated territorial strategies for development of South-Central and South-Eastern regions for level 2 planning for the period 2021-2027 (projects);
- Municipal strategies, plans and programs for the municipalities of Burgas, Haskovo, Yambol, incl. General development plans of the Municipalities of Burgas, Haskovo, Yambol;

- Draft district strategy for development of Burgas district for the period 2012-2020
- Other.

## **B. Plans, programs and strategies on the territory of the Republic of Turkey related to CBCP and TSIM 2021-2027.:**

### **National strategies, plans and programs for environmental protection**

- 11th Development Plan (2019-2023),
- Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation (2018-2022)
- Climate Change Action Plan (2011-2023)
- Turkey's National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan
- EU Integrated Environmental Approximation Strategy (2016- 2023)
- Environment and Climate Change Sectoral Operational Program
- Wastewater Treatment Plan Action Plan (2017-2023)
- Strategic Plan of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (2019-2023)
- National Water Plan (2019 – 2023),
- National Basin Management Plan (2014-2023)
- National Drought Management Strategy Document and Action Plan (2017-2023)
- Strategic Plan of DG Forestry
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2007)
- Integrated Coastal Areas Management Plan and Strategic Environmental Assessment Report

### **Water, flood, disaster risk management**

- Meriç – Ergene River Basin Management Plan
- Marmara River Basin Action Plan
- Meriç-Ergene Basin Industrial Wastewater Management Plan
- Meriç – Ergene Flood Risk Management Plan

### **Urban development**

- Thrace Sub-region Ergene Basin 1/100 000 Scale Revised Environmental Land Allocation Plan
- Edirne Municipality Strategic Plan (2014-2020),
- Kırklareli Municipality Strategic Plan (2014-2020),
- Edirne (center) Urban and Archaeological Site Areas Zoning Plan

## Development of transport infrastructure and mobility

- Transport Master Plan Strategy
- Thrace Region Logistics Master Plan (prepared by Thrace Development Agency)

## Tourism

- Thrace Region Tourism Master Plan (prepared by Thrace Development Agency)
- Edirne Nature Tourism Master Plan
- Action Plan for the Development of Alternative Tourism Types in Edirne (prepared by Thrace Development Agency)
- Health Tourism Thrace Destination Research Report (prepared by Thrace Development Agency)

## Waste:

- Edirne zero waste management plan
- Edirne Medical Waste Management Plan
- Kırklareli zero waste management plan

## Regional environmental documents:

- Edirne Province Environmental Status Report
- Kırklareli Province Environmental Status Report
- Edirne Agriculture Master Plan, 2005
- Environmental Land Allocation Plans of Edirne and Kırklareli

## Sustainable Development, Competitiveness and Innovation

- TR 21 Thrace Region Plan (2014-2023), (prepared by Thrace Development Agency)
- TR 21 Thrace Region Competitiveness Analyses (prepared by Thrace Development Agency)
- Edirne Development and Competitiveness Project (prepared by Thrace Development Agency)

and other.

*The EAR will analyze the compliance and consistency of the forecasts of CBCP and TSIM 2021-2027 with the relevant plans, programs and strategies, incl. those proposed for consideration by stakeholders as a result of consultations under this Terms of Reference.*

## **2. 2. Current state of the environment and possible development without the application of CBCP and TSIM**

### **2.1. Current state of the environment**

*The current state of the environment in the scope of the cross-border region - subject of CBCP and TSIM will be considered, analyzed and assessed in the EAR in relation to each component and factor of the environment, incl. with regard to the population and human health for the territory of Bourgas, Yambol, Haskovo Districts (Republic of Bulgaria) and Provinces of Edirne and Kirklareli regions (Republic of Turkey). For the purpose of the Terms of Reference only basic / summary information on the state of the environment is presented.*

#### **2.1.1. Climate and climate change**

##### **A. Climatic characteristics**

##### ***Districts of Burgas, Yambol and Haskovo (Republic of Bulgaria)***

The transitional geographical position and the diverse relief of the three districts determine the dynamics and variations in the climate of their territory. There are three main types of continental climate areas - Transitional Continental, Continental Mediterranean (Transitional) and Black Sea.

Characteristic of Transitional Continental, Continental Mediterranean (transitional) is a relatively mild winter and long hot and dry summers with high daytime temperatures.

Black Sea climate area covers a meridional strip with a width of 20-40 km. west of the Black Sea coast. The climate here is formed not only under the influence of the atmospheric circulation, typical for this part of the Balkan Peninsula, but also under the influence of the Black Sea basin. Two climatic influences are intertwined in the area - on the continent of Europe (from the northwest and northeast) and the Mediterranean from the southwest. The continental climate influence is more pronounced in the northern half, the Mediterranean - in the southern half. The Black Sea, in turn, further transforms the invading air masses and forms a specific climate. It cannot be attributed to either the transitional Mediterranean or the transitional continental climate. The specific Black Sea climate is milder despite the lack of mountain barriers. Due to the Black Sea, the advections of cold continental or arctic air masses are not so acute. The average January temperature is positive.

##### ***Provinces of Edirne and Kirklareli (Republic of Turkey)***

The transitional geographical position and the lowland relief of the two districts determine the dynamics and variations in the climate of their territory. Two climatic influences intertwine in



the districts - the Black Sea and the Mediterranean. Mild winters with positive temperatures, long summers with high temperatures and high humidity are typical.

The average air temperature in the provinces of the cross-border region is 13.6 ° C. The lowest temperature is measured in January and the highest is measured in June and July during the summer. The hottest weather is observed in the province of Edirne. In winter, the lowest temperatures are observed in the provinces of Kirklareli and Edirne. According to the data for 1970-2017, the total amount of precipitation varies between 11.6 and 100 mm.

## **B. Climate change**

Record high temperatures in recent decades, melting glaciers, wetter air and more. show that global warming is an indisputable fact. Since 1989, positive anomalies of the average annual air temperature compared to the climatic norm of the base period 1961-1990 have prevailed..

За разглеждания трансграничен район тенденциите са:

- Decrease in precipitation, which is mainly due to the increase in temperatures - a decrease in water resources is expected, incl. for drinking and household purposes and irrigation, which will have a negative impact on the population and agriculture;
- Increasing the frequency of extreme meteorological phenomena - floods and droughts, for which an increased frequency has already been registered compared to the recent past;
- Deterioration of water quality in water bodies - due to the reduced water quantity, respectively the reduced amount of dissolved oxygen, discharges will lead to an increase in the concentration of pollutants;
- Drying of forest plantations, especially in the oak belt up to about 1200 m above sea level, and change of the species composition of the vegetation at higher altitude, increasing the risk of fires and pests;
- Direct and indirect effects on human health - air pollution, food pollution, drinking water, incl. shortage of drinking water (especially for the Black Sea region).

*The EAR will provide detailed information on the current state and climatic features of the climatic areas and sub-areas in which the cross-border territory falls within the scope of CBCP and TSIM; the state and trends of climate change.*

### **2.1.2. Atmospheric air condition**

#### ***Districts of Burgas, Yambol and Haskovo (Republic of Bulgaria)***

According to the requirements of the national and European legislation the territory of the country is divided into six Regions for assessment and management of the quality of the atmospheric air (RAMQAA) with Order № 969 / 21.12.2013 of the Minister of Environment and

Waters. The analysis of the data for the quality of the atmospheric air (AQ) is performed by regions, taking into account the specifics of each settlement in which the control is performed. The three areas within the scope of CBCP and TSIM fall within RAMQAA Southeast.

Given the established exceedances of air quality standards, the Municipality of Burgas applies a Program for improving the quality of the atmospheric air for pollutants fine dust particles (FDP10 and FDP 2.5), sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), and the Municipality of Haskovo - for FDP10 and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (surfactants).

On the territory of Yambol district there are no municipalities for which the implementation of air quality programs is required - the air quality is in the established norms.

### ***Provinces of Edirne and Kirklareli (Republic of Turkey)***

The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (MoEU) of the Republic of Turkey maintains a National Air Quality Database (NAQD) and monitors air quality through air monitoring stations distributed throughout the country. The parameters to be monitored are NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, CO and PM<sub>10</sub>. There are 8 air quality monitoring stations in the provinces of Edirne and Kirklareli.

The Republic of Turkey has not fully transposed DIRECTIVE 2010/75 / EU on industrial emissions into national law. Therefore, the best available techniques in this area are not yet applied.

The Provincial Directorate for Environment and Urbanization of the Province of Edirne has prepared an **Action Plan for Clean Air**. No publicly available data are available on whether Kirklareli Province has developed a Clean Air Action Plan.

According to data from the air quality monitoring stations in the provinces of Edirne and Kirklareli, no exceedance of the limit values of the observed indicators is reported.

*The EAR will analyze data on air pollution in the areas covered by CBCP and TSIM, the main sources of pollution and current trends in air quality.*

### ***2.1.3. Water condition, water protection zones, flood risk***

The main goal of European water policy is to ensure a sufficient supply of good quality water, both for human needs and for the environment.

The water resources of the South-Eastern region are controlled by the Black Sea Basin Directorate (BSBD) with the center in the city of Varna and by the East Aegean Region Basin Directorate (EARBD) with the center in the city of Plovdiv.

The main water currents in the region are the rivers Maritsa, Tundzha, Arda, Kamchia, Ropotamo, Veleka, Rezovska, as well as rivers from the catchments of the main water currents. The region on the Bulgarian side is also rich in mineral waters. The most important mineral springs are the Burgas (near the village of Vetren), Haskovo Mineral Baths.

The access to the Black Sea and the Aegean Sea provides the region with an opportunity to develop tourism and water transport.

### **A. Surface water**

#### ***Districts of Burgas, Yambol, Haskovo (Republic of Bulgaria)***

The Black Sea water management basin includes most of the Burgas region. The surface waters in the Black Sea basin region, which are also within the territorial scope of RIEW Burgas are the South Black Sea rivers, including: river basin North Burgas rivers, river basin Mandrenski rivers, river basin South Burgas rivers, river basin river river Veleka, river basin river Veleka from the river basin of the river Kamchia. Monitoring is carried out in 105 points on rivers and in 22 points on lakes and dams.

The East Aegean Basin includes part of Burgas District, Yambol District and Haskovo District. The condition of the surface waters is predominantly good, which allows for different economic uses. The three main large basins are on the Maritsa River, the Tundzha River, the Arda River.

For the Burgas region, the East Aegean basin includes one surface water body of the category "Rivers", type R5 Semi-mountain rivers and three water bodies of the category "Rivers", type R13 Small and medium plain rivers.

The general assessment of the condition of surface water bodies in the transboundary region is good, with certain fluctuations. The performed assessments and monitoring of the chemical status in relation to the priority substances in the waters do not show deviations from the quality standards for the monitored water bodies. Existence of deteriorated condition in terms of physico-chemical and chemical indicators for water quality is possible in the presence of pollution with mineral forms of nitrogen and phosphorus from diffuse sources (agricultural practices); eutrophication processes; intermittent river runoff, combined with pollution from settlements without WWTPs.

#### ***Provinces of Edirne and Kirklareli (Republic of Turkey)***

The Meric sub-basin (Maritsa), including the tributaries Arda, Tunca (Tundja) and Ergene, is one of the main river systems located in the Eastern Balkans. The Maritsa River originates from Bulgaria, while its lower reaches form a large part of the border between Greece and Turkey.

About 66% of the basin belongs to Bulgaria, 28% to Turkey and 6% to Greece. In Turkey, the associated river basin is the Maritsa-Ergene Basin, and its main rivers are the Ergene River and its tributaries. The Maritsa River forms the border between Greece and Turkey, then merges with the Ergene River in Edirne and flows into the Aegean Sea from the Gulf of Saros.

The province of Kirklareli is also located in the basin of the Marmara River.

Total number of surface water bodies:

<b>Water body category</b>	<b>Number of water bodies</b>
Rivers	79
Lakes	37
Coastal waters	1
Transitional waters	3
Total	120

### **B. Sea waters**

The following water bodies are located within the territorial boundaries of Burgas region BG2BS000C1008 (n. Emine - St. Vlas), BG2BS000C1108 (St. Vlas - Pomorie), BG2BS000C1208 (Pomorie - Sarafovo), BG2BS000C1010 (nG halls). Akin - Oily nose); BG2BS000C1308 (South Burgas Bay <30 m).

On the part of the Republic of Turkey, 1 coastal water body falls into the cross-border region.

### **C. Groundwater**

The factors that determine the conditions for formation, dynamics and regime of groundwater are physical-geographical: relief, climate, hydrology and hydrography and geological: geological structure, lithological composition of rocks and tectonic structures.

The cross-border area is rich in groundwater bodies. Regarding the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, within the East Aegean Water Management Basin, there are 6 groundwater bodies located in the cross-border zone with total natural resources of 3840 l / sec. In the Black Sea water management basin there are three groundwater bodies in the border area with a total natural resource of 2285 l / sec.

Regarding the territory of the Republic of Turkey the total potential of the groundwater bodies for the provinces of Edirne and Kırklareli in the transboundary area is 299.1 hm<sup>3</sup> / g and 142 hm<sup>3</sup> / g, respectively.

The most significant reason for the condition of water bodies in the region, assessed in poor condition by physicochemical parameters (exceedances of BOD<sub>5</sub>, electrical conductivity, nitrite nitrogen, nitrate nitrogen, total phosphorus, etc.), are the sources of diffuse pollution (settlements without built sewerage, waste pollution, etc).

### **F. Water protection zones**

According to the provisions of Art. Article 6 of the Water Framework Directive requires EU Member States to ensure that registers are established for all water protection areas within each basin management area, which are reviewed and updated every 6 years.

The following water protection zones are regulated:

- the catchment area of surface water bodies and the land surface above groundwater bodies, which are used for drinking and domestic water supply and have an average daily flow of more than 10 cubic meters or serve for water supply of more than 50 people and the water bodies provided to be used for drinking and household water supply;
- water bodies defined as waters for recreation and water sports, including designated bathing areas;
- areas where water is sensitive to nutrients, including vulnerable zones and sensitive areas;
- areas for protection of economically valuable species of fish and other aquatic organisms;
- protected areas and zones designated or declared for the protection of habitats and biological species, in which the maintenance or improvement of the water status is an important factor for their protection.

#### **D. Risk of flooding**

An integrated approach to flood risk management is introduced by Directive 2007/60 / AP of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on the assessment and management of floods, which aims to reduce future risk through research, assessment and impact on all factors influencing the occurrence of floods and the significance of their consequences on human health, economic activity and the environment.

The Directive requires Member States to develop a Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) with a Program of Measures (PoM) included. Its aim is to create the conditions for reducing the adverse effects on human health, the environment, the cultural heritage and the economic activity of floods, in particular in certain areas with a significant potential risk of floods.

The cross-border area subject to CBCP and TSIM includes areas with significant potential flood risk.

*The EAR will present information on the state of surface and groundwater in the area of the transboundary region, subject to CBCP and TSIM, the state of water protection zones, the presence of areas with significant potential risk of floods. For the analyzes of the waters on the territory of Burgas, Haskovo and Yambol districts will be used RBMPs and FRMPs of the East Aegean region for the period 2016-2021, as well as RBMPs and FRMPs of the Black Sea region for the period 2016-2021, as well as the available updated preliminary flood risk assessments to the FRMP project for the period 2022-2027. The Maritza-Ergene River Basin Management Plan will be used for water analysis in the provinces of Edirne and Kırklareli; Marmara River Basin Action Plan; Industrial wastewater management plan from the Maritza-Ergene basin; Maritsa - Ergene FRMP*

#### **2.1.4. Condition of the earth's depths**

The modern natural geographical appearance on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey is the result of a long and complex development, the beginning of which is set in the geological past. The main forms of the relief were formed during the action of the folding, fault, volcanic and sedimentation processes, especially during the last neotectonic stage of the development of the territory.

*The EAR will consider the peculiarities of the earth's depths in the territory within the scope of CBCP and TSIM.*

#### **2.1.5. Soil condition**

##### ***Districts of Burgas, Yambol, Haskovo (Republic of Bulgaria)***

According to the forest-vegetation zoning of the country, the districts of Burgas, Yambol and Haskovo fall into the Thracian forest-vegetation area, sub-areas: Eastern Stara Planina and Upper Thrace (Burgas, Yambol), and Southern border forest area, sub-areas: Strandzha Black Sea Coast, Strandzha, Ardinska and Dolna Maritsa (Burgas, Yambol, Haskovo). The soil diversity is great. The soils of the lowlands and hilly-plain territories - vertisols (smolnitsi), as well as the soils of the hilly and low mountainous territories - luvisols (cinnamon forest soils), as well as the shallow rendzinas prevail. Along the rivers Tundzha, Maritsa, Arda, Sredetska, Fakiyska and their tributaries respectively fluvisols (alluvial soils) prevails. The soils in the region predetermine good conditions for the development of agricultural activities.

For the pollution of the soil with heavy metals and metalloids, salinization and acidification, regular monitoring is carried out by the respective RIEWs and EEA. Following the dynamics of the controlled indicators, it is established that they are within the norms below the MPC (maximum permissible concentrations) for permissible content of harmful substances in soils.

Part of the region area has a slope of over 18-20%, which is a major prerequisite for the development of waterscale erosion.

With regard to the districts of Burgas and Haskovo, it should be noted the presence of damaged areas from the extractive activity of quarries and mines, dumps and landfills.

##### ***Provinces of Edirne and Kirklareli (Republic of Turkey)***

Soils vary depending on climate, vegetation, soil-forming rock and topography. There are five major soil groups in the provinces of Edirne and Kirklareli: Fluvisols (alluvial drained soils; hydromorphic alluvial soils); Luvisols (cinnamon forest soils); Leptosols (carbonate-free rankers; rendzinas), Cambisols (carbonate-free brown soils); Vertisols.

By-laws for control of soil pollution and Point-Source contaminated sites describe the procedure for identification and registration of contaminated sites. The Provincial Directorates of Environment and Urbanization are responsible for assessing and reviewing the contaminated sites, using the Areas Information System database e. The following data are derived from the environmental status reports of the provinces of Edirne and Kirklareli.

Province	terrains with potential risk	terrains for which additional studies are required	contaminated terrain
Edirne	203	203	0
Kirklareli	1	0	0

*The EAR will provide detailed information on the condition of the soils, incl. soil sealing, soil erosion, soil pollution within the territory of CBCP and TSIM.*

#### **2.1.6. Biodiversity status**

The biological diversity of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey in the territorial scope of CBCP and TSIM is characterized by high heterogeneity and a high degree of relictness and endemism. This is a result of their specific geographical position on the Balkan Peninsula, as well as the influences to which its territory has been exposed in the past, especially during the Pleistocene.

The specificity and geographical location of the cross-border region predetermine its partial impact by the glacial period, as the region includes areas that have not been affected. Large temperature fluctuations before, during and after the end of the ice age have caused mass migrations of wildlife. Such movements have left deep traces on the recent flora and fauna of the wider European area, including the cross-border area in question.

The provinces of Edirne and Kirklareli fall within the Thrace region of the Republic of Turkey, which includes three geographical regions called Europe-Siberia, the Mediterranean and Iran-Turan, and is a bridge between two continents, which determines the territorial change of climate and geographical characteristics for short periods of time. As a result, forest, mountain, steppe, wetlands, coastal and marine ecosystems are extremely different from each other and rich in biodiversity.

The two Turkish regions fall into the Mediterranean Coastal Region and the Black Sea Coastal Region, respectively, which is an additional factor determining the extremely diverse and specific species composition in the cross-border region.

*The EAR will present information on the characteristic vegetation and fauna in the area covered by the CBCP and TSIM, incl. rare and endangered species (including subject of protection according to normative acts), invasive alien species and non-native species, natural habitats, etc.*

### **2.1.7. Protected areas and protected territories**

In order to protect or restore the favorable condition of natural habitats and species in their natural area of distribution, special territories with a protection regime shall be established.

It is important to note that Council Directive 92/43 / EEC and Directive 2009/147 / EC of the European Parliament and of the European Council have not yet been transposed into Turkish law.

*The EAR will address the protected areas and protected territories within the cross-border area.*

### **2.1.8. Landscape condition**

#### ***Districts of Burgas, Yambol, Haskovo (Republic of Bulgaria)***

According to the Landscape zoning of G. Petrov, 1997, the region of the three administrative districts falls into two landscape districts - Stara Planina (Primorsko-Stara Planina subregion) and Intermountain zonal area of the southern Bulgarian lowlands and low mountains (Bursk-Aitos and Strandzha subregions). Due to the diversity of the relief and the climatic features the territory is characterized by a great landscape diversity.

***The provinces of Edirne and Kırklareli fall in the Region of Thrace, which consists of three provinces.*** The area of the region of Thrace in the Republic of Turkey is 23500 km<sup>2</sup> and represents 3% of the area of Turkey. While there are mountains to the north and south, the interior of the region is anthropogenic.

In the northern part of the territory of the two provinces are located the mountains Strandzha (Yildiz), Koru and Ganos and the continuation of the mountain Ganos to the west. The river basin of the Ergene River is located in the interior of the region. The average altitude of the cross-border region is 180 m above sea level.

*The EAR will make an analysis of the state of the landscape in the area of the territory within the scope of CBCP and TSIM.*

### **2.1.9. Status of tangible assets**

Tangible assets are divided into fixed (land, buildings, infrastructure, facilities) and short-term (raw materials). Their condition is directly dependent on the availability of financial security for their renovation and development. In the cross-border area, the need for investment in specific activities and measures is determined mainly on the basis of the state of tangible assets at the moment.



*The EAR will analyze the condition of the main tangible assets related to CBCP and TSIM.*

#### **2.1.10. Cultural and historical heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage**

The Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey have a wealth of cultural values, incl. such are registered on the territory of the cross-border region in the scope of CBCP and TSIM.

*The TEC will present information on the cultural heritage and the regulations for its protection on the territory of the cross-border region in the scope of CBCP and TSIM.*

#### **2.1.11. Condition with regard to harmful physical factors**

Road traffic is the main source of noise pollution in Europe, and noise levels are expected to increase in both urban and rural areas over the next decade due to the development of urbanization and the increased need for mobility.

To limit the harmful effects of environmental noise, Directive 2002/49 / EC of 25 June 2002 on the assessment and management of environmental noise was adopted.

Legislation to limit environmental noise has been adopted in both the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey.

*The EAR will provide information on the state of the factor and the main sources of noise in the cross-border region in the scope of CBCP and TSIM..*

#### **2.1.12. Condition and management of waste**

Waste is perceived as an environmental, social and economic problem, and growing consumption and "consumer" behavior of society continue to produce large amounts of waste. Large and diverse efforts are needed to prevent their formation. Waste also represents a loss of material resources (through metals and other recyclable materials) and at the same time has the potential as energy sources.

The implementation of waste treatment activities such as reuse and recycling are environmentally friendly, leading to the diversion of waste from landfills.

Both the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey develop and implement National Waste Management Plans, as well as programs, respectively waste management plans at regional and municipal level. Regarding the trends observed at the moment:

- In recent years, the **Republic of Bulgaria** has maintained a relatively constant level of waste handed over for recovery, which is indicative of efforts to recycle waste, reduce landfill quantities at the national level and apply the hierarchy in waste management practices.;
- For the provinces of Edirne and Kirklareli in the Republic of Turkey there are developed and implemented Management Plans - zero waste, the system is based on the principle of public-private partnership, separate collection of individual waste streams, approaches for recycling and reuse, broad public campaigns aimed at zero waste generated by administrative and residential buildings.

*The EAR will provide detailed information on waste management in the cross-border region falling under the scope of CBCP and TSIM..*

### **2.1.13. Hazardous chemicals and risk of major accidents**

When implementing activities and measures under CBCP and TSIM, related to the construction of sites and infrastructure, it is necessary to take into account the existing enterprises in the area, performing activities for storage / production / use of hazardous chemicals and mixtures in quantities that pose a risk of large accidents. Depending on the amount (when above the relevant threshold amount) of these substances, companies are classified as having a low or high risk potential.

*In order to take into account the existing such enterprises from the point of view of the risk for the environment and human health, information about them will be presented in the EAR.*

### **2.1.14. Health status of the population**

The main health indicators for assessing the health status of the population are demographic indicators (birth rate, mortality, infant mortality, natural increase), morbidity, health issues, mortality by causes and others. Their analysis, together with the analysis of risk factors related to the population and human health (factors of the socio-economic environment; factors related to lifestyle; factors related to the environment and the work environment), will give a clear picture of the current situation and trends in the health status of the population.

The current demographic situation and trends in the areas of the Republic of Bulgaria in the cross-border region are characterized by a continuing decline and aging of the population, declining birth rates and maintaining a high level of overall mortality, leading to diseases of the circulatory system and neoplasms. The most significant of the environmental factors is the impact as a result of air pollution, deviations in chemical indicators of drinking water quality (nitrates - for some water sources in all three areas; natural uranium, manganese and iron - for some water sources in Haskovo district ,) and increased noise levels.

*The current demographic situation and trends in the areas of the Republic of Bulgaria in the cross-border region are characterized by a continuing decline and aging of the population, declining birth rates and maintaining a high level of overall mortality, leading to diseases of the circulatory system and neoplasms. The most significant of the environmental factors is the impact as a result of air pollution, deviations in chemical indicators of drinking water quality (nitrates - for some water sources in all three areas; natural uranium, manganese and iron - for some water sources in Haskovo district ,) and increased noise levels For EAR, official statistics and reports will be used, based on which an analysis of demographic indicators and risk factors for human health in the cross-border area within the scope of CBCP and TSIM will be performed..*

## **2.2. Possible development of the environment without the application of CBCP and TSIM**

*Based on the characteristics of the environmental aspects in item 2.1 of the EAR, in item 2.2. an analysis of possible development of environmental aspects will be made, incl. with regard to human health, without the application of CBCP and TSIM (thus assessing the impact of the "zero alternative", ie refusal to implement CBCP and TSIM).*

### **3. Characteristics of the environment for areas that are likely to be significantly affected by the implementation of the CBCP and TSIM**

*Based on the characteristics of the environmental aspects at the moment (which will be made in item 2 of the EAR), as well as the projections of the CBCP and TSIM, in this section of the EAR will be paid attention to those areas that will be the most -significantly affected by the program and strategy. Sensitive areas such as protected areas of the Natura 2000 ecological network, settlements and other sites subject to health protection, sanitary protection zones around water sources, areas at risk of floods, etc. will be examined in detail.*

### **4. Existing environmental problems identified at different levels related to CBCP and TSIM, including those related to areas of special ecological importance, such as protected areas under the Biodiversity Act**

*This point will describe the existing environmental problems in the country, identified at different levels, related to CBCP and TSIM. An analysis will be made of the relationship between environmental problems and the projections of the program and strategy, respectively - conclusions whether CBCP and / or TSIM lead / lead to improvement of the environmental situation, or to deterioration and deepening of existing environmental problems and / or the emergence of new ones.*

### **5. Environmental protection objectives at national and international level relevant to the CBCP and TSIM and the way in which these objectives and all environmental considerations have been taken into account in the preparation of the program and strategy**

*In this point, an analysis will be made of the strategies, plans and programs that set goals for environmental protection at national (for the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey) and international (European) level, which are relevant to CBCP and TSIM, based on analysis, conclusions will be drawn on the manner and extent to which these objectives and environmental considerations have been taken into account in the program.*

## 6. Probable significant effects on the environment and human health, incl. and transboundary environmental impacts in other countries

As CBCP and TSIM are strategic documents, according to the nature and detail of their projections, the assessment of the likely significant impacts on the environment and human health will be made at two levels of detail.:

- Strategic level:
  - For CBCP, this includes an impact assessment of *General Objective, Priorities and Specific Objective*;
  - For TSIM, this includes an impact assessment of *The vision, the Strategic goal and the Specific goals*.
- Level “measures / activities“:
  - For CBCP, this includes an impact assessment of *supported activities / investments*;
  - For TSIM, this includes an assessment of the impact of the *measures*.

*The impact will be assessed by performing an analysis by components and environmental factors of the likely significant impacts on the environment and human health, incl. secondary, cumulative, simultaneous, short-term, medium-term, long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative consequences of the implementation of CBCP and TSIM.*

Regarding the **likely transboundary impact** as a result of the implementation of the CBCP and TSIM:

- CBCP and TSIM are cross-border in nature and scope, and both documents aim to have an impact on the scope of the defined cross-border region. In this regard, **by drawing up a common EAR for the whole territory within the scope of the program, the impact of the provisions of both documents in the cross-border region will be assessed by default, and consultations will be held in both countries**;
- With regard to the transboundary impact within the meaning of *Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context*, the EAR will analyze the likelihood of transboundary impact on the territory of other countries, outside the cross-border region - subject to CBCP and TSIM. At this stage, taking into account the provisions of the draft program and strategy, there is no reason to assume a cross-border impact on the nearest neighboring country - Greece.

### ***7. Measures foreseen to prevent, reduce and compensate as fully as possible the adverse effects of the implementation of CBCP and TSIM on the environment and human health***

*Based on the results of the analyzes and assessments of the alleged impact on the environment and human health performed in the previous point (of the EAR) as a result of the implementation of the CBCP and TSIM, measures will be proposed to prevent, reduce and compensate as much as possible consequences of the implementation of the program and strategy on the environment and human health.*

*The measures will be motivated, incl. and with regard to the expected results of their implementation. They will be presented as:*

- measures for reflection in the final version of the program;*
- implementing measures for the implementation of the program.*

*The results of the consultations under the AP procedure will also be taken into account when proposing the measures.*

### ***8. Reasons for choosing the considered alternatives***

At the time of development of this Terms of Reference for the scope and content of the EAR, the projects of CBCP and TSIM do not contain alternatives.

In case alternatives and options are identified at the next stage, they will be analyzed in terms of their impact on the environment and human health in the EAR.

*The EAR will make a comparison of the alternatives available at the time of its preparation, incl. "Zero alternative", if identified for CBCP and / or TSIM.*

### ***9. Methods for carrying out the ecological assessment, used normative base and documents and difficulties in gathering the necessary information***

The main **methodological documents** that will be used are the following instructions and methodologies:

- Guidance on the implementation of Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programs on the environment - European Commission – DG Environment;
- Guidance on Integrating Climate Change and Biodiversity into Strategic Environmental Assessment, 2013 – European Commission;
- The Use of Spatial Data for the Preparation of Environmental Reports in Europep JRC technical support, 2010;
- Resource Manual to Support Application of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment, 2011 – UNECE;
- Good Practice Recommendations on Public Participation in Strategic Environmental Assessment, 16 February 2016 – UNECE;

- Cross border orientation paper for IPA CBC cooperation programmes with the participation of regions of Bulgaria, North Macedonia and Turkey, Ref. Ares(2019)6239329 - 09/10/2019;
- Strategic environmental assessment in Interreg NEXT programmes - Guidance note and review of approaches, July 2020, TESIM;
- Letter Ref. Ares(2020)32846 - 06/01/2020 of EA with provisions and clarifications for environmental assessments applicable to the plans and programmes co-financed by the EU in the period 2021-2027;
- Presentation on *Application of the SEA Directive to the EU 2021-2027 cofinanced programmes*, 40th meeting of the Expert Group on ESIF(EGESIF), Brussels, 11-12 February 2020, Directorate-General for the Environment.

The preparation of the EAR will be carried out according to the following **methodological approach**:

- 1) Familiarization of the team of experts with the projects of CBCP and TSIM and their forecasts, the other documentation provided by the Contracting authority, the opinions on the assignment for determining the scope and content of EAR;
- 2) Analysis of the plans, strategies and programs related to the projects of CBCP and TSIM;
- 3) Collection, analysis and processing of data on the current state of the environment by components and factors, its relationship with the current level of development of the cross-border area in the scope of CBCP and TSIM;
- 4) Analysis of the development of the environment in case of non-application of CBCP and TSIM (impact assessment of the so-called "zero alternative");
- 5) Analysis of the probable significant impact on territories with CBCP and TSIM;
- 6) Collection, processing and analysis of information on the existing environmental problems at the national level and their connection with the CBCP and TSIM, incl. possible development of these problems with and without the implementation of CBCP and TSIM;
- 7) Analysis of the extent to which the CBCP and TSIM projects take into account the relevant objectives and measures for environmental protection, included / identified in documents - plans, strategies and programs at national and international level;
- 8) Analysis and assessment of the impact of CBCP and TSIM on the environment: As CBCP and TSIM are strategic documents, the assessment of the likely significant impacts on the environment and human health will be carried out at two levels of detail ("strategic" and "measures"). / activities ");
- 9) Proposing measures to prevent, reduce and limit impacts, as well as measures to monitor and control the impact of the program in its implementation;
- 10) Motivated choice of the most appropriate alternative in terms of impact on the environment and human health;
- 11) Preparation of a motivated conclusion for the implementation of CBCP and TSIM.

The main normative acts that will be taken into account when preparing the EA report are:

A. For the Republic of Bulgaria:

- Environmental Protection law;
- Law on Biological Diversity;
- Waste Management Act;
- Law on the purity of the atmospheric air;
- Climate Change Limitation Act;
- Water Law;
- Plant Protection Act;
- Soil Law;
- Law on Environmental Noise Protection;
- Law on Protected Areas;
- Law for protection of agricultural lands and Regulations for its implementation;
- Cultural Heritage Act;
- Disaster Protection Act;
- Law on Spatial Planning;
- Forest Act and Regulations for its implementation;
- Law on Healthy and Safe Working Conditions;
- Health law;
- Ordinance on the terms and conditions for conducting environmental assessment of plans and programs;
- Ordinance on the terms and conditions for assessing the compatibility of plans, programs, projects and investment proposals with the subject and objectives of protection of protected areas;
- Other by-laws regulating the components and factors of the environment and human health.

B. For the Republic of Turkey (<https://www.mevzuat.gov.tr/>):

- Law on the Environment № 2872, Law on Amendments to the Law on the Environment and some laws
- Law on assessment and management of ambient air quality
- Energy Efficiency Act
- Solid Waste Control Act
- Law for protection of the deteriorated historical and cultural real estates through renovation and reuse
- Legislation for protection of cultural and natural heritage
- Law on Spatial and Urban Planning;
- Forest Law

- By-laws:
  - By-laws for environmental impact assessment
  - By-laws for strategic environmental assessment
  - By-laws for environmental audit
  - By-laws for prevention of major industrial accidents and reduction of their impact
  - By-laws for protection of wetlands
  - By-laws for water pollution control
  - By-laws for surface water quality management
  - By-laws on point soil pollution and control of soil pollution
  - By-laws for the assessment and management of environmental noise
  - By-laws for waste management
  - By-laws for the control of packaging waste
  - By-laws for air quality assessment and management
  - By-laws for control of exhaust emissions
  - By-laws for the environmental impact of gasoline and diesel fuel
  - By-laws for environmental permits and licenses
- Other by-laws regulating the components and factors of the environment and human health.

As sources of information will also be used:

- Official statistics, reports and bulletins for the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey;
- National reports on the state and protection of the environment of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey;
- Strategies, plans and programs of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey related to CBCP and TSIM;
- Strategies, plans and programs at national (of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey) and international (European) level, setting goals for environmental protection;
- Literary sources of information about the components and factors of the environment in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey (climatic factors, geology, hydrology, landscape, vegetation, fauna, etc..).

The technical shortcomings and lack of know-how in obtaining information (when establishing such).

The following documentation was used for the preparation of this Terms of Reference:

- CBCP and TSIM projects;



- Normative base for development of the programs for the programming period 2021-2027.;
- Letter with ref. № EC-16 / 29.06.2021 of the Minister of Environment and Water;
- Other documentation provided by the MA and the National Authority.

#### **10. Monitoring measures during the implementation of CBCP and TSIM**

*According to the results and conclusions of the forecasts for the impact on the environment and human health as a result of the implementation of the CBCP and TSIM, measures will be recommended on the basis of which the monitoring and control of the impact on the environment and human health as a result of the application of the program and strategy. The measures will contain measurable indicators, the value of which will determine the presence or absence of significant impact on the environment and human health in the implementation of CBCP and TSIM..*

#### **11. Conclusion of the environmental assessment**

*Based on the results of the forecasts that will be made in the EAR, as well as the opinions received during the AP procedure, the team of experts will make its conclusion on the alleged significant impact of CBCP and TSIM on the environment and human health..*

#### **12. Information on the results of the conducted consultations in the process of preparation of CBCP and TSIM and performance of the ecological assessment**

*The EAR will describe all the opinions received in the course of the environmental assessment procedure, as well as the way they are reflected in the Environmental Assessment Report and the reasons for this..*

#### **13. Non-technical summary of the environmental assessment**

*As a separate appendix to the Environmental Assessment Report, a non-technical summary will be prepared, in which abbreviated but sufficient for acquaintance of the general public information on the main sections of the EAR, containing no technical terms, will be presented, subject to the provisions of Art. 3 of the AP Ordinance.*

#### **14. Annexes to the environmental assessment report**

*In addition to the statutory non-technical summary, which is a separate annex, copies of opinions obtained as a result of consultations on the terms of reference for the scope and content of the EAR report and other annexes, if necessary, will be provided in the form of annexes to the AP.*