

While state health policy is steered by the Council of Ministers, the Ministry of Health is responsible for overall governance of the health system. This includes drafting health legislation, coordinating and supervising the various subordinated bodies, and planning and regulating health care providers. At the district level, public health policy is organised by the regional health inspectorates (RHIs), which are the local bodies of the Ministry of Health. The Ministry and its regional branches were central to implementing the health system response to the COVID-19 pandemic. (from State of Health in the EU - Bulgaria - Country Health Profile 2021

https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-12/2021_chp_bulgaria_english.pdf)

Bulgaria is still working on the legal framework in regard with the translational medicine and clinical trials. The country participates in the process of development of the WHO pandemic instrument.

R&I Policies and Strategies

The information is not exhaustive and should be updated regularly.

Country has a dedicated strategy for research and innovation related to pandemic threat? **Yes**

R&I strategy URL

national plan for readiness in pandemic time https://www.rzi-vt.bg/natsionalen_plan_na_republika_blgariia_zh_gotovnost_pri_pandemii.pdf

national plans for dealing with the pandemics <https://www.mh.government.bg/bg/novini/aktualno/nacionalen-operativen-plan-za-spravyane-s-pandemiy/>

Country has an open science portal with information on publicly financed scientific research? **Yes**

R&I portal <https://bpos.bg/>

Country has R&I webpage on Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) threats

Website open science/ open data initiative with respect to pandemic threats, such as COVID-19 open

Name

URL

Central Medical Library - MU, Sofia

https://cml.mu-sofia.bg/CML/index_eng.html

Central Medical Library - MU, Varna

<https://repository.mu-varna.bg/>

Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) threats

<http://ncrrp.org/bg/ncrrz-nachalo/>

Country has coordinating structures to link public health needs and research needs? **Yes**

Coordinating structures URL <https://naukamon.eu/tag/covid-19/>

R&I Infrastructures, Initiatives and Clinical Trials

The initiatives are listed in alphabetical order, are not exhaustive and should be updated regularly

Country has the following research infrastructure for infectious diseases and outbreaks available, or under construction **Reference centres of excellence; Other**

Name Infrastructure

URL

EuroBio-Imaging BG node

<http://dnarepair.bas.bg/eurobioimaging.bg/site/>

Country supporting the participation to the following ESFRI initiatives **BBMRI; EATRIS**

Website network of clinical trials (e.g. to facilitate the access to clinical trials) the country is involved in

[The Bulgarian Association of Clinical Research \(BACR\)](#)

Budget mobilisation mechanisms and funding sources *The information is not exhaustive and should be updated regularly.*

Basic Research

url <https://www.fni.bg/> (also flexible funding in case of emergency)
basic research and specific Covid-19 call <https://www.fni.bg/?q=node/1117>
funding for basic research accessible for industry?
source of funding Public (research) agencies

Applied Research

url https://www.sme.government.bg/?page_id=17643 innovation companies, industry-research projects
funding for applied research accessible for industry? Yes
source of funding Public (research) agencies

Translational Research

- National Innovation Fund (NIF) under the [Ministry of Innovation and Growth](#) supports R&D and R&I projects in enterprises, including cooperation between science and business. Enterprises registered in Bulgaria and/or research organisations in cooperation are eligible;
- Bulgarian Science Fund (NSF) & national research programmes under the Ministry of Education and Science – provide competitive funding for basic and applied research; while more research-oriented than purely commercial, translational projects (moving from lab to application) may qualify under applied research schemes;
- European Structural and Recovery Funds – [The Programme for the Acceleration of Economic Recovery and Transformation through Research and Innovation](#); includes funding for R&I and capacity-building in HEIs and possible industry partnerships;
- National Research Infrastructure – the [National University Complex for Biomedical and Translational Research \(NUCBTR\)](#) which is aimed at translational medicine discoveries; primarily institutional, but can provide a platform for industry-academia collaboration.

~ Projects may need to align with national smart specialisation priorities (biotechnology, ICT, health, etc).

Clinical Research (in general & in pandemic phase)

- No dedicated public funding schemes as of now; many trials are commercially sponsored or part of pharma pipelines rather than purely publicly funded translational clinical research;
- [The Bulgarian Association of Clinical Research \(BACR\)](#) is active in representing stakeholders (pharma companies, CROs, hospitals) in Bulgaria and facilitates the conduct of clinical studies.

Innovation Projects

- The National Innovation Fund (NIF) under the [Ministry of Innovation and Growth](#) allows up to 50 % grant for “industrial scientific research” projects (and up to 80 % in some cases for SMEs working with research organisations);
- The procedure under the operational programme “Scientific Research, Innovation and Digitisation for Smart Transformation” supports joint projects between SMEs and scientific organisations or higher-education institutions;
- [The European Institute of Innovation and Technology \(EIT\) Community Hub in Bulgaria](#) – through them, companies can access support for innovation (training, network-building, and funding opportunities at the European level);
- Industry (particularly SMEs) can access these innovation-funding mechanisms with many of these calls targeting enterprises or collaborations between enterprises and research organisations specifically.

R&I actors, authorities and activated processes that are activated in case of a health threat *The actors are listed in alphabetical order, the list is not exhaustive and should be updated regularly.*

R&I actors, authorities and	ministries involved in case of an outbreak; mobilisation processes of research forces; incentives ensuring qualitative scientific dissemination during a crisis; international scientific collaboration in case of an outbreak	
Name	Description	url
Bulgarian National Science Fund (BNSF or FNI)	BNSF provides financial support for scientific research on the basis of open-call competitions and programs. The Fund, with the assistance of the Ministry of Education and Science, works in coordination with other institutions financing scientific research. BNSF participates in the preparation and implementation of the programs defined in the budget in the program format of the Ministry of Education and Science in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Education and Science	https://bnsf.bg/
Ministry of Economy	Ministry of Economy is involved in industrial policy and development, which includes supporting the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries.	https://www.mi.government.bg/en/
Ministry of Health	The Ministry of Health of Bulgaria plays a vital role in the management of health crises within the country.	https://www.mh.government.bg/en/
National Center of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases (NCIPD)	NCIPD is a national institution with the status of scientific organization under the Ministry of Health, is the "National competent body" in the field of infectious and parasitic diseases and hosts all National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) for various bacterial, viral, and parasitic infections.	https://www.ncipd.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=featured&Itemid=730&lang=en
National Center of Radiobiology and Radiation Protection (NCRRP)	NCRRP is the main authority of the national system for control of ionizing radiation and health monitoring of radiation exposed population groups.	http://ncrrp.org/en/national-center-of-radiobiology-and-radiation-protection/
National Innovation fund	The National Innovation Fund is a program of the Executive Agency for the Promotion of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises. The main goal of the Fund is to promote the scientific research and development activities in order to improve the competitiveness of the enterprises and encouraging the cooperation between the science and business in Bulgaria.	https://www.sme.government.bg/?page_id=17643
Regional Health Inspectorates	Regional health inspectorates (RHIs) ('Регионални здравни инспекции') implement national policy on the district level and control infectious diseases	https://portal.cor.europa.eu/divisionpowers/Pages/Bulgaria-Public-health.aspx

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