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# Institutional Development

The Applied Research and Communications Fund is registered as a public benefit organization in the Central Registry of Not-for-Profit Public Benefit Organizations of the Ministry of Justice. Public benefit organizations are obliged by law to conform to a number of additional financial reporting rules and to submit annual activity reports. In 2006, ARC Fund established ARC Consulting EOOD – a wholly-owned subsidiary company, designed to better leverage the organization’s expertise. The company provides consultancy services in the field of innovation and ICT. It also develops and implements national and international projects under the EU Framework Programs, and the Cohesion and Structural Funds.

ARC Fund and ARC Consulting form the ARC Fund Group.

In 2016, the ARC Fund Group employed a staff of 28, including part-time consultants. The ARC Fund’s team is a mixture of young, well-educated and highly motivated people and experienced experts renowned for their professionalism and the high quality of their work. ARC Fund is managed in accordance with the principles of good governance, accountability and transparency. The application of these principles is expressed in the:

- execution of annual audits since 1992;
- individual project audits;
- publication of *Annual Reports* in Bulgarian and English;
- regular updates of the organization’s website to inform the public about ongoing projects and events;
- child protection policy, which contains an ethical code, principles and rules for working with children;
- publications in the media to enhance the impact of policy recommendations and increase public awareness of supported causes.

In 2016, ARC Fund and ARC Consulting worked on the implementation of 22 projects, funded by national bodies and international organizations. Among them were the European Commission (Innovation and Networks Executive Agency, Connecting Europe Facility, DG Research and Innovation, DG Regional and Urban Policy, DG Enterprise and Industry, and DG Communication Networks, Content and Technology, as well as the Executive Agency for SMEs), ERDF (Interreg Europe program), Oak Foundation, Norway Grants, EEA Grants, the Bulgarian Ministry of Regional Development and the Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications, as well as the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound) and the European Commission Representation in Bulgaria.