



Innovation and Networks Executive Agency

Department C - Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)

**AMENDMENT N° 2
TO AGREEMENT No INEA/CEF/TRAN/M2014/1048809**

The **Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA)** ("the Agency"), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ("the Commission"), represented for the purposes of signature of this amendment by the Head of Department C of the Agency, Andreas Boschen,

on the one part,

and

State Enterprise National Railway Infrastructure Company (NRIC)

Public body

Registration No 23/2002

Maria Luiza Blvd. 110

1233 Sofia

Bulgaria

VAT No BG130823243,

represented for the purposes of signature of this amendment by Director General, Dipl. Eng. Krasimir Papukchiyski

hereinafter referred to collectively as "the beneficiaries", and individually as "beneficiary" for the purposes of this amendment

on the other part,

Having regard to the above-mentioned grant agreement concluded between the Agency and the beneficiary on 18/11/2015 as amended on 25/07/2018,

Whereas:

- (1) The beneficiary has requested the Agency on 24/09/2020 to amend the above-mentioned grant agreement for the following reason(s): i) to extend the end date of the Aciton following delays, ii) to change the name of the legal representative and the name of the contact person and iii) update budget breakdown.
- (2) The measures provided for in this amendment do not affect the award of the Union financial aid.

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

(1) Article 2.2 is replaced by the following article:

"2.2 The action shall run from 01/07/2015 ("the starting date") until 31/12/2022 ("the completion date")."

(2) Article 4.1.1 "Reporting periods" is replaced by the following article:

"4.1.1 Reporting periods

The action is divided into the following reporting periods:

- Reporting period 1 from the starting date of the action to 31 December 2016;
- Reporting period 2 from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017;
- Reporting period 3 from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018;
- Reporting period 4 from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019;
- Reporting period 5 from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020;
- Reporting period 6 from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021;
- Last reporting period from 1 January 2022 to the completion date of the action."

(3) Article 6.3 is replaced by the following article, as of 12/12/2019:

"6.3 Communication details of the beneficiaries

Any communication from the Agency to the beneficiaries shall be sent to the following addresses:

For State Enterprise National Railway Infrastructure Company:

Neli Andreeva

Director of Strategic Development and Investment Projects Directorate

Maria Luiza Blvd. 110, 1233 Sofia, Bulgaria

E-mail address: n.andreeva@rail-infra.bg"

(4) Annex I shall read as follows:

"ANNEX I

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

ARTICLE I.1 – IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TEN-T NETWORK

The action contributes to the implementation of the:

- the core network
 - Corridor(s): Orient/East-Med
 - Pre-identified section(s) on the core network corridor(s):
 - Vidin - Sofia - Burgas/TR border Sofia - Thessaloniki - Athina/Piraeus

ARTICLE I.2 – LOCATION OF THE ACTION

I.2.1 Member State(s): Bulgaria.

I.2.2 Region(s) (using the NUTS2 nomenclature): Yugozapaden (BG41).

I.2.3 Third country(ies): not applicable.

ARTICLE I.3 – SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION

The current infrastructure parameters of the 22-km-long railway section of the Orient-East Med core network corridor Sofia km 0+780.87 (excl.) - Elin Pelin km 22+849 (excl.) are not fully compliant with the requirements set out in the EU Regulation No. 1315/2013, No. 1299/2014 and the interoperability EU Directive No. 2008/57/EC (double track, electrified, with a normal railway track gauge 1435 mm, operational speed for passenger transport 130 km/h and 60 km/h for freight, 22.5 t axle load). These constraints limit the competitiveness of the railway line and create important bottlenecks on the overall railway network in Bulgaria.

The proposed Action is part of the Global project that aims to remove existing bottlenecks between Sofia and Septemvri, by upgrading the concerned section of the railway.

The general objectives of the Action are:

- Aiming at removing the bottlenecks on this section of the railway line;
- Ensuring an optimal level of integration and of interoperability on this railway section in compliance with the EU Regulation No. 1299/2014 and the interoperability EU Directive No. 2008/57/EC;
- Improving and maintaining the quality of infrastructure in terms of safety, security and efficiency;
- Supporting modal split by fostering the use of railway transport.

The scope of the Action is:

The modernisation and upgrade of the 22-km-long railway section of the Orient-East Med core network corridor Sofia km 0+780.87 (excl.) - Elin Pelin km 22+849 (excl.). The upgraded section will be in line with EU requirements for Core Network Corridors as set by Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013, namely: 22.5 t axle load, possibility of running trains with a

length of 740 m, and at least 100 km/h speed.

ARTICLE I.4 – ACTIVITIES

I.4.1 Activities timetable

Activity number	Activity title	Indicative start date	Indicative end date	Milestone number
1	Project management and communication	01/07/2015	31/12/2022	1, 7, 30, 31
2	Detailed design for the Sofia - Elin Pelin railway section (incl. two overpasses and 1 railway bridge)	01/10/2015	15/02/2022	2, 5, 11, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23
3	Land acquisition	01/07/2015	01/12/2021	10, 25, 26
4	Construction works	01/10/2015	31/08/2022	2, 5, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24
5	Supervision of detailed design and construction works	01/11/2015	31/10/2022	3, 6, 16, 27
6	Interoperability supervision	16/12/2015	31/12/2022	4, 8, 17, 29
7	Archaeological monitoring during construction works	01/09/2016	31/10/2022	9, 12, 18, 28

I.4.2 Activities description

Activity 1: Project management and communication

Sub-Activity 1.1 Project management

This Sub-Activity covers the management and coordination of the Action. The Project Management Implementation Unit (PMIU) in the National Railway Infrastructure Company (NRIC) will be responsible for the project management and coordination, financial management, monitoring, internal quality control, reporting, and coordination meetings.

Sub-Activity 1.2 Communication

This Sub-Activity covers communication and dissemination activities.

Expected deliverables for Activity 1 include:

- Communication action plan

Activity 2: Detailed design for the Sofia - Elin Pelin railway section (incl. two overpasses and 1 railway bridge)

The Activity covers the preparation of a detailed (i.e. technical) design for the upgrade of the Sofia - Elin Pelin railway section. It includes the following studies and preparatory works: geodetic, geological and hydrological surveys, and full detailed design for structures, railway track, catenary, signalling, etc.

Expected deliverables for Activity 2 include:

- The detailed (i.e. technical) design containing:
 - a) Detailed zoning plan;
 - b) Detailed design of all the interventions for the upgrade of the Sofia - Elin Pelin railway section;
 - c) Construction site organisation and planning;
 - d) Design of noise protection barriers;
 - e) Operation, maintenance and safety plans;
 - f) Final calculations of overall costs of all the interventions.

Activity 3: Land acquisition

The Activity includes land acquisition that will be used for the construction of two new overpasses located at km 14+700 near Kazichene station and at km 18+560 near Verila stop.

Expected deliveries for Activity 3 include:

- Documents for the transfer of ownership.

Activity 4: Construction works

The Activity covers all the constructions works along the Sofia km 0+780.87 (excl.) - Elin Pelin km 22+849 (excl.) double track railway line.

Sub-Activity 4.1 Level crossings removal

The objective of this Sub-Activity is to remove two level crossings:

- The road crossing near Kazichene railway station (km 13+740) will be replaced by an overpass located at km 14+700.
- The road crossing near Verila stop (km 18+560) will be replaced by an overpass located at km 18+560.

Sub-Activity 4.2 Construction/reconstruction/rehabilitation of structures

The objective of this Sub-Activity is the construction/reconstruction/rehabilitation (type of interventions to be defined during the detailed design delivered under Activity 2) of the following structures:

6 railway bridges with the following chainage:

- 1+055 (indicative length 20.00 m)
- 1+291 (indicative length 41.00 m)
- 2+771 (indicative length 10.60 m)
- 5+529 (indicative length 20.80 m)
- 9+975 (indicative length 130.00 m)
- 15+053 (indicative length 5.00 m)

1 railway underpass with the following chainage:

- 2+051.11

1 road underpass with following chainage:

- 3+577

5 pedestrian underpasses with the following chainage:

- 0+861

- 3+286

- 5+242

- 5+773

- 9+256

4 pedestrian underpasses with the following chainage:

- 4+291

- 13+727

- 14+248

- 18+605

4 agricultural underpasses with the following chainage:

- 11+650

- 12+092

- 12+429

- 12+893

17 culverts with the following chainage:

- 7+032

- 8+353

- 11+118

- 11+981

- 12+079

- 12+781

- 14+702

- 16+601

- 18+062

- 18+313

- 19+705

- 20+032

- 20+534

- 21+269

- 21+458

- 22+317

- 22+795

Sub-Activity 4.3 Upgrade of stations/stops platforms

The objective of this Sub-Activity is to construct/reconstruct 13 platforms at the following rail stations/stops:

- Poduyane station (km 3+206) - reconstruction of 3 platforms

- Poduyane stop (km 4+263) - reconstruction of 2 platforms;

- Hristo Smirnenski stop (km 5+804) - reconstruction of 2 platforms;

- Iskarsko Shose stop (km 8+306) - reconstruction of 1 platform;

- Iskar station (km 9+312) - reconstruction of 1 platform;
- Kazichene station (km 14+183) - construction of 2 new platforms;
- Verila stop (km 18+583) - reconstruction of 2 platforms.

Sub-Activity 4.4 Upgrade of railway line, catenary, signalling and telecommunication

This Sub-Activity includes the following works:

- Reconstruction of 22-km-long double track line Sofia km 0+780.87 (excl.) to Elin Pelin km 22+849 (excl.);
- Installation of new switches at Poduyane station (km 3+206), Iskar station (km 9+312), and Kazichene station (km 14+183);
- Upgrading of signalling and telecommunication equipment from Sofia station km 0+780.87 (excl.) to Elin Pelin station km 22+849 (excl.), including the stations/stop in Poduyane, Iskar and Kazichene;
- Construction of a new catenary system for the entire railway section.
- Drainage works for the entire railway section.

Expected deliverables for Activity 4 include:

- Removal of 2 level crossings at Kazichene railway station and Verila stop and construction of 2 new overpasses;
- Construction/reconstruction/rehabilitation of 6 railway bridges, 1 railway underpass, 2 road overpasses, 1 road underpass, 5 pedestrian underpasses, 4 pedestrian overpasses, 4 agricultural underpasses, 17 culverts;
- Construction/reconstruction of 13 platforms at the following stations/stops: Poduyane, Hristo Smirnenski, Iskarsko Shose, Iskar, Kazichene, Verila;
- Modernised and upgraded double track line and catenary system between Sofia and Elin Pelin, and track layouts and catenary system in Poduyane, Iskar and Kazichene stations.
- Upgraded signalling and telecommunication systems according to TSI infrastructure standards between Sofia and Elin Pelin.

Activity 5: Supervision of detailed design and construction works

The objective of this Activity is to monitor and supervise the detailed (i.e. technical) design and all the construction works in the above mentioned railway section.

Expected deliverables for Activity 5 include:

- Implemented design and construction works supervision and all related controls in accordance with the national legislation for the whole project.

Activity 6: Interoperability supervision

The objective of this Activity is to assess and verify the conformity of the detailed (i.e. technical) design and the executed sub-systems with the Technical Specifications for Interoperability (TSI).

Expected deliverables for Activity 6 include:

- Certificates of conformity compliance with the TSI issued by the Notified Body for all the built sub-systems.

Activity 7: Archaeological monitoring during construction works

This Activity will include the archaeological monitoring during the construction works.

Expected deliverables for Activity 7 will include:

- Approved report for archaeological monitoring during the construction works in line with national legislation.

ARTICLE I.5 – MILESTONES AND MEANS OF VERIFICATION

Milestone number	Milestone description	Indicative completion date	Means of verification
1	Launch of the public procurement procedure for communication and dissemination activities (Activity 1)	13/04/2016	Publication of the tender notice in the OJEU
2	Launch of the public procurement procedure for detailed design and construction works (Activities 2 and 4)	10/11/2015	Publication of the tender notice in the OJEU
3	Launch of the public procurement procedure for supervision of detailed design and construction works (Activity 5)	05/04/2016	Publication of the tender notice in the OJEU
4	Launch of the public procurement procedure for interoperability supervision (Activity 6)	12/10/2016	Publication of the tender notice in the OJEU
5	Contract signed for detailed design and construction works (Activities 2 and 4)	07/11/2016	Publication of the award notice in the OJEU
6	Contract signed for supervision of detailed design and construction works (Activity 5)	28/12/2016	Publication of the award notice in the OJEU
7	Communication action plan (Activity 1)	18/03/2016	Plan approved by the INEA
8	Contract signed for interoperability supervision (Activity 6)	24/04/2017	Publication of the award notice in the OJEU
9	Launch of the public procurement procedure for Archaeological monitoring (Activity 7)	27/01/2018	Publication of the tender notice in the OJEU
10	Completion of land acquisition procedure (Activity 3) for overpass Kazichene	01/12/2021	Ownership transfer documents
11	Issuing of Building Permit(s) for construction works (Activities 2 and 4) per sub-sections and structures: sub-section Kazichene–Elin Pelin	22/11/2017	Publication of Building Permit(s) in the State gazette
12	Contract signed for Archeological monitoring during construction works (Activity 7)	27/04/2018	Publication of the award notice in the OJEU
13	Start of construction works (Activity 4)	15/02/2018	Protocol(s) for opening of construction site(s) signed by Employer, Engineer, Contractor and concerned municipalities
14	Start of upgrade of stations/stops (Activity 4)	25/05/2018	Monitoring reports issued by the Engineer
15	Start of removal of level crossings (Activity 4): overpass Kazichene	28/02/2022	Monitoring reports issued by the Engineer
16	Completion of all construction works (Activities 4 and 5)	31/08/2022	Taking Over Certificate(s) issued by the Engineer

17	Conformity assessment of interoperability requirements (Activity 6)	31/12/2022	Issuing of certificates of conformity with the TSI for all the built sub-systems.
18	Approved report for archaeological monitoring during construction works (Activity 7)	31/10/2022	Protocol issued by the NRIC
19	Issuing of Building Permit(s) for construction works (Activities 2 and 4) per sub-sections and structures: sub-section Iskar-Kazichene	05/10/2018	Publication of Building Permit(s) in the State gazette
20	Issuing of Building Permit(s) for construction works (Activities 2 and 4) per sub-sections and structures: sub-section Sofia-Iskar	14/03/2019	Publication of Building Permit(s) in the State gazette
21	Issuing of Building Permit(s) for construction works (Activities 2 and 4) per sub-sections and structures: overpass Kazichene	15/02/2022	Publication of Building Permit(s) in the State gazette
22	Issuing of Building Permit(s) for construction works (Activities 2 and 4) per sub-sections and structures: railway bridge over Iskar river	30/04/2021	Publication of Building Permit(s) in the State gazette
23	Issuing of Building Permit(s) for construction works (Activities 2 and 4) per sub-sections and structures: overpass Verila	30/07/2021	Publication of Building Permit(s) in the State gazette
24	Start of removal of level crossings (Activity 4): overpass Verila	28/08/2022	Protocol(s) for opening of construction site(s) signed by Employer, Engineer, Contractor and concerned municipalities
25	Completion of land acquisition procedure (Activity 3) for railway bridge over Iskar river	28/02/2021	Ownership transfer documents
26	Completion of land acquisition procedure (Activity 3) for overpass Verila	30/05/2021	Ownership transfer documents
27	Prepared Semi-annual progress report on implemented activities for construction supervision (Activity 5)	12/08/2021	Report is approved by NRIC
28	Prepared Annual progress report on implemented activities for archaeological monitoring during construction works (Activity 7)	28/06/2021	Report is approved by NRIC
29	Prepared progress report on implemented Interoperability supervision activities during construction works (Activity 6)	12/08/2021	Report is approved by NRIC
30	Prepared promotional video material to present the scope and the results of the Action (Activity 1)	01/09/2021	Material is approved by NRIC
31	Organising public event to present the results of the Action (Activity 1)	30/09/2022	Event report is provided to INEA

(5) Table 2 of Annex III "Estimated budget of the Action" is replaced by the following table:

Table 2: Indicative breakdown per activity of estimated eligible costs of the action (EUR)

Activities	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
ELIGIBLE DIRECT COSTS									
Activity 1	0	57,922	86,939	156,192	200,666	168,220	95,026	6,102	771,067
Activity 2	0	147,095	1,217,488	855,551	326,096	362,992	140,176	0	3,049,398
Activity 3	0	0	0	0	0	398,966	1,534	0	400,500
Activity 4	0	2,920,656	3,933,368	5,582,781	10,289,361	12,679,527	14,844,659	10,724,429	60,974,781
Activity 5	0	0	206,343	423,675	178,871	198,407	516,354	511,292	2,034,942
Activity 6	0	0	60,997	108,441	0	15,109	511,291	24,344	720,182
Activity 7	0	0	0	10,119	3,032	7,870	7,669	5,040	33,730
TOTAL ELIGIBLE DIRECT COSTS	0	3,125,673	5,505,135	7,136,759	10,998,026	13,831,091	16,116,709	11,271,207	67,984,600
Annual instalments of maximum CEF contribution	0	2,656,822.05	4,679,364.75	6,066,245.15	9,348,322.1	11,756,427.35	13,699,202.65	9,580,525.95	57,786,910

"

Article 2

All the other provisions of the grant agreement shall remain unchanged.

Article 3

The present amendment shall form an integral part of the grant agreement and it shall enter into force on the date on which it is signed by the last party. It shall take effect on 31/12/2020, unless otherwise specified herein.

SIGNATURES

For the beneficiary State Enterprise
National Railway Infrastructure Company
Dipl. Eng. Krasimir Papukchiyski

For the Agency
Andreas Boschen

Done at Sofia, on

Done at Brussels, on

In duplicate in English.