

# Bulgaria



Reported ODA: EUR 133 million  
**0.14 % GNI** (↓ from -21.30% in 2023)

Non-inflated ODA: EUR 133 million  
**0.14 % GNI** (↑ from 0.02% in 2023)

Total inflated ODA: EUR 0 million  
**0 % of total**

## “Bulgaria’s development policy is consistent in implementing its planned development agenda, while strengthening and expanding its partnerships with countries of the Global South”

Bulgarian Platform for International Development (BPID)

### Main trends

Since Bulgaria's accession to the EU, the country's development policy activities have evolved significantly. They include the adoption of acts of secondary legislation, but also capacity building in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is the principal driver of development policy formulation and implementation. It has approved a series of Medium Term Programmes to meet various commitments EU and UN commitments. In addition, Bulgaria is starting to deploy development policy on a bilateral basis in sectors such as healthcare, quality education, good governance and civil society participation, secure work and economic growth.

**In 2011, Bulgarian development aid was 0.09% of GNI, reached its peak in 2022 (0.27%), and in 2024 it was 0.14%.** For 2024, this amounts to EUR 123.43 million. And although a large part of these funds passes through multilateral channels (EU, UN), the share of bilateral funds is growing.

**Compared to 2011, bilateral funding in 2024, is characterised by geographical and thematic diversity.** In addition to the traditional countries of the Western Balkans and the Black Sea region, development aid also includes countries in Southeast and Central Asia, a number of Arab and sub-Saharan African countries.

## Government's relationship with civil society

The relations between CSOs in Bulgaria and the relevant officials responsible for the planning and implementation of development policy has also evolved. It is worth noting, for example, that in 2015 a 2-year cooperation agreement was signed between the BPID and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. After that, BPID actively participated in various working groups and participated in consultations on various key development policy documents.

As officials in the directorates and departments dealing with development policy are diplomats, they are often assigned to missions abroad, which can entail restarting the partnership process. However, as diplomats contribute to policy development in their new positions, this can enhance support for CSOs working locally in partner countries.

## Recommendations

- **Adoption of the International Development Act.** This overarching law can promote greater flexibility of development policy and increase the necessary resources of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs when financing bilateral projects.
- **Establishment of a specialised structure, subordinated to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,** with permanent employees engaged in the evaluation, assignment and monitoring of development cooperation projects.
- **Active participation of BPID in the evaluation of development policy, especially in the countries where the members of the platform have experience.**
- **More active involvement of CSOs in the implementation of Bulgarian development policy.**