

# INFORMATION BULLETIN

## Funding Programmes for Public Administration

Second Quarter | April 2026

Dear Partners, this bulletin has been prepared by the team of the European Digital Innovation Hub for the North-Central Region (EDIH for NCR) and contains systematised information on current and upcoming funding opportunities for public administration bodies — ministries, agencies, municipalities, and regional administrations. The programmes are categorised by funding level — national and European — and by status — current (open for applications) and upcoming (expected for 2026–2027).

### SECTION I: NATIONAL-LEVEL PROGRAMMES

National-level programmes for public administration are funded primarily through the Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) and the 2021–2027 operational programmes. The main focus is on digital transformation and the improvement of public services for citizens. Applications are submitted in Bulgarian through the Information System for Management and Monitoring (ISUN 2020).

#### 1A. Current Programmes (Open for Applications)

##### RRP – E-Government and Digitalisation

<b>Main Objective</b>	Funding for projects in e-government, cybersecurity, digitalisation of archives, and administrative reforms in key sectors — healthcare, justice, and social services. Grant support is provided for the upgrade and integration of information systems.
<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Per specific procedures in ISUN 2020 — check for current calls regularly.</b>
<b>Funding</b>	<b>Up to 100% grant funding for public beneficiaries (depending on the specific procedure).</b>
<b>Target Beneficiaries</b>	Central and local government authorities, ministries, agencies, and municipalities working in the field of e-government.

##### Programme “Regions in Growth” — Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI)

<b>Main Objective</b>	Municipalities and regional bodies may apply for integrated territorial investments (ITI), covering infrastructure renewal, improvement of the administrative environment, and delivery of higher-quality services to citizens.
<b>Deadline</b>	<b>By region, 2026 — check the current call for your region in ISUN 2020.</b>

<b>Funding</b>	<b>Specific procedure budgets yet to be announced; intensity depends on the type of investment.</b>
<b>Target Beneficiaries</b>	Municipalities and regional administrations within approved ITI strategies for their respective region.

### Programme “Technical Assistance” (2021–2027)

<b>Main Objective</b>	Strengthening the capacity of administrative structures managing European funds. Supports monitoring, evaluation, control, communication, and capacity-building activities for beneficiaries.
<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Per specific procedures — primarily targeting managing authorities and EU funds beneficiaries.</b>
<b>Funding</b>	<b>Up to 100% grant funding for eligible costs under approved projects.</b>
<b>Target Beneficiaries</b>	Managing authorities, certifying bodies, and their beneficiaries; structures responsible for administering European funds in Bulgaria.

### Programme “Education” — Digital Skills for Public Administration

<b>Main Objective</b>	Training and upskilling of administrative staff, including digital skills, use of electronic systems, and the application of innovative approaches in public management.
<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Per specific calls by the MES and ISUN 2020 — monitor the current intake at <a href="http://www.eufunds.bg">www.eufunds.bg</a>.</b>
<b>Funding</b>	<b>Up to 100% for public institutions within approved projects; covers the development and delivery of training.</b>
<b>Target Beneficiaries</b>	Public institutions and training organisations providing qualification courses for public administration staff.

## 1B. Upcoming Programmes (Expected 2026–2027)

Programme	Expected Intake	Funding	Main Focus
PCIID — Digitalisation of the Public Sector	2026–2027	To be announced	Upgrading of e-services and administrative information systems.
RRP — Healthcare Reform	2026	Up to 100% GF	Digitalisation of the healthcare system; e-health.
RRP — Justice Reform	2026–2027	Up to 100% GF	Digitalisation of the judicial system; access to justice.

## SECTION II: EUROPEAN-LEVEL PROGRAMMES

European-level programmes are managed directly by the European Commission or its agencies. Applications are submitted in English and require a demonstrated “European added value” — the project must have the potential for application in more than one member state. Budgets are considerably larger, but competition is also more intense.

### 2A. Current Programmes (Open for Applications)

#### TSI — Technical Support Instrument (DG REFORM)

<b>Main Objective</b>	Provides free expert support for the design and implementation of structural reforms. It is managed by the EC’s DG “Structural Reform Support” (DG REFORM). It is not monetary funding, but rather access to international experts and analytical capacities.
<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Annual application cycle; next deadline: October 2026. Monitor the DG REFORM website for current dates.</b>
<b>Funding</b>	<b>Free technical assistance — no monetary transfer to the beneficiary; the EC covers costs for the experts.</b>
<b>Target Beneficiaries</b>	National and local administrations planning reforms in public services, justice, healthcare, education, or digitalisation.

#### Programme “Digital Europe”

<b>Main Objective</b>	Deployment of technologies (AI, blockchain, cloud services, cybersecurity) in the public sector. Supports the building of interoperability between administrative systems in the EU and the rollout of innovative digital solutions with a pan-European scope.
<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Series of calls; follow the EC’s Funding &amp; Tenders Portal (<a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders">ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders</a>).</b>
<b>Funding</b>	<b>Up to 50% co-financing for public beneficiaries; up to 100% for coordination and networking activities.</b>
<b>Target Beneficiaries</b>	Public bodies and consortia implementing digital technologies with European added value — AI, cloud solutions, cybersecurity.

#### Erasmus+ — Adult Education / Mobility of Administrative Staff

<b>Main Objective</b>	Mobilities, experience exchanges, and job shadowing for administrative staff in similar institutions across Europe. Supports the building of partnerships between public institutions from different member states and the transfer of good practices.
<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Current intake for mobilities — until February 2027. Check at <a href="https://erasmus.bg">erasmus.bg</a> or <a href="https://eacea.ec.europa.eu">eacea.ec.europa.eu</a>.</b>
<b>Funding</b>	<b>Up to 100% coverage of mobility costs — transport, accommodation, and daily allowances for participants.</b>

<b>Target Beneficiaries</b>	Public institutions, municipalities, agencies, and training organisations interested in international exchange of administrative practices and innovations.
-----------------------------	---

### CERV — Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values

<b>Main Objective</b>	Funding for town-twinning projects, protection of fundamental rights, and engagement of citizens in decision-making processes. Supports democratic participation, gender equality, and civic engagement.
<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Series of calls; check the Funding &amp; Tenders Portal for current dates for specific lots.</b>
<b>Funding</b>	<b>Up to 80% grant for eligible costs; minimum beneficiary contribution — 20%.</b>
<b>Target Beneficiaries</b>	Local authorities, NGOs, and public institutions with projects in the area of civil rights, equality, and democratic participation.

### INTERREG / URBACT — Exchange of Good Practices Among Local Authorities

<b>Main Objective</b>	Exchange of good practices among regional and local authorities from different member states. URBACT focuses on sustainable urban development, while INTERREG Europe targets regional development through policy learning and innovation transfer.
<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Per specific calls and programmes — monitor <a href="http://urbact.eu">urbact.eu</a> and <a href="http://interregeurope.eu">interregeurope.eu</a> for current intakes.</b>
<b>Funding</b>	<b>Up to 80% from ERDF; minimum partner contribution — 20% national co-financing.</b>
<b>Target Beneficiaries</b>	Regional and local authorities seeking international partnerships and innovative solutions for urban and regional challenges.

## 2B. Upcoming Programmes (Expected 2026–2027)

Programme	Expected Deadline	Funding	Who It Is Suitable For
EU4Health (Next Programming Period)	2027+	To be announced	Health authorities, ministries, and agencies with health security projects.
Interoperable Europe Act — Implementation	2026–2027	To be announced	Administrations working on ICT systems interoperability.

## SECTION III: CONSOLIDATED COMPARATIVE TABLE

The table below provides a quick overview of all programmes for easy comparison and orientation when selecting the most suitable procedure.

Programme	Level	Status	Funding	For Whom
RRP – E-Government	Nat.	Current	Up to 100% GF	Ministries, agencies, municipalities
Regions in Growth (ITI)	Nat.	Current	To be announced	Municipalities in ITI zones
Technical Assistance (2021–2027)	Nat.	Current	Up to 100% GF	Managing authorities and beneficiaries
Education – Digital Skills	Nat.	Current	Up to 100%	Public institutions and trainers
PCIID / RRP (upcoming procedures)	Nat.	Upcoming	To be announced	Public sector – e-services, reforms
TSI (DG REFORM)	EU	Current	Free tech. assistance	Nat. and local administrations
Digital Europe	EU	Current	Up to 50–100%	Public bodies – AI, cloud, ICT
Erasmus+ (Staff Mobility)	EU	Current	Up to 100% costs	Public institutions and municipalities
CERV (Citizens and Rights)	EU	Current	Up to 80% grant	Local authorities and NGOs
INTERREG / URBACT	EU	Current	Up to 80% from ERDF	Regional and local authorities
EU4Health / Interoperable Europe	EU	Upcoming	To be announced	Health authorities, ICT administrations

## SECTION IV: PRACTICAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS

- 1 Focus on green transition and digitalisation: Most administration programmes require a focus on “green transition” or “digitalisation”. Even if the project involves building renovation, including energy-efficient solutions or a digital component significantly increases the chances of approval.
- 2 Monitor ISUN 2020 regularly: For national programmes and the RRP, check the ISUN 2020 system for new calls and deadlines. Obtain electronic signatures and register institutional profiles in advance — the system becomes overloaded before the end of the intake period.
- 3 EC Funding & Tenders Portal: For direct European programmes (TSI, Digital Europe, CERV, Erasmus+, INTERREG), follow the EC’s central portal. Set up alerts for new calls in your priority thematic areas.

- 4 Engage the Institute of Public Administration (IPA): The IPA regularly publishes information on training, internships, and international projects suitable for administrative structures. Consult them before applying for training and mobility programmes.
- 5 TSI — priority for structural reforms: If you are in the process of a structural reform (digitalisation, reorganisation, or improvement of public services), TSI is a fast and effective way to obtain free international expertise with minimal administrative burden.
- 6 European added value: When applying for direct European programmes, the project must demonstrate “European added value” — the results must be applicable in other member states as well. Emphasise the scalability of the solution in the project proposal.

**For enquiries and consultations, contact the EDIH for NCR team**

Project: Contract No. BG16RFPR002-1.002-0001-C01 | Programme “Research, Innovation and Digitalisation for Smart Transformation” 2021–2027  
*Co-funded by the European Union*