Following the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, the Commission has introduced major flexibilities to mobilise available resources from cohesion policy programmes 2014-2020, including a total increase of EUR 3.5 billion of the pre-financing to EU Member States under REACT-EU1. The amounts used will depend on each Member State’s specific needs and decisions to redirect cohesion funding to support refugees.

The EUR 148 million that Bulgaria received as a result of the increased pre-financing of the 2021 tranche of REACT-EU resources have been allocated to investments envisaged already before the Russian invasion mostly to tackle challenges linked to the COVID-19 crisis. Nevertheless, on 20 May 2022, the Bulgarian Government adopted a Decision2 identifying available EU resources to be reallocated in support of Ukrainian refugees. The corresponding 2014-2020 programmes need to be amended to reallocate the identified resources to refugee support. Bulgaria will report on the use of the reallocated amounts to address the migratory challenges resulting from the aggression by Russia in the final implementation reports of the EU funded programmes.

In Bulgaria, the management and control system of EU funds relies on an independent and competent audit authority. The Commission checks the functioning of the system and regularly re-audits the work of the audit authority.

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1 EUthe Recovery Assistance for Cohesion and the Territories of Europe