

MULTI-BENEFICIARY PROGRAMMES - ACTIVITY REPORT

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ACTIVITY REPORT

January – June 2012



**EUROPEAN
COMMISSION**

Enlargement Directorate-General

IPA Strategy
Unit D3 - Regional Cooperation and Programmes

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Foreword

Should you have any comment or suggestion how to further improve the Activity Report, please do not hesitate to contact us by sending an e-mail to the following functional Inbox:

ELARG-REGIONAL-PROGRAMMES@ec.europa.eu

For any additional information on specific projects you can contact us through the same address and your e-mail will be forwarded to the relevant Task Manager in unit D3. Due to a number of staff changes we have enclosed a full list of ELARG/D3 staff at the end of the report.

Highlights in semester 1/2012

(1) Implementation of Multi-beneficiary (MB) programmes is well under way despite the late adoption of the Multi-annual Indicative Programming Document (MIPD) 2011 – 2013 in June 2011. The contracting rate for the MB programme 2011 (DN 22964) has reached more than 60 % and all funds should be contracted before the end of the year (final date of contracting). The MB programme 2012 (DN 22966) was adopted on 31 May and implementation has started. The programming exercise for 2013 is well advanced in order to present the MB programme 2013 to the IPA Committee before the end of the year.

On the occasion of the IPA MB Programme Coordination Meeting in Brussels, 26-27 April 2012, discussions focused on identifying possible topics and areas that are deemed most important for regional cooperation in the future (2014 – 2020). The fight against organised crime and corruption, the Rule of Law as well as growth and employment were identified as the most pressing problems in the region of the Western Balkans and Turkey.

Also closer cooperation with the national authorities and the RCC during the annual programming process will provide for better complementarity of regional and horizontal programmes with national strategies, in particular when moving forward towards a more strategic approach at sector level.

(2) The Sarajevo process has gained new momentum since the end of last year. At the 'International Donors' Conference on Durable Solutions for Refugees and Displaced Persons' in Sarajevo on 24 April the donors pledged a total of EUR 261 million, out of which EUR 230 million came from the EU. The remaining pledges of EUR 31 million came from the US (EUR 7.5 million for 2012 and possibly EUR 30 million for the years to come), Norway, Switzerland, Germany and Italy (EUR 5 million each for the entire duration of the Programme).

The overall funding needs for the programme are estimated at more than EUR 500 million for the entire duration of the programme (five years).

(3) The sixth meeting of the WBIF Steering Committee took place on 14 and 15 June 2012 at the offices of the Austrian Ministry of Finance, the current Co-Chair of the WBIF Steering Committee. The SC heard a detailed update on the economic developments in the region

and discussed the impact on future WBIF activities. It agreed that shrinking fiscal space calls for further efforts on prioritisation.

Greater interaction with regional bodies such as the Energy Community Secretariat, SEETO and the SEE Investment Committee will help the WBIF SC to review and select the projects with the greatest impact. Close coordination and cooperation is also required with regional strategies such as the Danube and the future Adriatic Strategy.

The SC approved 18 investment projects for WBIF grant support including the Energy Efficiency facility. It also approved regional sector studies in transport and energy and a pilot programme in capacity building for Public-Private-Partnerships.

(4) On 27-29 June, a joint launch event for three regional programmes in the area of human rights and minorities/vulnerable groups in the Western Balkans took place in Budva/Montenegro. The three regional programmes concern: Best Practices of Roma Integration - IPA MB 2010, Promoting human rights and minority protection in South East Europe - IPA MB 2011 and Regional Initiative for Inclusive Education - IPA MB 2012. The event meant to serve as a first step of introducing an integrated approach in this area. Key stakeholders from the region attended, including representatives of EU Delegations, Deputy Heads of Offices from Council of Europe offices in the region, OSCE field missions, as well as representatives of ministries and specialised governmental offices from the Beneficiaries.

The event proved to be very successful, the next challenge is to make the joint framework work in practice to offer concrete solutions to remove real barriers. Coordination shall happen not only among the three projects, but primarily in the field – notably with the Delegations in the driving seat to ensure delivery.

Contact

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Sector Public Administration Reform

The Multi-beneficiary MIPD 2011-2013 identifies the reform of the judiciary and public administration as a priority. The overall objective is to contribute to improve the operational capacities and the professionalism of public administrations in the Western Balkans and Turkey as well as to promote regional cooperation through knowledge transfer, networking and exchange of experience, e.g. SIGMA and ReSPA Assistance in this sector encompasses other aspects of good governance and public administration reforms such as public finance management and land administration. In the area of statistics, the aim of the assistance is to continue upgrading and strengthening the statistical systems of all IPA Beneficiaries.

Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA)

The principal aim of ReSPA is to help improve regional cooperation in public administration among the Western Balkan countries, to strengthen administrative capacities as required by the European integration process and to develop human resources in line with the principles of the European Administrative Space. With its intervention, ReSPA supports the creation of accountable, effective and professional public administration systems for the Western Balkans on their way to EU accession. Alongside the core training and other capacity-building activities of ReSPA, activities of good practice exchange through the Networking events are also organised – Community of Practice – which aim at fostering knowledge transfer and cross-fertilisation of concepts and initiatives between stakeholders both inside and outside the Western Balkans.

Project information

ReSPA Phase 2 - Running of ReSPA and organisation of ReSPA activities, IPA 2009/021-178, EUR 2.4 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans (Location of ReSPA: Montenegro)
Type of contract: Grant contract to ReSPA Contract (CN) 2010/256-128
Duration of activities: 30/11/2010 – 30/11/2012

Purpose

The purpose of the *direct grant* to ReSPA is to support the school in delivering training aimed at improving the professionalism of the civil service in the Western Balkans.

There is a clear division between budget support coming from the EU and the ReSPA partners. The annual financial contributions from the six ReSPA member countries are earmarked for the operational costs of the school whereas the EU grant is geared towards supporting the ReSPA activities, i.e. training and other events, communication and visibility actions, resource centre, etc.

Activities

The recruitment process has been completed and ReSPA is now fully staffed (15 people). This has provided for a better consistency in the training programme as well as in a more structured work towards ReSPA's own training products.

Even though many of the workshops are still out-sourced, significant improvements have been realised towards the creation of the regional experts database that are reflected in the binomial teams of trainers (international and regional) present in every ReSPA training activity by end of the reporting period.

The Annual Conference in April has also been organised by ReSPA staff who participated actively in several panels. The training managers will also fully organise the summer school in July 2012.

Finally, some concrete actions have been taken in order to run the upcoming Training Needs Assessment more professionally with a clear vision to identify the added value of ReSPA products compared to national training institutions.

1. Running of ReSPA:

- 6th Extraordinary Governing Board meeting at Senior Official level was held on 7th March 2012;
- 7th Governing Board meeting at senior Official level was held in 18th April 2012
- Signature of 1st addendum to contract changing interim payment and final payment.
- Elaboration of a communication strategic plan.

2. Delivery of activities:

TRAINING:

- Interest Representation and Intercultural Communication in the Public Administration (17-20 January 2012)
- Law Application: From Policy Making to Law Implementation (24-27 January 2012)
- International Protocol and its relation to the Public administration (7-10 February 2012)
- Management, Good Governance and Modern Administration Principles in the Context of the European Administrative Space (27-29 March)
- Public Finance and Budgeting reforms in Public Administration (08-11 May 2012 September)
- European Commission Direct Funding for Central Public Administration (29 May -1 June 2012)
- EU decision making and negotiation techniques (05-08 June 2012)
- Towards Total Quality Management with the Common Assessment Framework (12-15 June 2012)

NETWORKING:

- Organisation of Regional Network for Senior e-Government Practitioners (28-29 February 2012)
- Organisation of ReSPA Annual Conference (19 – 20 April 2012): "Good Governance through Participative Democracy and Client Oriented Public Administration"
- Active participation of ReSPA to the NISPACEE conference in Ohrid on "Public Administration: East and West" (23-25 May 2012)
- Contribution the Regional Conference on Ethics of Civil Servants and State Employees organised by the Ministry of Interior of Montenegro in cooperation with the Human Resources Management Authority (30 may 2012)

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Summer school (02-11 July 2012): Young Managers in Public Administration
- 8th Governing Board meeting at Senior Official level (4/5 July 2012)
- Attending the Steering Committee of E-funded project "Training in Public Procurement in the Western Balkans and Turkey" in order to work on a handover strategy to ReSPA of its regional networking component

- ReSPA will undergo a coaching activity with the participation of GB members, ReSPA staff and EU staff in order to work on a consensus around ReSPA mission and define an efficient organisation strategy to achieve it
- Governing Board Meeting at Ministers level: October 2012, Sarajevo
- Capacity Building Needs Assessment
- Elaboration of Program of Work for 2013
- Request for non-cost extension of the grant contract until June 2013

Links and Contact

Link: ReSPA: <http://www.respaweb.eu/en/home/>

Contact: Patricia Perez-Gomez, Patricia.PEREZ-GOMEZ@ec.europa.eu

Public Procurement

Public procurement is a priority area for Candidate Countries and Potential Candidates. The EU *acquis* requires an effective public procurement regime in line with EU principles, full transparency of procedures, the existence of public procurement agencies and appropriately trained staff responsible for implementing procurement rules.

Project information

Training in Public Procurement in the Western Balkans and Turkey, IPA 2009/021-178, EUR 3.96 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans and Turkey

Type of contract: Service contract CN2010/248-580

Contractor: Consortium led by the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organisation (ITC-ILO)

Duration of activities: 22/09/2010 – 21/11/2012

Purpose

The overall objective of the project is to contribute towards upgrading the operational performance and professionalism within the public procurement systems in the Western Balkans and Turkey. The purpose of this project is to develop a sustainable procurement training strategy at regional and national levels in compliance with EU legislation and practices as well as with related national legislation in the Beneficiaries. The main activity consists of training up to 180 trainers on the basis of a detailed tailor-made module developed as part of the joint EC-OECD SIGMA initiative.

Activities

- Finalisation of translated and customised national versions of the OECD/SIGMA training modules (Trainers & Trainees packs) for each beneficiary + reproduction of 20-50 sets/beneficiary to be used for the participants of Phase II of activity Training of Trainers (ToT) (Completed in February 2012)
- Selection participants for Phase II ToT: ITC-ILO set the criteria for the selection and prepared the advertisement for publication in national newspapers. The PPAs were responsible for screening and selection of the participants. The PPAs communicated the list of participants to the Consortium for admission to Phase II ToT workshops (completed in January - February 2012)
- Commencement of delivery of Phase II workshops (same structure of Phase I ToT workshops which were conducted in Turin) – delivery started as of March 2012 and end in mid July 2012.

- Phase II consisted in delivering 5 ToT workshops per country for a total of 40 workshops delivered in national languages
- Participants of Phase I ToT (5 per each country) acted as trainers in Phase II workshops delivering the bulk of the sessions in national language under observation by the Consortium's Key and Senior experts. Key and International experts of the Consortium delivered a small proportion of the sessions through simultaneous interpretation where such sessions could not be delivered by Phase I ToTs. At the end of each ToT workshop the Phase I ToTs received an assessment of their performance from the Consortium's experts.
- Selection of training venues for each beneficiary as well as the companies supplying interpretation equipment in each country, through "Request for quotations" (completed in February 2012).
- Data collection by Key experts for compilation of the "model" national procurement training strategies
- Uploading national "translated and customised" materials for Phase II on ITCILO website as well as installation of an e-forum for ToT interaction (to be completed in July 2012)
- Tirana Steering Committee Meeting on 10 February 2012.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Compilation of the online abridged course targeting the economic operators and a general audience (TOR issued to experts and presently awaiting EC approval for their recruitment)
- Consolidation of the comments of the participants of ToT Phase II and the resource persons in order to produce the final versions of the "translated and customised" OECD/SIGMA training modules in InDesign format in each Beneficiary's language. They will be handed over to the respective PPAs by mid November 2012 (TOR issued to experts and presently awaiting EC approval for their recruitment)
- Formulation of the National Procurement Training Roadmap for each Beneficiary (September-November 2012)
- Purchase of a set of books on Public Procurement in English for the libraries of each PPA as well as InDesign software program (list of books prepared and quotations for InDesign received)
- Issue of attestation/certification letters to the national trainers of ToT Phase I and letters of attendance to the participants of ToT Phase II (all beneficiaries selected one of the two options prepared by the Consortium)
- Final Steering Committee Meeting in Paris (October 2012)
- Preparation of Project Final Report and Final Accounting Statement

Links and Contact

Link: <http://balkanproc-tr.itcilo.org/>

Contact: Patricia Perez-Gomez, Patricia.PEREZ-GOMEZ@ec.europa.eu

Public Finance Management

All countries in the region have been increasingly placing emphasis on the improvement in the field of public finance. Improving public finance management means working towards efficient, effective and accountable public finances through improved budget planning, allocation, implementation and review. All Beneficiaries face similar challenges when

designing and implementing financial regimes. In this situation, sharing information can save countries time and money.

In addition, the use of common diagnostics and quantitative assessment methods provides a unique basis for comparison and peer pressure.

Project information

Improving Public Financial Management in the Western Balkans, IPA 2010/022-028, EUR 1.0 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Administration Agreement with the World Bank; CN2010/258-142

Duration of activities: 21/12/2010 – 21/12/2013

Purpose

The purpose of this World Bank-led project is to provide a platform for systematic improvement of public financial management across the Western Balkans through coordinated action by donors, using a common diagnostic and analytical framework (Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) methodology) to guide intervention and encourage cooperation and dialogue between Beneficiaries. The interventions are carried out through small grants based on applications submitted by target countries.

Activities

- The Albania PEFA assessment, the first project approved under the programme, was completed in January 2012;
- Five new projects were approved in March 2012, bringing the total number of approved projects to seven. Implementation of all new projects has commenced;
- Total funds commitments under the programme amount to more than €800,000;
- The first cash replenishment of the trust fund account in the amount of €250,000 was completed in June 2012.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- It is expected that the remaining uncommitted funds will be absorbed by proposals submitted to the SAFE Secretariat by 31 July 2012.
- Three more projects are scheduled to be completed by the end of the December 2012.
- A programme review will commence towards the end of 2012.
- A Steering Committee is planned for 19 September 2012 via VTC which will aim at selecting further grant applications from the target countries, discussing the proposal for options for future support for PFM and the approach for the programme review.

Links and Contact

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Public Administration Reform

High quality and stable administrations are a precondition to prepare, co-ordinate and implement the EU *acquis*. Public administration reform involves support for the improvement of public administrations' performance, both in terms of its management as in terms of its delivery of services to the citizens and in terms of fostering accountability (including public finance management and public procurement), professionalism, transparency and integrity within the Beneficiaries' institutions.

Project information

Support for Improvement in Governance and Management (SIGMA) in the Western Balkans and Turkey, IPA 2010/022-028, EUR 10.0 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans and Turkey

Type of contract: Contribution agreement with OECD, CN 2010/253-091

Duration of activities: 01/01/2011 – 31/12/2012

Purpose

The purpose of this contract is to contribute to the development of public governance systems and administrative capacities necessary for European Union membership and for implementing the EU *acquis* in an environment that carries the values underlying the Copenhagen criteria, such as reliability, accountability, transparency, efficiency, legal predictability and integrity.

This Action will assist beneficiaries to make significant advances in their administrative reforms in order to facilitate European integration, to consolidate capacities to continue reforms after possible accession and to create conditions for effective, efficient and reliable use of EU funds. In addition, continuation of SIGMA's support to administrative reform in general should be designed to increase complementarity with other instruments of IPA assistance, including Taiex and Twinning.

Activities

In Albania, SIGMA continued to work with the Department of Public Administration on developing a new civil service system and started to provide support to the preparation of a new policy for the organisation and functioning of the state administration. SIGMA also started working with the Ministry of Finance's General Directorate for Internal Audit on developing the competencies of the Central Harmonisation Unit's staff and its internal guidance and training. Finally, SIGMA continued to provide assistance in the development of the public procurement system.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, SIGMA started to provide support to the various civil service management institutions (State level, Republika Srpska, Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina) on designing and implementing better civil service management tools, and to provide support to the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina Government on its new civil service legal framework and other PAR initiatives. SIGMA also continued to work on the peer review of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI).

In Croatia, SIGMA continued to provide assistance to the Ministry of Finance on various issues (auditing of post-accession EU funds, implementation of the action plan for public internal financial control and implementation of the Fiscal Responsibility Act). SIGMA also continued to provide assistance to various institutions on developing the public procurement systems and to the Government Legislation Office on building legislative drafting capacities.

In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, SIGMA started to work with the Ministry of Information Society and Administration on designing legal and managerial reforms to reinforce the merit system in the recruitment and management of the civil service. SIGMA also continued to provide assistance on the development of the public procurement system.

In Kosovo*1, SIGMA continued to provide assistance to the Ministry of Finance in the area of public internal financial control and to various institutions on the development of the public procurement system.

In Montenegro, in the area of civil service, SIGMA continued to provide assistance on (i) the implementation of the new civil service system, (ii) the development of an anti-corruption

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

institutional framework, and (iii) the setting-up of a new system of administrative procedures. SIGMA also continued to work on the development of the public procurement system.

In Serbia, SIGMA completed the training programme on public services quality management, continued to help the Supreme Audit Institute improve its legal basis and positioning in the whole system of public financial management, and continued to provide assistance in the development of the public procurement system.

In Turkey, SIGMA continued to help the authorities strengthen their ability to proceed with Chapter 5 (public procurement) negotiations.

In terms of multi-country assistance, SIGMA conducted and delivered its 2012 assessments of all eight IPA SIGMA beneficiaries. SIGMA also continued to prepare a training programme on ethics for ReSPA and Western Balkan countries and to draft two policy papers on the rule of law and the rationalisation of inspectorates. In the area of financial control and audit, SIGMA continued to provide support to the Candidate Countries and Potential Candidates Network of Supreme Audit Institutes and resumed assistance to the Public Expenditure Management Peer Assistance Learning (PEMPAL) Network. In the area of public procurement, SIGMA continued to provide advice to the EC on the implementation of the IPA regional training project.

Activities and events planned for next semester

SIGMA will continue to provide assistance to Albania on developing a new civil service system and a new policy for the organisation and functioning of the state administration. In the area of financial control and audit, SIGMA will continue to work with General Directorate of Internal Audit on developing the competencies of the Central Harmonisation's staff and its internal guidance and training, and will also start working on the 2 new projects. SIGMA will start supporting the High State Control (the SAI) in drafting a new Strategic Development Plan and in preparing a Twinning project by developing its staff's knowledge of financial and performance audit and awareness of IT auditing. SIGMA will also start assisting the Central Harmonisation Unit for Financial Management and Control in preparing instructions for the role and functions of the executing officer and in developing a standardised model for management structures in public bodies, in particular for second level organisations in relation to their ministry. SIGMA will also continue to support the development of the public procurement and public private partnership/concessions systems.

SIGMA support to the Albanian country unit is planned to prepare the ground for putting in place a special group on public administration which should strengthen a meaningful policy dialogue with the beneficiary in view of more visible impact of reforms on the ground.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, SIGMA will start providing advice to the Brcko district on four public administration laws, with the aim of better aligning them with European standards and practices and making them more coherent with public administration laws in other administrative levels of Bosnia and Herzegovina. SIGMA will also continue to provide support to the various civil service management institutions on designing and implementing better civil service management tools and to provide support to the Federation of BiH Government on its new civil service legal framework and other PAR initiatives. SIGMA will also complete the peer review of the SAI.

In Croatia, SIGMA will continue to support the MoF on the various above-mentioned issues, to provide assistance in the development of the public procurement systems and to help develop legislative drafting capacities.

In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, SIGMA will continue to provide assistance on the reinforcement of the merit system in the civil service and on the development of the public procurement and PPP/concessions systems. As a key element of the Roadmap that the beneficiary has developed to give substance to the high level discussions between the Prime Minister and the Commissioner, work on the Law on Administration needs to be taken

forward by SIGMA. This concrete task fits into the strategic and advisory supporting role of SIGMA to the Special Group on public administration.

In Kosovo*, SIGMA will start supporting the work of the Ministry of Public Administration on improving the Law on General Administrative Procedures. SIGMA will also continue to provide assistance on the development of public internal financial control and on the development of the public procurement and PPP/concessions systems.

SIGMA will continue providing assistance to Montenegro on the implementation of the new civil service system, the development of an anti-corruption institutional framework, and on the establishment of a new system of administrative procedures.

In Serbia, SIGMA will continue to support the SAI in developing its legal basis and positioning in the whole system of public financial management. Work is also planned to provide comments on the draft PAR strategy that has been developed and distributed for comments to SIGMA.

In Turkey, SIGMA will continue to help the authorities strengthen their ability to proceed with Chapter 5 (Public Procurement) negotiations, and will start supporting the Court of Accounts on change management processes and the quality of audit.

In terms of multi-country assistance, SIGMA will finalise the policy paper on the rule of law and will continue to draft the paper on the rationalisation of inspectorates. SIGMA will also continue to provide support to the SAI network of Candidate Countries and Potential Candidates and the PEMPAL Network, and to provide advice to the EC on the implementation of the IPA regional training programme.

The internal preparatory process to better assist the Commission and the beneficiaries in making progress in the implementation of the reforms and making DG ELARG's approach in the area of PAR more strategic is ongoing and will materialise in September (e.g. new staff recruitments, new structure, new job descriptions).

Links and Contact

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Land Administration

Modernisation of land administration in the Western Balkans is needed for a number of activities like state survey, cadastre and official mapping, as well as registration of secure property rights. Land administration is referred to in many parts of Accession and European Partnerships and Stabilisations and Association Agreements, since it is a precondition for the rule of law (security of right on ownership), the Common Agricultural Policy (implementation of Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) and Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS) in particular) and for various projects in the field of environment protection.

Project information

Inspiration: Spatial Data Infrastructure in the Western Balkans and Turkey, IPA 2010/022-028, EUR 1,438 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Service contract CN 2011/281-381

Contractor: GFA Consulting Group GmbH in consortium with Conterra, Umweltbundesamt Austria, GisData

Duration of activities: January 2012 – December 2013

Purpose

The specific aim is to promote Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) and further coordinate its implementation in the Western Balkans with a view to preparing Beneficiaries to meet with

the objectives of the EU Inspire Directive. To this end the contractor will prepare a specific country analysis and tailor made recommendations for each of the beneficiaries. Further a series of regional trainings and workshop will be organised. By the end of the project a network of geospatial data providers shall be in the position to provide more and accurate data. The awareness of all stakeholders in the Balkans concerning the necessity of spatial data information for issues of rule of law and security of ownership will be raised. The beneficiaries will be better prepared to implements structural and pre-accession policies.

Activities

The contractor prepared the inception report in which the major deliverables of the Terms of Reference were confirmed after consultation with the Commission. The main objectives are threefold: 1) Preparing a regional framework analysis of the situation on geospatial data in the beneficiary countries of the Western Balkan 2) capacity building by organising trainings and workshops and 3) awareness raising of stakeholders.

The ownership of the beneficiaries is ensured by partial self-management via a management and working groups on each of the main deliverables. The steering committee composed of representatives of beneficiaries, Commission and Contractor approved the blueprint of the 2 year project. A first training in Laktasi (BiH) and a workshop in Belgrade (SER) was organised.

Activities and events planned for next semester

A milestone will be the delivery of the regional framework analysis which is foreseen for quarter 3. In addition the contractor will organise various capacity building events such as trainings and workshops.

Links and Contact

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Statistics

Statistics has been identified as an important aspect of public administration reform/governance which should benefit from IPA MB assistance. The principal aim of assistance in this field is to develop the capacities of the Beneficiaries and harmonise their statistical methods and standards with EU norms by providing technical assistance, deliver necessary equipment and building networks to share experience and best practice. All projects are sub-delegated to and managed by Eurostat.

Project information

Statistical Cooperation for the Western Balkans and Turkey, IPA 2008/020-320, EUR 4.0 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans, Turkey
Type of contract: Service contract
Contractor: Icon-Institut Public Sector GmbH (2009.245)
Duration of activities: December 2009 – September 2013

Project information

Multi-beneficiary Statistical Cooperation, IPA 2009/021-705, EUR 5.9 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans, Turkey, Iceland
Type of contract: Service contract and Grants –

- Service contract in 2 lots, contracted by Icon-Institut Public Sector GmbH, (2010.362 & 2010.363), EUR 2.38 million

- Grant to Central Bureau of Statistics of Croatia, (2010.400), EUR 1.09 million
- Grant to State Statistical Office of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, (2010.401), EUR 0.45 million
- Grant to Statistical Office of Serbia, (2010.402), EUR 0.52 million
- Grant to Turkish Statistical Institute, (2010.403), EUR 0.89 million
- Grant to the Icelandic Statistical Institute (Hagstofa Íslands), (2010.706), EUR 0.56 million
- Duration of activities: December 2010 – November 2012

Project information

Statistical Cooperation for Iceland, IPA 2010/022-876, EUR 1.0 million

Beneficiary region: Iceland
 Type of contract: Grant to Hagstofa Íslands, (2011.098)
 Duration of activities: December 2010 – December 2013

Project information

Statistical Cooperation for the Western Balkans, Iceland and Turkey, IPA 2011/023-176, EUR 8.2 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans, Turkey, Iceland
 Type of contract: Service contract and Grants
 Duration of activities: 2 years from signature of contract and grant agreements

The service contract was tendered during spring 2012 and the winning bidder is expected to sign the contract in Q3 2012, EUR 3.2 million maximum.

The signature of the grant agreements with the national statistical offices is expected in Q3 of 2012, EUR 5.0 million in total (around 1 million for each beneficiary).

Purpose

The purpose of the projects in statistical cooperation is to upgrade and strengthen the statistical systems of the beneficiary National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) by improving the availability, quality, comparability and timeliness of statistical data in particular in macro-economic, price, external trade, agricultural, demographic and social and business statistics.

Activities

- The Management Group for Statistical Cooperation (PGSC) met in Luxembourg in March 2012. The heads of international departments of the NSIs gathered for operational discussions about cooperation in statistics;
- Implementation under the IPA 2009 service contracts continued; delays in submitting the 3rd progress reports and 2nd interim reports; 3rd progress meeting took place only mid-June 2012; 2nd interim report lot 1 suspended for technical & financial verification; the technical report was approved on 5 June 2012; the financial verification is still not complete; the 2nd interim report lot 2 suspended for technical verification; it is still not yet approved;
- Activities within the IPA 2009 grant contracts also continued;
- All beneficiaries participated in many activities: working group meetings, study visits, ad hoc consultancies, workshops on Energy statistics and External trade statistics etc.
- Statisticians from the beneficiaries participated in a new round of traineeships at Eurostat and in some of the EU NSIs for a period of 5 months;

- Organisation of a tender on the service contract and preparation of five grants under IPA 2011;
- The Commission decision on IPA 2012 MB programme was adopted on 31 May 2012, including a statistical cooperation programme of a volume of EUR 10 million.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Implementation of IPA 2009 with technical assistance to the beneficiary NSIs will be finalised; both service contracts and grant contracts will end in November 2012. The draft final reports for the service contracts are due on 1st November 2012;
- Signature of IPA 2011 grants and service contract is planned for July 2012 and implementation should start soon thereafter, with a period of overlap with the IPA 2009 to allow continuity;
- A new round of traineeships financed under IPA 2011 is planned to start in September and will end in December 2012;
- The sector working group for Statistics will meet in Tirana on 18-19 October 2012 in connection with the Policy Group for Statistical Cooperation. First discussions about a new multi-annual strategy for statistical cooperation are foreseen.

Links and Contact

Links: <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu>; <http://www.ipa-statistics.eu/>; www.icon-institute.de

Contacts: Torbiörn Carlquist, Torbioern.CARLQUIST@ec.europa.eu and Bernd Wild, Bernd.WILD@ec.europa.eu

Customs and Taxation

The principal aim of IPA assistance in this area is to help beneficiaries prepare to operate in accordance with EU legislation and standards prior to their eventual accession to the European Union.

Project information

Systematic Electronic Exchange of Data in the Western Balkans (SEED), IPA 2010/022-030, EUR 1.30 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans (except Croatia)
 Type of contract: Service contract, CN2010/244-972
 Contractor: Agenzia delle Dogane
 Duration of activities: 14/09/2010 – 14/09/2012

Purpose

The purpose of the project is to complete the system of exchange of pre-arrival information corresponding to trade flows between beneficiary institutions in order to enhance their administrative capacity on IT and risk analysis, to increase revenue and to prevent/combat illegal trade while at the same time improving regional cooperation.

The project is also designed to build the capacity of beneficiary Customs Administrations by the implementation of a systematic solution for a common concept or regional standard in the mutual exchange of customs data based on encrypted pre-arrival information in “real time”. Also, it will set a standard for structured data exchange with other interested parties and other initiatives.

Activities

- Completion of software development for SEED Phase 2: all SEED software modules developed, tested and installed at the IT centres of all six Beneficiary Administrations and bilateral electronic data exchange links established.
- Production of following documents of the SEED Technical Documentation:
 - System Design – External Communication Node (SEED-TD-SD-ECN);
 - System Design – SEED Web Application (SEED-TD-SD-SWA);
 - Test Cases and Procedures (SEED-TD-TCP) with Appendix A;
 - Technical Specifications (SEED-TD-TS);
- Third and Fourth (joint) Training for all six Beneficiaries delivered in Becici, Montenegro, on 27-28 March.
- Fourth SEED Workshop conducted in Rome, 18-19 April, with Study Visit to the Italian Customs Agency and its technological partner SOGEI on 20 April;
- Second SEED Steering Committee Meeting, Becici, Montenegro, 22 June;
- Presentation of the SEED system delivered on 3 February at the WCO premises in Brussels during the 62nd Session of the Information Management Sub-Committee (IMSC).

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Preparation of TORs etc for continuation of project under IPA 2011 for a period of 24 months from 15/10/2012
- July: establishment of the secure communication links between Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and between Albania and Kosovo*;
- July: signature of the Legal base (Protocol) and launching of data exchange in July between Albania and Montenegro, and Kosovo* with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;
- Writing of the SEED User Manuals for system end-users and system administrators;
- Fifth SEED Regional Training for the system end-users (operational staff), 10-11 July, Zabljak, Montenegro;
- Fifth SEED Workshop (Final Conference), September;
- Official handover of all project outputs to the Beneficiary Administrations, viz SEED software source code, Technical Documentation and User Manuals;

Links and Contact

Links: www.agenziadogane.it www.eu-seed.net

Contacts: Ivan de Sutter, Ivan.DE-SUTTER@ec.europa.eu and Petra Schlüter, Petra.SCHLUETER@ec.europa.eu

Project information

Strengthening European Integration – Provision of Technical Assistance on IT Interconnectivity issues to candidates and potential candidates

IPA 2011/022-964, EUR 500,000

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans; Iceland; Turkey
 Type of contract: Service Contract
 Contractor: (tba)
 Duration of activities: 18 months

Purpose

The main aim of the project is to provide specialised IT and management assistance to the customs and taxation administrations of the candidate and potential candidate countries, with a view to their preparation to EU membership, especially in the framework of IT interconnectivity and interoperability, including the related operational procedures. Under the supervision of Directorate-General for Taxation and Customs Union of the European Commission, the contractor will provide for coaching and training with reference to the needs of the beneficiaries. He will also assist DG TAXUD in its task to monitor the progress related to IT management and interconnectivity and interoperability as realised by the beneficiary administrations on their road towards EU accession.

Activities

January	Publication of service procurement notice
May	Deadline for submission of tenders and opening of tenders
June	Start of tender evaluation

Activities and events planned for next semester

July - September	Completion of evaluation and contract signature
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Links and Contact

Contact: Karel de Greve, Karel.DE-GREVE@ec.europa.eu and Petra Schlüter, Petra.SCHLUETER@ec.europa.eu

Sector Justice and Home Affairs, including Fundamental Rights and Vulnerable Groups

The MB MIPD 2011-2013 identifies as a priority for IPA support to enhance regional cooperation in the fight against organised crime and corruption. It further points out as a priority to contribute to ensuring the rule of law, non-discrimination and respect for Human Rights as well as freedom of expression and help completing the process of reconciliation in the Western Balkans. The ultimate objective is to support compliance with the Copenhagen political criteria, specifically to guarantee respect for Human Rights and protection of minorities in the candidate countries and potential candidates.

Justice, Freedom and Security

In the Western Balkans, the objectives are to strengthen regional cross-border cooperation between law enforcement agencies and judicial authorities in the combat of organised crime and corruption through networking, mutual legal assistance, transfer of proceedings, requests for extradition, joint investigation teams and witness protection programmes. The actions in this sector encompass a thematic approach and a capacity-building component.

Field: Fight against organised crime and corruption

Project information

Police Cooperation: Fight against organised crime, in particular illicit drug trafficking, and the prevention of terrorism (DET ILECU II)

IPA 2008/020-319, EUR 2.5 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Grant Contract with the Federal Ministry of Interior of Austria in partnership with Federal Criminal Police Office Germany (BKA) and the Agency for European Integration (AEI), Austria: CN2008/222-617.

Duration of activities: 01/02/2010 - 31/01/2013

Purpose

This project aims to improve and promote strategic and operational, regional and international cooperation within the region and between the region and the EU in the fight against organised crime. More specifically, the project aims at improving cross-border intelligence collection systems and criminal intelligence capacities, enhancing strategies and instruments on the trail, freezing and confiscation of terrorist assets and organised crime-related proceeds, and consolidating International Law Enforcement Coordination Units (ILECUs).

Activities

- A no cost six-month extension was approved. The project extension was also meant to cater for key activities that were not completed at the end of the Grant Contract IPA 2010/247-993 'Police Cooperation Regional support to strengthen the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) Centre/SELEC for combating trans-border crime'.
- A high level awareness meeting (regional conference) was held on 24 January 2012 in Vienna, which was attended by the General Directors from the beneficiary countries and most of the Western Balkans, as well as the Heads of ILECUs.



- The first simulation exercise took place in Valbandon, Croatia, during which the cooperation for an operational cross-border case was replicated. The first two countries participating were Croatia and Montenegro.
- The FIU Symposium took place on 12 – 15 March 2012 in Ohrid, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, which included participants from financial investigation units, the police and prosecutors.
- Several know-how transfers and training sessions were held in drug prevention, organised crime, strengthen investigation capacities and regional information exchange. Two workshops on the prevention of terrorism and one study visit also took place.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- For the upcoming reporting period a Regional Cooperation Symposium in Montenegro is planned for November which will not only be attended by representatives from the police but also by prosecutors acting as both participants and lectures.
- The next Heads of ILECU's meeting is scheduled for July 2012 to discuss and develop the Memorandum of Understanding.
- Also the second simulation exercise will take place in October in Bosnia and Herzegovina in which all the Beneficiaries will take part.
- A regional workshop on drugs under the leadership of Turkish experts will be conducted in September in Istanbul.
- In September training will be provided for Turkey on SIENA as part of the residual activities taken over at the termination of the Grant Contract IPA 247-933.
- The next round of the quality circle will be held in autumn in which the beneficiaries send ILECU's staff on short-term secondment to work operationally in another ILECU to help the development of and strengthen the ILECU's by improving the operational processes.
- The final know-how transfers requested by the beneficiaries are planned on EUROJUST, border security, riot police and internal investigations, also workshops on the prevention of terrorism, economic crime and anticorruption and police ethics as well as further study visits will be held.
- The Closing conference for the project is planned for December in Berlin, Germany.

Links and Contact

Contact: Roberta Cortese; Roberta.CORTESE@ec.europa.eu

Project information

Regional support to strengthen the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) Centre/ SELEC for combating trans-border crime, IPA 2008/020-319, EUR 2.0 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Grant Contract with the Ministry of Administration and Interior, Schengen Directorate, Romania: CN2010/247-993

Duration of activities: 10/01/2011 – 26/04/2012

Purpose

This project aims at improving the operational capacity of SECI Centre/ SELEC to fight organised crime in line with the EU *acquis* to plan and conduct regional cross-border operations and investigations. Within the framework of the project the expertise and capacities of SECI Centre/ SELEC will be developed; the cooperation between SECI Centre/ SELEC and EU Member States as well as relevant EU institutions and bodies, in particular Europol will be facilitated and the cooperation of SECI Centre/ SELEC contact points with the international law enforcement coordination units ILECU will be ensured.

Activities

- Working group “SELEC and Europol - cooperation for the future safety in the Western Balkans”.
- Europol working meeting in The Hague for supporting the European perspective in the SEE for the Western Balkan countries. Suggestion to support the implementation of the Operational Action Plans (OAPs);
- Administrative support for the SIENA training, provided by Europol to six countries in the Western Balkans and Turkey (March 2012);
- Test and Certification for SIENA (Europol safe communication channel) users, connectivity to the countries accounts (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia) (March - April 2012);
- Regional expert’s workshop in Budva, on the involvement and information of the Western Balkans countries in relation to the OAPs (April 2012);
- Regional workshop with 9 police chiefs in Rome: involvement of the Beneficiaries in the OAPs, discussion on the follow up to the OCTA 2011.

Links and Contact

Contact: Roberta Cortese Roberta.CORTESE@ec.europa.eu

Project information

Cooperation in Criminal Justice: Witness Protection (WP) in the Fight against Serious Crime and Terrorism (WINPRO), IPA 2009/021-373, EUR 4.0 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Grant Contract with Northern Ireland Cooperation Overseas (NICO) CN2010/242-653

Duration of activities: 30/06/2010 – 30/11/2012

Purpose

The specific objectives of this project are to promote a coordinated and harmonised use of witness protection on procedural and non-procedural measures at regional and European level as well as operational cross-border, regional and European cooperation on the relocation of witnesses and their change of identity.

Activities

- Specialist Awareness Training programme: The following courses were delivered from January to June 2012: Relocation and re-identification; International co-operation and agreements; Threat Assessment – Use of and management of Intelligence; Protected persons within prison system; Mobile Counter and Anti-surveillance/driving skills; Close protection; Medical skills training; Physical security reviews and upgrades and Psychological assessment and witness handling (for Croatian and Bosnian units upon their request).

- Work on harmonisation of legislation in the region; special attention has been given to drafting secondary legislation in Kosovo* (with assistance of the WP units from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania); a seminar has been organised to promote WP legislation among various law enforcement agencies across Bosnia and Herzegovina in May 12.
- Upon request of the individual Beneficiaries the following specific study visits have been organised:
 - study visit to Italy for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Head of the unit and a Director of the Directorate for Execution of Sanctions, Ministry of Justice to study and exchange information on best practices in relation to 'Special Units' for witnesses and collaborators of justice serving sentences in the penitentiary system (April 12);
 - study visit to Austria for the delegation from WP unit in Pristina in order to facilitate exchange of best practices and build working relationships with colleagues in the Austrian WPU (June 12).
- Review of standard operating procedures continued as well as work on a Policy Document and review of criteria for admission to the WP Programme and drafting relevant checklist (reports expected July - August 2012).
- Workshop on media and critical incidents related to WP issues for police press officers held in March 2012; a communication and media strategy document for the Beneficiaries drafted and to be included in the Policy Document.
- Further work on future transitional arrangements between WP unit in Pristina and EULEX continued.
- Further work on establishment of the Balkan Forum/Network in WP; the idea has been discussed by all Beneficiaries with their relevant ministries and police directorates and approved in principle.
- Proposed purchase of equipment for WP units in the region delayed due to technical problems with collecting valid offers from the region. Small counter and anti-surveillance equipment for the units in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina approved and funding released for purchase (equipment for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia purchased and delivered).

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Finalising the work on standard operating procedures (Policy Document), minimum criteria for relocation, criteria for admission to the programme and international agreements.
- Further work on harmonisation of legislation and cooperation with legislation working groups, including a seminar promoting the new legislation among various law enforcement agencies and promoting transition of the WP tasks from EULEX to the WPU (planned August 12).
- Recommendations and the timeline for the transitional period to be agreed with EULEX to allow smooth transfer of operational responsibilities on to the WP unit in Pristina (expected deadline Aug 12, before the new law enters into force on 1st Sept 12).
- Finalisation of formal procedure for purchase of equipment and the equipment to be delivered by the end of Sept 12.
- Study visit to SELEC and Romanian National Office for Witness Protection (July 12).
- More awareness training courses – Physical security reviews and upgrades (2 more groups); Decision making and planning (2 groups); Diversity and Human Rights; Counter and Anti-surveillance (country specific course requested by the WPU in Pristina).

- Final exercise involving all WP units across the region, requiring their skills and training to be put into practice (planned October 12).
- Final Conference – planned in November 12 in Albania.

Links and Contact

Link: www.nico.org.uk

Contact: Roberta Cortese, Roberta.CORTESE@ec.europa.eu

Project information

Cooperation in Criminal Justice: Witness Protection in the Fight against Serious Crime and Terrorism (WINPRO II), IPA 2012/022-966, EUR 7.0 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Agreement with Northern Ireland Cooperation Overseas (NICO)

Duration of activities: 36 months

Purpose

The specific objectives of this project is to strengthen cooperation to combat organised crime and corruption at regional and European level through reinforcing the institutional capacity of the Witness Protection Units and other relevant agencies in the Beneficiaries to offer protection to witnesses and collaborators of justice, before, during and after the trial, within and/or outside their territory.

Activities and events planned for next semester

The project is planned to start in the 4th quarter of 2012, subject to signature of an agreement under indirect centralised management (6 pillars assessment with NI-CO ongoing).

Links and Contact

Link: www.nico.org.uk

Contact: Roberta Cortese, Roberta.CORTESE@ec.europa.eu

Project information

Regional Cooperation in Criminal Justice: Strengthening capacities in the fight against cybercrime (CyberCrime@IPA)

IPA 2010/022-028, EUR 2.5 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans and Turkey

Type of contract: Contribution Agreement with Council of Europe (CoE)
CN2010/247-988.

Duration of activities: 01/11/2010 – 30/04/2013

Purpose

This project aims at enhancing the ability of countries of the region to prevent and control cybercrime as well as strengthening the capacities of criminal justice authorities of Western Balkans and Turkey to cooperate effectively against cybercrime.

Activities

The project increasingly supported the implementation and practical application of the tools developed so far. During the reporting period this was particularly true for the training component. Between February and May 2012, the training materials developed under the project were tested, 15 trainers from all project areas were trained in delivering judicial training on cybercrime and electronic evidence, eight in-country judicial trainings were delivered for 140 judges and prosecutors on cybercrime and electronic evidence, and the development of a guide on electronic evidence was initiated. By completing these activities,

the project can now focus on the integration of the basic material into the curricula of the training institutions, complete the advanced training materials (module 2) and deliver the remaining four advanced trainings foreseen under the project.

The project created important synergies with other relevant projects, namely the Council of Europe Global Project on Cybercrime² and the CyberCrime@EAP Project on Cooperation against Cybercrime under the Eastern Partnership Facility of the European Union and the Council of Europe³. In addition, the project areas now play an active role in the Cybercrime Convention Committee, and are thus more integrated in European efforts against cybercrime.

During the reporting period the following activities were carried out:

- Two country-specific workshops on legislation for Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The workshops resulted in the decision taken by the authorities to draft amendments to the legislation in line with the Convention on Cybercrime and related standards.
- Intra-regional Conference on money flows in the Internet.
- Regional Workshop on international cooperation to follow up on the issues identified in the previous activities as obstacles to efficient international cooperation against cybercrime. The progress made regarding the effectiveness of 24/7 points of contact and of other authorities dealing with international cooperation was assessed.
- 3rd Steering Committee Meeting, which adopted the updated project work plan.
- A training pack for basic judicial training was developed. The training material is designed to provide judges and prosecutors with an introductory level of knowledge on cybercrime and electronic evidence.
- The project facilitated large representation from each area in the Octopus Conference and the Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY). Among other themes, the Octopus Conference discussed and provided good practices regarding policies and initiatives on cybercrime and cybercrime strategies, legislation, public-private sharing information, trans-border access to data, protection of children against sexual abuse etc.
- Contributed to the finalisation of the “Typology study on Criminal money flows on the Internet: Methods, trends and multi-stakeholder counteraction”⁴ and supported project areas in the preparation of proposals to follow on the recommendations of this study as well as the new 40 recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force.

In the coming months, the finalisation of additional tools and the implementation of activities will be accompanied by a series of assessments (Result 8). This will add further impetus to reforms and to an agreement on regional priorities regarding measures against cybercrime in early 2013

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Regional workshop to finalise the basic judicial training pack based on the feedback received during the trainings.
- Workshop on electronic evidence (legal and practical aspects) for institutions of the criminal justice chain (investigators, forensic experts, prosecutors, judges).
- 4th Steering Committee Meeting.

² www.coe.int/cybercrime

³ See http://www.coe.int/t/DGHL/cooperation/economiccrime/cybercrime/cy_Project_EaP/Default_EaP_en.asp

⁴ http://www.coe.int/t/DGHL/cooperation/economiccrime/cybercrime/Documents/Reports-Presentations/MONEYVAL_2012_6_Reptyp_flows_en.pdf

- Carry out a cycle of regional assessments.
- Advanced Training Courses for judges and prosecutors.
- Workshop on safeguards and conditions (in cooperation with Cybercrime@EAP).
- Participation in the Internet Governance Forum.
- Regional workshop to support the establishment of trusted fora for regular information exchange between financial investigators, FIU and the private sector (including financial sector) and regional meeting for the training of LEA and ISP staff responsible for cooperation and for developing standard procedures for cooperation (in cooperation with CyberCrime@EAP).
- Train the trainers regional course and one training course for law enforcement. Study visits to Interpol and French High Technology Crime Unit.

Links and Contact

Links: www.coe.int/cybercrime;
http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/cooperation/economiccrime/cybercrime/cy%20project%20balkan/Default_IPA_en.asp

Contact: Roberta Cortese: Roberta.CORTESE@ec.europa.eu

Project information

Fight against organised crime and corruption: Strengthening the Prosecutors' Network, IPA 2010/022-028, EUR 5.0 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans
 Type of contract: Grant Contract with GIZ GmbH CN2010/271-284
 Duration of activities: 15/11/2011 – 14/11/2013

Purpose

This project aims to strengthen the operational capacity and capabilities of the General/State Prosecutors' Offices in the Beneficiaries to prosecute and investigate cross-border organised crime and linked cases of economic and financial crime and corruption. It further aims to institutionalise the Western Balkan Prosecutor Network and to increase cooperation with International and European Networks.

Activities

During the reporting period the following activities were carried out:

- The office is now set up and staff recruited. 5 seconded EU Member States Prosecutors started their work in the 7 project areas. 7 National Legal Officers were selected together with the Beneficiaries. Delivery of ad hoc advice on current cases has started with all Beneficiaries, except Croatia and Kosovo*.
- The first Steering Committee meeting took place in Zagreb, Croatia, on 2nd March 2012.
- The Cooperation Manual and the Overview of organised crime and judicial institutions were updated.
- The Expert Working Groups EWG (Data Collection and Data Protection; Secured Channels of Communication; Institutionalisation of the Prosecutors' Network; National Legislation; Trainings and Joint Investigation Teams) were established.
- The EWG on Data Collection conducted a first meeting on 6 - 7 June 2012 in Sarajevo, developing recommendations for amendments to the actual practice in cooperation with UNODC, EUROJUST and the RCC.
- A baseline study on data collection and judicial statistics was prepared.

- The training needs assessment is being conducted (till end of July 2012).
- An assessment of existing IT systems and communication infrastructure is being conducted (till end of July 2012).
- Questionnaires on the further Institutionalisation of the Prosecutors' Network were distributed and used to prepare an Option Paper for the further discussion and developments.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- The first Regional Conference is planned to take place on 10 July in The Hague.
- The annual meeting of the Western Balkan Prosecutor Network will take place on 11 July in The Hague, Netherlands.
- The second Steering Committee Meeting will take place on 11 July in The Hague, Netherlands.
- EWG meeting on National Legislation, Secured Channels of Communication and on JITs will take place in September in Montenegro.
- A study tour to EUROJUST on Secured Channels of Communication and on JIT is under preparation for October 2012.
- After finalisation of the IT assessment, start of the procurement of IT equipment for secured communication in cooperation with beneficiaries, SEEPAG and EUROJUST.
- After finalisation of the training needs assessment the training modules will be developed in cooperation with the Judicial Training Centers in the beneficiaries. First national and regional Trainings will start in October 2012.

Links and Contact

Contact: Roberta Cortese Roberta.CORTESE@ec.europa.eu

Project information

Assessment of Corruption and Crime affecting the Business Sector in the Western Balkan, Corruption Surveys, IPA 2011/022-964, EUR 0.45 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Contribution Agreement with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in association with Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative CN2012/276036.

Duration of activities: 1/02/2012-30/04/2013

Purpose

The objectives of the action are to develop and implement comparable sample surveys on corruption and crime affecting the business sector in each country/territory of the Western Balkans as well as to strengthen national capacity to produce evidence-based assessments of corruption and crime in the business sector.

Activities

- In the inception phase, a national project partner was selected in each project country to implement the survey (translation, field work, data entry, etc.). In order to strengthen national capacity, priority was given to National Statistical Offices (NSOs), which have been selected as partners in five out of seven project countries.
- On 26 April 2012 the project kick-off meeting was held as a well-publicized side-event of the annual session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) at the Office of the United Nations in Vienna.

- National stakeholder meetings were organized by the national implementing partners in the project countries. These meetings introduced the project to national stakeholders (anti-corruption agencies, national chambers of commerce, other business organizations, ministries, etc.) and explored the local context and information needs in various sectors of the economy in order to increase the relevance of the survey questions.
- Background research on current status of and options for business (corruption) surveys in countries of the Western Balkans was carried out by the research team with the assistance of an external consultant.
- A regional technical workshop was held from 20-22 June in Budva, Montenegro. The workshop discussed and agreed a common survey methodology; a proper sample frame and sample design; and the survey questionnaire.
- Preparation and start of pilot surveys and production of an analytical report to illustrate weaknesses and strengths of adopted methodology. The pilot surveys are carried out on a smaller sub-sample of the target population to test the survey instrument and survey methodology.

Activities and events planned for next semester

After a final round of revisions, the survey instruments will be tested in national pilot surveys (around 100 business entities in each country). The pilot will test the response rate, the questionnaire, the survey mode and various modules and questions to be included in the final instrument. A report on the pilot and preliminary data analysis will serve to finalize the questionnaire and methodology for the full survey.

- The fieldwork for the full survey will start in September and should be finished in October. Data entry and tabulation will take place in November and December. A technical report, the full data set and a first analytical report from implementing partners is due in December.

Links and Contact

Link: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/statistics/corruption.html>

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Field: War Crimes

Project information

Joint European Union and the International Criminal Tribunal of the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) Training Project for National Prosecutors and Young Professionals from the Former Yugoslavia

IPA 2011/022-964, EUR 0.4 million; IPA 2012/022-966, EUR 0.4 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Contribution Agreement with the ICTY, CN2011/265-672; CN2012/296-002

Duration of activities: 15/08/2011 – 14/08/2012; 15/08/2012 – 14/08/2013

Purpose

The objective of the project is to strengthen the capacity of countries of the former Yugoslavia to effectively investigate and prosecute war crimes. National prosecutors for domestic war crimes cases and young professionals with a legal or other relevant background receive training at the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICTY (OTP).

Activities

Visiting National Prosecutors component

Visiting National Prosecutors from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia continue their work in the OTP. Liaison Prosecutors from Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina remained the same. The Serbian Liaison Prosecutor commenced her term in the OTP on 5 February 2012. The OTP Transition Team supported the Visiting National Prosecutors during searches for investigative material. According to the records of the OTP Transition Team, 49 requests for legal assistance generated by the Liaison Prosecutors were dealt with during the period 1 January 2012-30 June 2012.

Visiting Young Professionals component

The second group of 10 young legal professionals started their internship in February 2012. The feedback on their work from the respective teams and supervisors continues to be positive. The participants in the EU ICTY Training Project are respected for their combined legal and linguistic skills, as well as for the very high level of professionalism. One of the participants said that the Visiting Young Professionals Program helped him to develop his technical skills by using standard UN applications in his work. Another participant said that the participation in the Project allowed him to better familiarize himself with the work of the ICTY in order to gain a deeper understanding of the importance of the tribunal's work and its contribution to the reconciliation process in the former Yugoslavia.

Activities and events planned for next semester

The second group of Visiting Young Professionals and National Prosecutors will end their term in July and August 2012. The subsequent project under IPA 2012 is planned to start on 15 August 2012.

Links and Contact

Contact Roberta Cortese, Roberta.CORTESE@ec.europa.eu

Project information

Strengthening Regional News Exchange from the International War Crimes Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC)

IPA 2009/021-373, EUR 0.2 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Grant Contract with SENSE News Agency. CN2010/247-988

Duration of activities: 01/01/2011 – 30/11/2012

Purpose

The aim of the project is to inform the public in the countries of the former Yugoslavia about the functioning of the international tribunals and courts of The Hague, in particular the work and mission of the ICTY, and raise public support for cooperation with the ICTY and for the domestic prosecution of war crimes.

Activities

- SENSE News Agency covered eight war crimes trials, three trials and judgments in contempt of court cases, six appellate proceedings. Production of 23 weekly TV updates entitled 'The Tribunal', more than 500 reports in Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian (BCS) and English language;
- On the occasion of 20th anniversary of the beginning of the siege of Sarajevo, SENSE has produced a documentary film 'Sarajevo Roses – Terror in 12 Pictures', based on victims' and eyewitnesses' testimonies and audio-visual evidence presented at several "Sarajevo trials" at the ICTY. (A "Sarajevo Rose" is a concrete scar caused by a mortar shell's explosion that was later filled with red resin). The film was screened parallel in Sarajevo and Belgrade on 25 May 2012. Screenings were followed by debates. The film was

later broadcast by many TV networks and channels all over the region, including prime-time screening on Bosnian Public TV Network.

- Coverage of opening of Ratko Mladic trial. Coverage of last witnesses and closing arguments in trials of Mico Stanisic and Stojan Zupljanin, Vojislav Seselj, Ramush Haradinaj, Idriz Balaj and Lahi Brahimaj.
- Coverage of 98 bis hearing and judgment in Radovan Karadzic trial. After prosecution case was presented, Radovan Karadzic was acquitted of genocide in seven municipalities. The judges found that the prosecution had introduced enough evidence that may support a conviction on the remaining ten counts in the indictment, including the genocide in Srebrenica.
- Coverage of Appeals hearing in case of Croatian generals Ante Gotovina and Mladen Markac.
- Digitalization of SENSE archive;
- Participation at several conferences and school programmes;

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Coverage of the prosecution case at the trials of Ratko Mladic and Goran Hadzic; beginning of defence case of Radovan Karadzic. Two other trials will continue with last witnesses and closing arguments to follow. Pronouncement of five judgments in the cases of former Herceg Bosna leaders, police chiefs of Bosnian Serbs, leaders of Kosovo* Liberation Army, heads of Serbian State Security and Mladic's assistant for security in Main Staff of Bosnian Serb Army. Coverage of Appeal judgments to two Croatian generals and two Serbian paramilitaries sentenced for crimes in eastern Bosnia town of Visegrad.
- SENSE will continue with the activities on digitalisation of its archive.

Links and Contact

Link to film Sarajevo Roses – Terror in 12 Pictures (English subtitles)

http://www.sense-agency.com/tv_tribunal.45.html?vid=568

All 550 editions of TV Tribunal programme

http://www.sense-agency.com/tv_tribunal/tv_tribunal.9.html

SENSE News Agency website TV Tribunal

http://sense-agency.com/tv_tribunal/tv_tribunal.9.html

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Human Rights, Respect and Protection of Minorities

The respect of human rights, including those of persons belonging to minorities are core European values enshrined in the Lisbon Treaty. In the enlargement perspective, the protection of minorities and vulnerable groups effectively means complying with the Copenhagen political criteria. The EU has also identified policy areas and priorities relevant to the field of social inclusion in its enlargement strategy.

Field: Migration

Project information

Regional programme for durable solutions for refugees and internally displaced persons displaced during 1991-1995 in Southeast Europe

IPA 2010/022-501, EUR 1.5 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Contribution agreement with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) CN2010/251-473

Duration of activities: 01/07/2010 – 01/01/2012

Purpose

The main purpose of this project is to provide legal advice, counselling and information to returnees as well as repatriation assistance to eligible refugees in the form of transport of persons and refugee belongings in the region.

Activities

The programme ended in January this year.

The project provided direct assistance to 15328 beneficiaries in the region:

- 597 refugees were assisted with voluntary repatriation mainly to Croatia.
- 550 refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) were assisted with local integration including small scale community development or income generation projects.
- 3178 refugees received legal counselling to facilitate voluntary repatriation or local integration.
- 11003 returnees received legal counselling. The support covered advice regarding property, housing care, status rights and pension benefits.

Project information

Migration for Development in the Western Balkans (MIDWEB)

IPA 2009/021-373, EUR 1.95 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans, except Croatia

Type of contract: Contribution agreement with International Organisation for Migration (IOM) CN259-276

Duration of activities: 01/02/2011 – 01/12/2012

Purpose

The overall objective of the action is to support informed migration from the Western Balkans (WB) to the EU Member States and to contribute to the positive impact of labour migration on socio-economic development in the WB.

The specific objectives are (1) to strengthen the capacity of Migrant Service Centres (MSCs) in the WB in order to facilitate the entry of potential migrants to the labour markets in the EU, and reinsertion of returning skilled migrants, and (2) to provide opportunities for return of skills and human capital and foster partnerships between countries of origin and destination.

Activities

While purchase of technical equipment and refurbishment of the Migrant Service Centres (MSCs) continued in selected project locations, the activities implemented during the reporting period aimed at enhancing the capacities of the MSC counsellors in providing adequate counselling and support to potential labour migrants (through CV writing and job interviewing techniques), to university students aspiring to pursue professional or academic careers abroad (through the provision of updated information on study abroad opportunities), and to returning migrants (by further developing their skills and facilitating access to local labour markets).

The informational leaflets advertising reintegration assistance for returning migrants in the project locations were sent to IOM Diaspora focal points in key EU countries and Switzerland. These leaflets will be printed and distributed to migrant communities, migrant associations and other diaspora related organizations in the host countries. The leaflets were already printed, and distribution commenced in three project locations (Austria, Switzerland and Germany), while in the other project locations preparations for printing and distribution of the informational leaflet are underway.

The MSC information campaigns and outreach events to universities/faculties were carried out during the reporting period. The MSC information campaigns are featured in the local media (TV and press) while the distribution of the MSC promotional materials (posters, leaflets, brochures) is ongoing.

Consular Exchange meetings between MSC staff, representatives of governmental institutions and officials of EU Member States embassies and consulates were held during the reporting period in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and in Montenegro.

In the framework of the Temporary and Virtual Return (TVR) component of the MIDWEB, 13 temporary return and 3 virtual return assignments were completed during the reporting period. Due to the enhanced effectiveness of the outreach campaigns and the strengthening of links with diaspora groups and organizations in the host countries, an increased number of applications from qualified nationals were received (21 in this reporting period). These applications are currently being reviewed and further assessed. In total 27 resource persons were assigned since the start of MIDWEB, and another 25 candidates are expected to be assigned in the coming 2 months.

The roundtable on the “Best practices in professional and socio-economic reintegration of skilled migrants” was held in Skopje, on June 7th 2012. The roundtable brought together representatives from the institutions of the Western Balkans, international experts on migration and representatives of international institutions to discuss and further share experiences in the field of migrants’ reintegration (especially those highly skilled), and present the current practices and policies in the region. A set of recommendations for policy makers and practitioners on the advancement and further development of adequate reintegration policies was developed and shared with the stakeholders as planned.

During the reporting period, three (3) labour migration training courses for consular staff were delivered in Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Preparations are ongoing in the other three project locations and dates for the implementation of the trainings are already set. IOM project staff is currently working towards the finalization of the training agendas as per each project location, as well as the preparation of the training materials.

The 5th staff coordination meeting was held in Skopje, on 8th of June 2012. Discussions focused to a great extent on the implementation of the national consular trainings, MIDWEB co-funding related issues and a potential follow-up project of the MIDWEB. Preparations for the 4th and last Steering Committee Meeting scheduled to take place in September of 2012 are ongoing.

Activities and events planned for next semester

Testing of training curriculum for WB consular officers –Serbia, 4-5 September 2012

Project Steering Committee Meeting – Budva September 2012,

Seminar on temporary return programmes, Sarajevo, 6-7 November 2012

Links and Contact

Link: <http://www.tvrmidweb.org>, www.migrantservicecentres.org

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Project information

Promoting human rights and minority protection in South East Europe

IPA 2011/022-964 EUR 3.6 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Contribution agreement with the Council of Europe (CoE) CN/277-251

Duration of activities: 29/11/2011 – 28/11/2014

Purpose

To improve respect for human rights, particularly minority protection in practice, by enhancing the capacities of the relevant national bodies and the regional coherence of their activities. The specific objectives are to (i) strengthen the proper implementation of relevant national legislation and promoting best practices, in line with relevant European standards and to (ii) develop a functioning regional network of the relevant national bodies and exchange of best practices in the field of minority protection at regional level.

Activities

In the inception phase all preparatory work, including a precise mapping of all the bodies in charge of minority protection including needs assessment, is to be achieved. The following activities will be carried out during the current inception period: setting-up of the project implementation team, setting-up of the Regional Project Office in Montenegro, first management meeting, kick-off meeting to launch the project, establishment of the Steering Committee and its first meeting, expert report on precise mapping of the institutional landscape, expert reports on the legislative framework, and on the implementation of national legislation, as well as relevant European standards based on CoE monitoring mechanisms and other relevant inputs (ECHR, FCNM, ECRML) will be also produced for each Beneficiary.

A joint kick off meeting was held in Budva on 27-29 June involving this programme and two others: the Best Practices for Roma Integration and the Regional Initiative for Inclusive Education. The joint launch event meant to serve as a first step of introducing an integrated approach in the field of human rights and minorities/vulnerable groups in the Western Balkans. The joint framework also proposes in particular to explore synergies between IPA national and MB programmes.

The event gathered key stakeholders from the region, including representatives of EU Delegations, Deputy Heads of Offices from Council of Europe offices in the region, OSCE field missions, representatives of ministries and specialised governmental offices from the Beneficiaries.

Main results/follow-up steps:

- Also based on a synthesis of the conclusions of this joint launching event, the first elements of a comprehensive concept/sustainable strategy need to be jointly designed by key stakeholders
- The joint framework has to be made working in practice to offer concrete solutions to remove real barriers
- Coordination shall happen not only among the three projects, but primarily in the field – notably with the Delegations in the driving seat to ensure delivery.

Activities and events planned for next semester

Work plan to be adjusted to reflect conclusions of the joint kick off meeting.

Links and Contact

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Project information

Best Practices for Roma Integration, IPA 2010/022-28 EUR 3.0 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Contribution Agreement with OSCE/ODIHR CN275-960

Duration of activities: 01/01/2012 – 30/11/2013

Purpose

The overall objective is to contribute to the integration of minorities in the Western Balkans in accordance with the Beneficiaries' commitments in the perspective of EU accession. The specific objective is to improve the quality of life and access to rights of the Roma communities in the Western Balkans.

Activities

The present inception phase consists of the following targets:

- Project set-up including all project staff recruited and in place
- Five offices established and equipped in Warsaw, and potentially Sarajevo, Skopje, Belgrade, Pristina, Podgorica
- First quarterly country-level preparatory meeting held
- Design of the community mapping of good practices and gaps completed
- First and second Regional Project Co-ordination Committee Meetings held, attended by all project staff, relevant OSCE field operations staff, other stakeholders as appropriate
- A joint kick off meeting was held in Budva on 27-29 June involving this programme and two others: Promoting human rights and minority protection in south East Europe and the Regional Initiative for Inclusive Education
- The event gathered key stakeholders from the region, including representatives of EU Delegations, Deputy Heads of Offices from Council of Europe offices in the region, OSCE field missions, representatives of ministries and specialised governmental offices from the Beneficiaries
- Main results/follow-up steps: see above.

Activities and events planned for next semester

Work plan to be adjusted to reflect conclusions of the joint kick off meeting.

Project information

New contract in the pipelines - Regional Initiative for Inclusive Education

Regional Initiative for Inclusive Education – programme adopted under IPA MB programme 2012.

Preparations for contracting started with the Council of Europe with a contracting deadline expiring on 30/11/2013.

Links and Contact

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Sector Transport and Energy Infrastructure, including Nuclear Safety

As one of the priorities for IPA assistance, the MB MIPD 2011 – 2013 has identified help to Beneficiaries to overcome the economic and financial crisis and to prepare for sound recovery by jointly working on increasing competitiveness and investments in infrastructure. Interventions in this sector have the ultimate goal of supporting the modernisation of their economies and of increasing their access to investment finance in priority infrastructure projects in the region, with particular attention given to regional initiatives. Close coordination with International Financial Institutions (IFIs) is essential.

Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) - Socio-economic Development (infrastructure and private sector development)

The Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) was set up in December 2009 by the European Commission, the EIB, the EBRD and the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB). The WBIF has the endorsement of the EU Member States and its purpose is to expedite the development and implementation of priority investments in key sectors in the Western Balkans. This is achieved through mixing loans and grants from the EU and IFIs for jointly agreed priority projects proposed by the beneficiaries.

To date, the WBIF Steering Committee has approved 143 grants with a total value of approximately EUR 270 million. These grants are used for project preparation and co-financing of investments in infrastructure for which financial support is provided by the partner IFIs; EIB, EBRD, CEB as well as KfW, with the World Bank as an associated IFI. Grants will support investments for a value of EUR 10 billion for which IFIs will provide loans worth EUR 5.5 billion.

The largest grant contribution to the WBIF comes from the EU budget. The European Commission has so far set aside more than EUR 180 million. Bilateral donors have contributed more than EUR 30 million and the partner IFIs have set aside EUR 10 million each in grant contributions.

Either the IFIs or the European Commission implement the grant assignments. For the implementation of the EU grants, the Commission has awarded technical assistance contracts under the Infrastructure Project Facility (IPF), which was the forerunner of WBIF, and has signed contribution agreements with the IFIs for implementation of the Municipal Window. Grants provided to the WBIF from bilateral donors and from the IFIs are implemented directly by the IFIs through various technical assistance assignments. The EC also provides support to enhance coordination between the WBIF stakeholders with respect to policies and strategies in the different sectors.

Purpose

The WBIF has three objectives:

- to create a one-stop-shop, where a request for support can be presented and screened, and be provided with the required financing for its implementation;
- to pool different sources of funding (IFIs, the EC and Member States/bilateral donors) and work out an appropriate blend of grants and loans for various actions;
- to strengthen the coordination of actions by multiple donors and investors that addresses the strategic priorities for the region. These priorities are accession-driven and relate to the alignment of the candidate countries and potential candidates with the EU *acquis*.

The identification of priorities is a product of consultation with the other relevant DGs (Environment, Climate change, Move, Energy, Regional Policy, Economic and Financial Affairs) and ensures coordination with their activities in the region.

Activities

Since its creation in 2009, the WBIF has been very active and has increasingly met its objectives. The following highlights offer a succinct picture of its activities during this reporting period.

- In February 2012, the call for projects round 7 was launched; 52 project applications were received. One Project Financiers Group (PFG) meeting took place in order to screen and assess the projects.
- Based on the recommendations of the PFG, the WBIF Steering Committee, at its 6th meeting in Vienna in June, approved EUR 50.48 million in grants for 20 projects. Particular feature of this round were the applications received under the sectoral studies window and the special Energy Efficiency window of EUR 20 million.
- Three WBIF supported investments that have now reached the construction phase were presented at the 6th WBIF SC meeting:
 - Rural Roads in Albania;
 - Investment in Renewable Energy Generation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;
 - Corridor Vc in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Last December, the 5th WBIF SC meeting formally approved the expansion of the WBIF to include a small facility for conducting sectoral studies. At its following meeting this June in Vienna, the SC approved three sectoral projects under this new window:
 - the Gas to Power Initiative & the Energy Community Gas Ring in SEE, technical assistance project proposed by the Energy Community Secretariat on behalf of all beneficiaries;
 - an update of the 2002 Regional Transport Study suggested by the SEE Transport Observatory (SEETO);
 - a regional initiative to strengthen Public-Private-Partnerships brought forward by Croatia with the support of Montenegro.
- As part of the WBIF policy and strategy discussions, a new report has been prepared by the IFI Coordination Office on the challenges of financing social infrastructure projects in the Western Balkans. The report looks at these challenges in detail and goes on to explore opportunities for WBIF financiers in the social sector in order to contribute to its overall objective of promoting economic, social and environmental development in the Western Balkans in view of EU accession. This report will provide a basis for discussions among WBIF stakeholders in the coming months.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- The 3rd Regional NIPAC Workshop will take place on 8 November in Dubrovnik, back to back with other WBIF events to be held on November 6 (WBIF PFG meeting), on November 7 (Policy and Strategy PFG) and on November 8 & 9 (Transport Sector Workshop). By gathering specialists of the region, the workshops will aim to prepare proposals and identify common issues for the development of WBIF project applications,

to review key issues in the operating environment for WBIF, to debate how WBIF can respond to these as well as to ensure a positive environment conducive for networking between all WBIF stakeholders.

- The next PFG meeting is scheduled on 6 November in Dubrovnik. The aim is mainly to screen and assess the projects of the call for projects round 8. The deadline for submitting projects is 14 September;
- Other visibility events will take place in the region;
- The IFI Coordination Office will continue to provide research and analytical support and to strengthen communication flows between all WBIF stakeholders, particularly the representatives of the beneficiaries across the different sectors. This should reinforce the coordination of activities in the framework of EU accession and in line with the relevant development strategies (see the IFI Coordination Office project description part);
- The next SC meeting is scheduled for 6 December in Paris.
- The SC meeting will be held back to back with the launching event of the Western Balkan Enterprise Development Facility (WB EDIF). EDIF was endorsed by the WBIF SC in December 2011 and the preparatory work for the project launching is being carried out in course of the year. It is the first initiative in the Private Sector Development area channelled through WBIF. It is a regional project aiming at enhancing access to finance for SMEs through a number of financial instruments accompanied by reform measures. EIB and EBRD act as the project's lead IFIs, while the coordination of the project is to be entrusted to EIF.

Links and Contact

Links: www.wbif.eu

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WBIF - Infrastructure Projects Facility (IPF)

The Infrastructure Projects Facility (IPF) in Western Balkans refers to consultancy service contracts awarded by DG Enlargement to assist beneficiary institutions in the Western Balkans with the identification, preparation and execution of projects selected and approved within the WBIF.

The core task of the IPF teams is to carry out the preparation for the projects approved by the WBIF Steering Committee and which are allocated as IPF sub-projects (i.e. EU-funded). The overall objective is to assist the Beneficiary obtaining financing from the IFIs for priority investments in infrastructure in transport, environment, energy and the social infrastructure field.

The European Commission has awarded two contracts to consultancy consortia: IPF1 and IPF2. A third contract has been awarded under the IPA MB programme 2011 in June 2012.

Project information

Infrastructure Projects Facility 1 – Technical Assistance Window is financed from the following programmes:

CARDS 2005/017-628, EUR 7.0 million, CARDS 2005/017-886, EUR 3.0 million

CARDS 2006/018-474, EUR 5.0 million, IPA 2010/022-028, EUR 15.0 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans
Type of contract: Service contract CN2008/157-799; CN2008/157-807; CN2008/158-121; CN 2010/241-182
Contractor: WYG International Limited
Duration of activities: 18/06/2008 - 30/06/2014

Project information

Infrastructure Projects Facility 2 – Technical Assistance Window is financed from the following programmes:

IPA 2008/020-300, EUR 14.8 million, IPA 2011/022-964, EUR 14.8 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans
Type of contract: Service contract, CN2009/224-490 and CN 2011/273-396
Contractor: COWI AS
Duration of activities: 27/11/2009 - 27/06/2014

Project information

Infrastructure Projects Facility 3 – Technical Assistance Window is financed from the following programme:

IPA 2011/022-964, EUR 12.422 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans, Iceland
Type of contract: Service contract, CN2012/293-208
Contractor: Mott MacDonald Limited
Duration of activities: 20/06/2012 - 19/06/2015

Purpose

The facility provides technical assistance and capacity building for project preparation and implementation as well as Feasibility and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies. It also aims at reinforcing cooperation between Beneficiaries and supporting the preparation of regional initiatives through technical assistance and operational support.

Activities

The distribution of activities between IPF1, IPF2 and IPF3 follows general principles agreed with the Contracting Authority.

IPF1 is mandated to provide support to the WBIF Secretariat, including the preparation of Project Financiers Group Meetings and communication and visibility activities, such as the preparation of WBIF Annual Reports and the WBIF Monitoring Report. IPF1 is also in charge of upstream activities on projects in support of NIPACs and Beneficiaries in preparing project applications for the WBIF. Similarly, IPF1 is responsible for preparing the terms of reference and carrying out sub-projects, mainly from Round 1, 2 and 3 of the WBIF.

IPF2 and IPF3 are mainly dedicated to the execution of sub-projects and only exceptionally requested to prepare terms of reference.

The IPF portfolio comprises 77 grants or 75 projects (or sub-projects) of which 34 are completed; 33 are being implemented and 8 have their ToR in preparation. The WBIF Steering Committee meeting held in Vienna in June 2012 confirmed the importance of IPF as projects driver within the WBIF. Overall, the following activities can be reported:

- Support to Beneficiaries with the preparation of grant applications for the 7th Round of the WBIF: of the 55 applications received in February, 18 were recommended for approval to the sixth WBIF SC on 14th of June 2012;

- Continued development of projects approved by WBIF SC and increased awareness of progress achieved via regular update of WBIF/projects website and awareness events organised in beneficiaries;
- Continued development of a Management Information System to support the selection of new projects within the WBIF, the monitoring of ongoing projects and the implementation of IPF projects;
- Publication of the 2nd WBIF Annual Report and distribution to all key stakeholders in March following presentation of final draft at the fifth WBIF Steering Committee of last December;
- Support to the organisation of WBIF visibility events in Croatia ;

Activities and events planned for the next semester

- Support to beneficiaries on the identification and preparation of new grant applications for Round 8 of the WBIF to be submitted by NIPACs by 14th September 2012;
- Production of WBIF guidelines for better coordination and quality of new applications;
- Organisation of WBIF awareness event in Tirana on the 18th of September and in Pristina in November, in agreement with DG ELARG, partner IFIs and EU Delegations;
- Support to the preparation of the PFG meeting planned for 6-7th of November in Dubrovnik and of the WBIF SC meeting planned for 6th December ;
- Continuation of the execution of IPF active sub-projects;
- Start implementation of new projects from Round 6 and Round 7 by new contractor (IPF3)
- Expected completion of ongoing projects.
- Organisation of a third Regional NIPAC Workshop in Skopje on the 8th of November, back to back to the PFG meeting in Dubrovnik
- Organisation of sector workshops on Electricity transmission networks (Vienna, 2nd of October) and on Transport (Dubrovnik, 8th of November)

Links and Contact

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WBIF - Municipal Window

Under the Municipal Window of the WBIF, grant co-financing is provided for municipal infrastructure investment projects in the fields of environment (water treatment and sanitation, water distribution, district heating) and transport (urban transport). This approach is ambitious and innovative by envisaging a shift from parallel (grant-only) financing of IFI-sponsored projects to using the grant as leverage for loans on a fully-fledged project and through staggered disbursement.

Project information

WBIF - Municipal Window, IPA 2008/020-300, EUR 13.2 million

Beneficiary region: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia
 Type of contract: Contribution Agreement
 Contractor: CEB-KfW, CN2009/216-156
 Duration of activities: 11/08/2009 - 31/12/2015

Purpose

The project covers the following:

Albania: Water supply and sewage Gjirokastra, Fier

Albania: Wastewater system Pogradec

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Water supply and sewerage collection Banja Luka

Serbia: Water supply and sewerage systems for 8 municipalities

Activities

As regards the sub-projects in Gjirokastra and Fier in Albania, the Loan and Financing Agreements was signed in December 2010. Since September 2011 the "institutional" consultant is on-site supporting the water utilities to improve their performance, to develop a tariff adjustment plan and amongst others to draft business plans. Gjirokastra has already improved and performs quite well in line with the agreed targets, whereas Fier has still some room for improvement. In parallel, the tendering procedure started for the "implementation" consultant. It is expected that the consultant starts his assignment in the second half of 2012.

As regards the sub-project in Pogradec, the Loan and Financing Agreement for the project with the Government of Albania and the Project Executing Agency was signed in December 2010. After meeting the Special Implementation Agreement of non-revenue water being at a three month average UfW rate of at least 50% the implementation consultant services have been tendered and the consultant commenced his services in September 2011. The final inception report was delivered in March 2012. Based on this the consultant is currently preparing the final design for tendering of works. The works are expected to be tendered in the second half of 2012.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, concerning the sub-project in Banja Luka, the Loan and Financing Agreement for the project was signed in 2009. Following the signature of the work and supply contract in December 2011, the contractor started the implementation during the reporting period.

In Serbia, the Loan and Financing Agreement for the project was signed in 2010. The first tenders for works and supply contracts have been completed. The responsible consultant continues to supervise the implementation in the water utilities in the eight municipalities.

Links and Contact

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Project information

WBIF - Municipal Window, IPA 2008/020-300, EUR 16.0 million

Beneficiary region: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia

Type of contract: Contribution Agreement

Contractor: EIB, CN 2009/225-383

Duration of activities: 28/11/2009 - 28/12/2015

Purpose

The project covers the following:

Bosnia and Herzegovina: rehabilitation and construction of water and wastewater infrastructure in 7 municipalities;

Montenegro: Rehabilitation and construction of water and wastewater infrastructure in 5 municipalities;

Serbia: Reconstruction of the Belgrade urban transport system (road and tramway and the related infrastructure)

Activities

As regards the Bosnia and Herzegovina sub-project, the inception report has been finalised in March 2011. Feasibility studies and tendering documents have to be prepared. The actual works in municipalities are planned to start towards the end of the second half of 2012/ beginning of 2013.

Regarding the Montenegro sub-project, the inception report was provided in September 2011. Feasibility studies and tendering documents have to be prepared. The actual works in municipalities are planned to start towards the end of the second half of 2012/ beginning of 2013.

Concerning the Serbia sub-project, the works have well advanced. Works on Boulevard Kraljia Alexandra (section 1 of the sub-project) have been completed. Two streets are still to be completed during 2012-13: for the Karadjordjeva Street the Urban Planning Conditions were obtained and the signing of the contract for the preparation of design documentation is underway; as regards the Vojvode Stepe Street design/ technical documentation has been amended.

Links and Contact

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Project information

WBIF - Municipal Window, IPA 2008/020-300 EUR 3.0 million

Beneficiary region: Bosnia and Herzegovina
Type of contract: Contribution Agreement
Contractor: EBRD, CN2009/225-824
Duration of activities: 30/11/2009 -31/12/2015

Purpose

The project covers the following:
Bijeljina wastewater system – phase II (treatment plant)

Activities

The implementation of this project is well advanced. The tender process for two components of the project has been completed. The prequalification Evaluation Report for the wastewater treatment plant has been submitted to the EBRD together with draft tender document for the Design and Build contract. Tenders for the Design and Build contract were evaluated in March with subsequent signature of the contract in April 2012. Following that, the consultant was mobilised. The other consultancy contract for the Supervision of the wastewater treatment plant is expected to be signed soon.

Links and Contact

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Project information

WBIF - Municipal Window, IPA 2008/020-454, EUR 25.0 million

Beneficiary region: Kosovo*
Type of contract: Delegation Agreement
Contractor: KfW, CN 2009/221-084
Duration of activities: 11/12/2009 -11/01/2017

Purpose

The project covers the following:

Reconstruction of the water distribution network in Pristina, restructuring of the water treatment plant, replacement of parts of the sewerage network and protection of water resources, Rehabilitation, extension and upgrade of the existing heating network for Pristina

Activities

As regards the water and sanitation sub-project in Pristina, the project is implemented with some delay as the ratification of the loan agreement by the Kosovo* Parliament has taken considerable time but has now been secured. The consulting contract has been signed and the consultant has taken up his assignment at the beginning of 2012. The inception report has been completed in March 2012 and an inception workshop was held in April 2012. The construction period is envisaged to last until end of 2016.

Concerning the Pristina district heating sub-project, detailed studies on the component cogeneration (completed in June 2011, financed by IPF TA) showed that investment costs for cogeneration are higher than originally expected. In order to cover them, the scope for the project has slightly changed as compared to the Contribution Agreement – the district heating system will not be extended. The implementation (focused on rehabilitation and upgrade of the existing heating network) is expected to begin in the second half of 2012.

Links and Contact

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Energy Efficiency

The MB MIPD 2011 – 2013 has identified among its priorities support for investments in energy efficiency as a potential key driver of recovery from the economic crisis and sustained economic growth. Support is also being provided to the Energy Community by contributing to its budget.

Project information

Horizontal programme on the Energy Efficiency Finance Facility, IPA 2007/019-340, EUR 34.7 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans and Turkey

Type of contract: Contribution Agreements with EBRD CN2008/163-440, EIB CN2008/163-442, CEB/ KfW CN2008/163-444

Duration of activities: November 2008 - December 2016

Purpose

This programme is designed to assist beneficiaries to promote investments in energy efficiency (EE) and renewable energy (RE) generation in order to improve energy performance of the building and industry sectors thereby contributing to energy savings and reduction of CO2 emissions. This is achieved through the provision of financing to commercial banks in the region to increase their portfolios in EE and RE projects for on-lending to final borrowers. The IFI credit lines under the programme are combined with IPA grants in the form of financial incentives both to partner banks and end-borrowers to facilitate investments.

Activities

- The EBRD credit line of EUR 60 million was fully allocated through 8 PBs - three in Serbia for EUR 33 million, two in Bosnia and Herzegovina for EUR 15 million and three in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for EUR 12 million.
- The total number of signed sub-loans reached 84, for a cumulative sub-loan portfolio of EUR 39.5 million. This is expected to bring indicative combined expected annual energy

savings of 446,958 MWh per annum and abatement of 121,305 metric tons of CO₂ equivalent per annum;

- 12 new sub-projects were successfully verified in 2012 with EUR 800,736 of IPA incentives, while the EBRD Project Consultant contract was extended until March 2013;
- The EIB credit line continued to advance on its Turkey component with 16 sub-projects identified for a total grant amount of EUR 5.8 million. 3 sub-projects were positively verified, of which 2 have an energy savings ratio of 70%. The first IPA grant payments are expected to take place in October 2012;
- In Croatia, the EIB's Consultants organised training sessions for HBOR managers to help them identify eligible sub-projects. A press conference was held in March 2012 and advertisements were placed on HBOR's website;
- KfW/CEB are tendering the consultancy services to support the EUR 21 million loan agreement with UniCredit Serbia;
- The Eko-Mlek project in Serbia financed with ProCredit Bank was nominated for the Aurea Award 2012, established by E-kapja, the leading business portal in Serbia. This competition selects the best investments of the year and as a public awarding event it contributes to an increasing visibility of the programme;
- In March 2012 a Delegation from the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development visited Eko-Mlek factory in Serbia;
- In May 2012, all three components successfully participated in the EC-funded ROM monitoring exercise, involving visits to the Consultants, Participating Banks and sub-projects.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Continued development of sub-projects pipeline;
- Award ceremonies in Belgrade, Sarajevo and Skopje planned by EBRD in September 2012;
- Further training sessions with HBOR scheduled in Q4 2012 by EIB;
- Launching of consultant activities under the KfW credit line.
- Steering Committee of the Facility will be held in London in October 2012.

Links and Contact

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Project information

Management of a Participation in the Green for Growth Fund (GGF)

IPA 2009/021-373, EUR 20.0 million including EUR 19.5 million (2011 new subscription)

IPA 2009 and 2010, EU Contribution to the Technical Assistance (TA) Facility of the Green for Growth Fund (GGF), DN2010/022-471, DN2010/022-028, EUR 5.0 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans and Turkey

Type of contract: EU Mandate (Trusteeship agreement)

Implementation: European Investment Fund (EIF) CN2009/228-006, CN2009/228-008, CN2011/267146 for fees and subscription to shares; CN2010/257-202 and -207 for TA facility

Duration of activities: December 2009–November 2015 (Participation in GGF);
December 2010–November 2015 (TA Facility)

Purpose

The GGF is an innovative fund initiated in 2009 by the EIB and KfW with the support of the European Commission. The Fund provides dedicated financing for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects to help the target countries reduce CO₂ emissions and energy consumption.

This is achieved by lending to businesses and households via financial institutions and through direct funding. The Commission is investing in the GGF on behalf of the beneficiaries to support the stabilisation of financial markets and economies. These investments are made in the fund's first-loss tranche ensuring that finance remains available to the public and private energy sector and countries keep high their potential to achieve the EU's 20/20/20 energy targets. The activities of GGF are complemented by a TA Assistance Facility.

Activities

The GGF's total volume of investor commitments, as by the end of June, reached EUR 170 million.

In May 2012, the Fund signed a new investment project of EUR 23 million with Komercijalna Banka AD Beogradin (Serbia). It is envisaged that the GGF loan will result in total energy savings of 92,000 MWh per year and an annual reduction in CO₂ emissions of 30,000 tons.

The first GGF energy efficiency project with a microcredit organization was launched with Partner Microcredit Foundation (Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina) in May 2012. This will involve a EUR 1.5 million loan projected to achieve annual primary energy savings of approximately 5,100 MWh and CO₂ reductions of approximately 1,700 tons per year.

GGF sponsored the Balkans Energy Finance Forum held in Belgrade on 19-20 June. The event gathered key players across the energy industry and promoted a debate on national and regional energy policies as well as opportunities in renewable energy and energy efficiency projects, with sessions hosted by the GGF.

GGF is planning to expand to the European Neighbourhood region in the course of 2012.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Continued development of pipeline of investments and technical assistance;
- GGF Semi-annual meeting between EIF and EC scheduled for Q4 2012.

Links and Contact

Link: www.ggf.lu

Contact: Mariangela Fittipaldi, Mariangela.FITTIPALDI@ec.europa.eu

Field: Strategy and policy support

Purpose

The budget of the Energy Community is financed by IPA funds, transferred to a special budget line which is managed by DG ENER. For the 2011 budget of the Energy Community, EUR 2.9 million have been transferred to DG ENER. The EU contribution is fixed at 98% of the total budget.

The Energy Community Treaty⁵ provides for the creation of an integrated and stable energy market in the Western Balkans, Moldova and Ukraine. As contracting parties to the Energy

⁵ The Energy Community is based on a Treaty signed by the European Union and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro, as well as Kosovo. Moldova became member of the Energy Community as from 1 May 2010 and Ukraine as from 1 February 2011.

Community Treaty, all countries have undertaken to implement the relevant EU *acquis* in the area. The countries are in the process of developing national legislation on energy efficiency and have developed National Energy Efficiency Action Plans (NEEAPs). They have also committed to implementing awareness campaigns. As part of the horizontal coordination with the Energy Community, DG Enlargement works closely with the Energy Efficiency Task Force (EETF) to raise awareness on ongoing EE financing and improve the effectiveness of financial support for EE.

Activities

- The conclusions of the 15th EE Task Force meeting held in Vienna on 13 June confirmed that EETF had largely progressed on the Work Programme 2012 and emphasised that regional cooperation in this area should be continued and promoted beyond 2012;
- On 14 June 2012, the WBIF SC approved the new WBIF/EBRD Regional EE Programme (EUR 20 million IPA grants) which was coordinated with the Secretariat and prepared in closed coordination with the EE Task Force;
- As part of the awareness-raising and visibility activities on available funding for EE, the IFI Coordination worked with the Task Force members to develop national web pages on NEEAPs financing, including a dedicated proposal for Montenegro's Ministry of Economy webpage.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Launching of in-country workshops on options for financing NEEAPs implementation in the Western Balkans, including a pilot event in Montenegro in September;
- 16th Energy Efficiency Task Force meeting in Vienna on 10 October;

Links and Contact

Link: www.energy-community.org

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Project information

Horizontal Support to Coordination with the International Financial Institutions (IFI Coordination Office), IPA 2008/020-300, EUR 4.0 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans
Type of contract: Service contract CN2009/225-073
Contractor: Project Management Limited
Duration of activities: 27/01/2010 to 26/01/2014 (following addendum)

Purpose

Cooperation with the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) is a key pillar of EU assistance to the IPA beneficiaries for infrastructure investments and private sector development.

The IFI Coordination Office refers to the consultancy service contract awarded by DG Enlargement to facilitate better coordination and cooperation between the beneficiaries, the EC, the IFIs and bilateral donors. The WBIF is one of the main elements of the assignment.

The IFI Coordination Office provides a range of technical, management and communication services to support cooperation and coordination among all WBIF stakeholders. It delivers research and analytical services regarding EC, IFI and bilateral cooperation in the main WBIF sectors – transport, energy, environment, private sector development and social issues to facilitate better programming and planning of assistance including investments. The Office supports WBIF structures, particularly the WBIF Steering Committee and has developed and maintains the WBIF website – the key communication tool for the Framework. It also provides assistance to the main regional sectoral organisations such as the Regional

Cooperation Council (RCC) Energy Community Secretariat, the South East Europe Transport Observatory (SEETO), the Regional Network for Environment Accession (RENA) and the South East Europe Investment Committee.

Activities

Support to WBIF Structures

- Organisation and follow-up of the bi-annual WBIF Steering Committee meeting under the direction of the Co-Chairs, EC and the Austrian Ministry of Finance
- Participation in the quarterly meetings of the WBIF Project Financiers Group
- Organisation of meeting of ELARG WBIF Advisory Group to brief ELARG staff on WBIF activities and key issues arising
- Contribution to the implementation of the WBIF communications strategy including development and maintenance of the WBIF website & organisation of policy and strategy seminars in beneficiary countries
- Coordination meeting and contacts with EC and IPF projects

Sector-Based Activities

Energy

- Promotion of EC and IFI financed facilities Energy Efficiency through wide distribution of summary report on such facilities in the Western Balkans and creation of specific page on the website of the Energy Community Secretariat
- Preparation of in-country workshops to assist beneficiaries to identify possible options to finance implementation of their National Energy Efficiency Action Plans (follow-up to EC-financed study conducted in 2011)
- Regular participation in meetings of the ECS' Energy Efficiency Task Force.

Environment

- Implementation of environment work programme as agreed with EC and IFIs
- Preparation and delivery a regional seminar with beneficiaries, EC and IFIs on challenges in the application of EIA directive and nature legislation in the Western Balkans (follow-up to November 2011 seminar)
- Development of summary overviews of the current EIA process in each beneficiary
- Initial research on availability of climate adaptation assistance programmes in the Western Balkans financed by EC, IFIs and bilateral donors
- Participation in RENA meetings
- Participation in environment related meetings of the ECS and RCC

Transport

- Provision of technical assistance to SEETO for the implementation of the strategic work programme for SEETO that was endorsed by SEETO Ministers of Transport in late 2011
- Development of an enhanced screening process for SEETO priority projects in cooperation with DG MOVE and SEETO
- Assistance with preparation of key SEETO reports including the investment report and initial draft of the 2012 Multi-Annual Plan

- Support for preparation of and participation in SEETO Steering Committee meetings

Socio-Economic Sector

- Detailed research and analyses leading to preparation of discussion paper on the macro-economic outlook in the Western Balkans and the implications for the WBIF.
- Wide circulation of report and presentation of key findings at the WBIF PFG meeting and WBIF Steering Committee Meeting
- Assistance to RCC in preparation of the work programme for the SEE Investment Committee for which it now has responsibility. Participation in meetings of the SEE Investment Committee and the subsequent SEE 2020 Task Force which has been established under the SEE IC to develop headline targets for Western Balkan countries to adopt as part of an SEE 2020 strategy that is aligned with Europe 2020
- Finalisation of report on Challenges of Financing Social Sector Projects in the Western Balkans, presentation of report at workshop with DG Employment, DG ELARG and relevant IFIs. Wide circulation of report to WBIF stakeholders
- Participation in RCC Social Agenda conferences and meetings
- On-going liaison with LSEE Social Research Network in the Western Balkans
- Participation in EDIF meetings as requested

Database of Investment Flows to the Western Balkans

- Revision of database in line with discussions with key stakeholders
- Further development of analysis and reporting functions
- Updating of old records and inputting of new projects
- Database currently contains in excess of 900 investments valued at over EUR 24 billion.

Communications Activities

- Preparation and delivery of WBIF policy and strategy seminars in Belgrade; one for the NIPAC office and line ministries, the other for the EU Delegation to review macro-economic climate for WBIF and update participants on activities under WBIF and other regional fora and to receive update on relevant activities by EUD and beneficiaries
- On-going maintenance, updating and review of the WBIF website to ensure comprehensive, timely and user friendly information
- Greater coordination with IPF projects and participation in relevant IPF events and vice versa
- Preparation of promotional info for policy and strategy element of WBIF and dissemination of various reports prepared under the auspices of the project
- Organisation and/or participation in various events and meetings to brief on the WBIF and other forms of EC and IF cooperation (e.g. EC/EIB meeting and EC/World Bank Western Balkan days in January)

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Support preparation and delivery of WBIF events including special policy & strategy meeting of the Project Financiers' Group, the Regional NIPAC workshop and in particular the WBIF SC meeting in December
- Sector focused activities include research and analysis on specific topics within sectors of relevance for EC, IFI cooperation in the Western Balkans including environment

(climate change adaptation), energy efficiency (financing of National Energy Efficiency Action Plans), transport (financing packages for transport investment), social sector (labour market and human capital /education challenges) private sector development (assistance for development of targets for SEE 2020)

- Organisation and/or participation in sector specific workshops/seminars,
- Enhance provision of information on beneficiaries on the WBIF website
- Organise and deliver a series of WBIF Policy and Strategy seminars in beneficiaries (for both EUD's and international community and for NIPAC office and line ministries)
- Inclusion of all IPA projects into database of investment flows to provide easy and user friendly data on IPA

Links and Contact

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Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection

Full transposition of the EU *acquis* remains an objective for most of the IPA beneficiaries in the area of nuclear safety and radiation protection. This transposition requires the full operability of the national regulatory bodies which for some has not yet been accomplished. IPA assistance will also support the construction, fitting-out and/or upgrading of facilities involving the handling and management of radio-nuclides according to best EU practices.

Project information

Management of unsealed radio-nuclides in medical establishments in Bosnia and Herzegovina, IPA 2008/020-350, EUR 0.5 million

Beneficiary country: Bosnia and Herzegovina
Type of contract 1: Service contract 2010/254-111
Contractor: Enconet Consulting GmbH
Duration of activities: 22/11/2010 – 21/01/2013
Type of contract 2: Supply contract 2012/283-527
Contractor: Enconet Consulting GmbH
Duration of activities: 08/03/2012 – 15/10/2012

Purpose

The objective of this project is to reduce the risk of occupational exposure in five hospitals of Bosnia and Herzegovina that operate nuclear medicine departments. To an extent, the project should also contribute in reducing any unnecessary exposure of patients.

Part of project will also focus on developing a list of equipment that should be purchased and installed in each hospital in order to reduce occupational exposure and any other unnecessary exposure while complying with the EU *acquis*.

Supply should consist of delivering instruments for radioactivity measurements and shielded laboratory equipment.

Activities and events planned for next semester

At the moment, both the service and supply components of this project are under implementation. Currently the delivery of the purchased equipment is being programmed for the five medical establishments that participate in the project, namely Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Mostar, Zenica and Tuzla. After completion of the installation and commissioning of the equipment the personnel of these hospitals will be appropriately trained.

Project information

Establishment of a calibration laboratory for ionising radiation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, IPA 2008/020-350, EUR 0.4 million

Beneficiary country: Bosnia and Herzegovina
Type of contract 1: Service contract 2012/280-420
Contractor: COWI a.s.
Duration of activities: 01/02/2012-31/05/2013

Purpose

The objective of this project is to improve health protection of individuals against the dangers of ionising radiation in the medical sector by setting up and equipping an accredited Secondary Standard Dosimetry Laboratory (SSDL). The service component of this project will provide the design of the laboratory and consult on the necessary equipment, which then will be bought under the subsequent supply contract.

Activities and events planned for next semester

The service contract that pertains to this project has been under implementation since February 2012. Immediately after signature of the service contract, both the Commission and the Beneficiary agreed to work in a concerted manner in order to contract the supply component before the expiration of the contracting deadline. The tendering procedure is still ongoing. In parallel, the room where the laboratory will be housed is under refurbishment.

Project information

Strengthening radiation protection and nuclear safety through capability upgrading of CETI, IPA 2009/021-640, EUR 81.000 EUR

Beneficiary country: Montenegro
Type of contract: Supply contract 2012/284-039
Contractor: Canberra Packard Central
Duration of activities: 16/02/2012 – 15/07/2012

Purpose

CETI is one of the two technical support organisations in Montenegro for environmental monitoring including radiation protection. CETI measures radioactivity in the environment. Measurements are being done in samples of air; sea, rain and drinking water; food; building materials and soil. CETI is the principal stakeholder with regard to radiation protection (RP) infrastructure and services in Montenegro as it has most of the necessary equipment, well qualified staff and efficient organisational structure. However, technical capabilities still need to be improved. This supply contract will help CETI upgrade the existing gamma spectrometry system with a view to do measurements at lower energy. The supply contract will provide CETI with a new Gamma spectrometry system. Training of the users of this equipment is also foreseen.

Activities and events planned for next semester

Delivery and installation of the equipment is expected in July 2012.

Project information

Upgrading of radiation Protection and Safety Monitoring in Albania, IPA 2009/021-640, EUR 0.1 million

Beneficiary country: Albania
Type of contract 1: Service contract, CN2011/252-154
Contractor: COWI S.A.

Duration of activities: 06/05/2011 – 26/12/2012
Type of contract 2: Supply contract to be signed

Purpose

In Albania, radioactive sealed sources are used in medicine, industry and research. Unsealed radioactive sources with low quantities and activities are used in five radiochemical laboratories for research and medical purposes.

The objective of this project is to upgrade the current technical evaluation of ionising radiation devices used in medical centres and industrial companies in Albania with the aim to reduce patient and occupational exposure.

The first component of this project (service contract) is there to assess radiation protection, occupational and medical exposures in Albania, provide advice to the beneficiary on how to perform technical control and tests of devices generating ionising radiation. The service contract will also identify the equipment needed to reduce occupational and medical exposure and finally train the relevant staff to use this equipment.

Activities and events planned for next semester

The tendering process for the supply contract is now completed and the contract is under preparation.

Project information

Strengthening the capacity of the Radiation Protection training centre in Banja Luka, IPA 2009/021-640, EUR 0.3 million

Beneficiary country: Bosnia and Herzegovina
Type of contract: Service contract, CN2011/262-653
Contractor: MWH S.A.
Duration of activities: 23/05/2011 – 16/07/2012

Purpose

The project purpose is to upgrade and license a regional training centre on radiation protection in order to transform it into a national training centre. The service contract provides technical assistance to experts in Bosnia and Herzegovina who are in charge of defining a national training programme for workers are exposed to ionising radiation. It will be concluded by the identification of pieces of equipment (including the determination of technical specifications) that should be procured later on through a supply contract.

Activities and events planned for next semester

The service component of this project is under implementation. During reporting period specific training programmes on radiation protection and safety of radiation sources for different categories of professionals but also future trainers have been developed. The training is structured in such a way as to provide both theoretical and practical training on multidisciplinary scientific and technical international practices and standards on radiation protection and their implementation. Moreover, a complete list of national trainers has been identified.

The call for supply tenders is currently open.

Project information

Reduction of Medical and Professional Exposure in Mammography in Bosnia and Herzegovina, IPA 2009/021-640, EUR 0.4 million

Beneficiary country: Bosnia and Herzegovina
Type of contract: Service contract, CN2011/268-888
Contractor: MWH S.A.

Duration of activities: 23/05/2011 – 16/07/2012

Purpose

The overall objective is to reduce medical exposure during mammography screening while obtaining high-quality diagnostic information, in line with the Council Directive 97/43 EURATOM and the European Guidelines for Qualitative Assurance (QA) in Breast Cancer Screening and Diagnosis. Upon completion of this project, fundamental aspects of mammography diagnostics and screening practice in Bosnia and Herzegovina will have improved. Primary beneficiaries are the two clinical centres of Sarajevo and Banja Luka.

Activities and events planned for next semester

The service component of this project is under implementation. Recently, task 5 was successfully completed. Under this task five Bosnian specialists (one radiologist, one medical physicist, two radiographers and one regulator) attended a two-day seminar in mammography centre in Ljubljana, Slovenia with the aim to get acquainted with procedures that will improve the accuracy of mammographic examinations. During the seminar the specialists from Bosnia and Herzegovina were presented with ways to perform efficient screening, image reading as well as basic mammography physics and technology, with special emphasis on quality assurance aspects.

The tendering procedure for the supply component of this project is currently under preparation and will be launched in July 2012.

Project information

Strengthening technical capacities in monitoring radio-nuclides in the environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina, IPA 2009/021-640, EUR 0.3 million

Beneficiary country: Bosnia and Herzegovina
Type of contract: Service contract, CN2011/268-709
Contractor: COWI S.A.
Duration of activities: 15/09/2011- 21/01/2013

Purpose

The objective of this project is to assist in improving the technical capacity of the Institutes of Public Health of the two entities in Bosnia and Herzegovina so they can perform regular environmental radioactivity monitoring in the air, soil, water and food chain.

Activities and events planned for next semester

During the reporting period, task 3 has been implemented (provision of the technical specifications for the equipment to be purchased under the supply component. Tasks 1, 2 are currently under implementation. The deliverables of this project are: a national programme for environmental monitoring, the design of the source monitoring programme for uranium content in selected environmental and food samples.

The tender procedure (open international procedure) for the supply contract is ongoing.

Project information

Strengthening the system of dosimetry control for occupationally exposed workers and patients in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo*, IPA 2009/021-640, EUR 0.6 million

Beneficiary region: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*
Type of contract: Service contract, CN2011/275-203
Contractor: SKC- CEN.
Duration of activities: 15/11/2011 – 15/07/2013

Purpose

The project aims to improve the dosimetry control of exposed workers and patients to ionising radiation in medical establishments in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Kosovo*.

Firstly, external exposure in selected working places will be measured; then Diagnostic Reference Levels for radio-diagnostic examinations and procedures for evaluation of patient doses will be established and lastly, an educational programme for personnel in charge of patient dosimetry in diagnostic radiology will be delivered. The service component will also provide the technical specifications for the delivery of mainly detectors, dosimeters and readers (to be tendered separately).

Activities and events planned for next semester

This project is being implemented according to schedule. During reporting period, the main activity has been to collect information and assess dosimetry control procedures in the beneficiary institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo*. The assessment includes amongst other things reviewing quality control protocols, checking indications for patient dosimetry, distributing dosimeters to professionals for testing doses received. Moreover, the technical specifications for the equipment to be purchases are now drafted and the tender procedure will be launched shortly.

Project information

Management of sealed radioactive sources, including lightning rods in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo* and Montenegro, IPA 2009/021-640, EUR 0.6 million

Beneficiary region: The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo*, Montenegro
Type of contract: Service contracts, CN2011/ 275-469 and 275-202
Contractor: Enconet
Duration of activities: 24/10/2011 - 24/10/2012

Purpose

From the 1960s up to the 1980s, several thousands of radioactive lightning rods containing strong gamma emitters were installed on the roofs of public buildings, schools, kindergartens and factories all over the former Yugoslavia. Although a large number of these radioactive lightning rods have already been removed from the roofs, their full removal, transport, repackaging and storage in licensed facilities constitute a priority action for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Kosovo*.

This regional project aims at providing nuclear regulatory bodies of the three Beneficiaries with regulatory assistance on radioactive waste management and practical assistance in preparing and managing the practical of sealed radioactive sources, including radioactive lightning rods, and their subsequent transport, processing and storage in licensed storage facilities removal and dismantling of radioactive lightning rods.

Activities and events planned for next semester

The first phase of this project is implemented through two service contracts, both under implementation. Concerning the works preparation project, during the reporting period the management plans for retrieval of spent sealed sources, as well as the working procedures for dismantling/removal of lightning rods, transport of lightning rods and emergency response were drafted.

With regard to the regulatory assistance project, during reporting period the set of criteria needed to elaborate the SAR for retrieval of spent sealed sources was drafted and a gap analysis of the legislative and regulatory framework on radioactive waste management in the Beneficiary countries was performed.

Project information

Support to the VIND programme (VIND part II), IPA 2008/020-350, EUR 3.2 million (continuation of VIND part I)

Beneficiary country: Serbia

Type of contract: Contribution Agreement with the IAEA: CN 2010/235-591

Duration of activities: 23/07/2010 – 22/03/2013 (VIND part II)

Purpose and Activities VIND part II

This project is the continuation of VIND part I. It includes 5 sub-projects/activities, namely the conditioning and secure storage of disused sealed radioactive sources in Serbia; the decommissioning of the degraded waste storage hangar No. 1; a radioactivity survey; the characterization and conditioning of radioactive waste; and the strengthening of radiation safety capabilities and infrastructure.

Due to the size of the VIND I project (repatriation of the Serbian spent nuclear fuel), a large part of the technical staff at Vinca was necessary for the implementation of this project. In practice, this meant that until the end of 2010 no other programmed project could start in Vinca due to the lack of available staff. As a result subsequent IPA-funded projects started with considerable delays.

At this moment, some components of the VIND part II are under implementation. Activities regarding the operation of the radioactive waste processing facility and the decommissioning of waste storage hangar No. 1 have not started yet, as authorisations for the facilities for waste processing facility and radioactive waste storage are needed prior to commencement of the activities.

The IAEA has sent a request to DG Enlargement for an extension of the period of execution of the Contribution Agreement.

Project information

Enhancement of the technical capacity of nuclear regulatory bodies in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo*

IPA 2008/020-350, EUR 1.2 million

Type of contract: Contribution Agreement with the IAEA: CN 2011/261-655

Duration of activities: 20/03/2011- 19/03/2013

Purpose

The purpose of this project is to enhance the technical capacity of the regulatory bodies in the field of nuclear safety and radiation protection with the view to transposing eventually the Euratom Council Directives as well as the international conventions to which the European Community is a signatory into national legislation and regulations.

This project is being implemented by the IAEA in joint management with the European Commission and it expected to finish according to schedule.

Links and Contact

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Private Sector Development

Support in the area of private sector development and investments aims to raise regional competitiveness, increase competence of human capital, attract investments, facilitate trade and establish a business climate conducive to the development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

Access to Finance

Project information

European Fund for Southeast Europe (EFSE),

CARDS 2006/018-264, IPA 2007/019-344, IPA 2008/020-300 and IPA 2009/021-373

Original EC subscription EUR 46 million, Net asset value by 30 June 2012 for IPA beneficiaries EUR 107.2 million

Beneficiary Region: 14 countries including Western Balkans and Turkey

Type of contract: CN2006/124-240; CN2008/154-338, CN2009/201-622, CN2009/222-012, CN 2011/268-296

Contractor: European Investment Fund (EIF)

Duration of activities: 04/08/2006 – 23/10/2017

Purpose

EFSE is a form of public-private-partnership. Its objective is to attract capital from the private sector thereby leveraging public donor funds that will assist the development of the private sector in the region. EFSE extends loans to local commercial banks and micro-finance institutions in the Western Balkan for on-lending to micro- and small enterprises and households.

EFSE seeks to generate impact at three different levels:

- 1/ Supporting micro and small enterprises as the backbone of the local economies, therewith contributing to income generation and employment creation;
- 2/ Satisfying the basic need of decent shelter, and
- 3/ Strengthening local financial markets.

Activities

- At the end of the March 2012, EFSE has reached 309,331 end borrowers (cumulative since 2005) via local partner lending institutions, primarily micro and small enterprises (MSME) in Eastern and South Eastern Europe and the Caucasus region.
- The amount of disbursed sub-loans reached EUR 1.9 billion (cumulative since 2005).
- 105,321 active end borrowers (cumulative figure since 2005) via 64 partner lending institutions.
- Moreover, as at end of 2011, EFSE has, via the Development Facility, provided technical support to the value of EUR 6.7 million for 161 projects, including 26 studies. During the first quarter of 2012, 4 additional projects were approved with a total budget of EUR 70,904.
- At the end of Q1 2012, the total invested portfolio amounted to EUR 722.8 million, mostly senior loans and subordinated loans provided in Serbia (25%) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (16%).

- During the first quarter of 2012, the EFSE Investment Committee met three times and approved four new investment proposals comprising five investments for a total amount of EUR 22.8 million, of which EUR 10 million in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- The Board of Directors met once during the first quarter, acknowledging the solid performance of EFSE in 2011 and approving the Business Plan 2012. Furthermore the Board met in the second quarter at the occasion of the EFSE Annual Meeting in Tbilisi in June.
- Representatives of the EFSE Fund Manager and the Fund Advisor attended several conferences and events. Highlights among the attended conferences included:
 - Over-Indebtedness Workshop in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in March
 - Microfinance Forum 2012 in Prague in March

The EFSE Annual Meeting 2012 took place in Tbilisi, Georgia from 30 May to 1 June 2012. In the spirit of cooperation and efficiency the Microfinance Center (MFC) and the EFSE held their Annual Meetings back to back. Under the motto “Sustainability and Stability in a Transforming World: The Evolving Development Finance Agenda”, the meeting provided a platform for exchange and debate through panel discussions and workshops to ensure that the EFSE continues to create value added for all its partners. More than 300 local delegates and international experts from 30 countries attended this year’s EFSE Annual Meeting, co-hosted by the National Bank of Georgia.

Activities and events planned for next semester

The next EFSE Board meeting takes place in Pristina in September 2012

Links and Contact

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Project information

Private Sector Support Facility for Turkey- Crisis Response Package, IPA 2009/021-373, EUR 22.5 million

Beneficiary Country: Turkey

Type of Contract: Contribution Agreement with EBRD: CN2009/228-868

Duration of Activities: 18/12/2009 - 18/11/2020

Purpose

The overall objective of the Private Sector Support Facility (PSSF) is to assist economic actors in Turkey increase their competitiveness in products and services so as to face the challenges of the economic and financial crisis in both the short and long term. To this end, the PSSF aims at providing necessary financial and human resources as well as technical skills.

The PSSF has two types of support, financial and non-financial:

(1) *Targeted credit lines* are provided to banks, together with credit enhancement support and technical assistance through the Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (MSME) Finance Window and the Energy Efficiency Window projects:

The MSME Finance Window aims to increase the availability of finance to MSMEs through capacity building measures for Participating Financial Institutions (PFIs) through staff training, developing MSME credit management skills and procedures and helping strengthen outreach, awareness and demand for MSME credit in less developed regions of Turkey.

The Energy Efficiency Window facilitates private sector investments in sustainable energy, including energy efficiency and renewable energy investments under the Sustainable Energy Finance Facility (TurSEFF) and the Mid-Sized Sustainable Energy Finance Facility

(MidSEFF) through marketing, training for PFI's staff and preparation of project documentation for PFIs including feasibility studies, energy audits and rational energy utilisation plans (REUPs).

(2) *Non-financial technical assistance* includes the Small Business Support Programme (SBS)⁶ with the Enterprise Growth Programme (EGP) and Business Advisory Services (BAS) whose objective is to strengthen SMEs and improve their capacity for innovation, while striving to develop local SME support networks including business advisory services.

SBS focuses on providing enterprises with capacity building in management skills, market positioning, information systems, and environment issues. SBS's primary objective is direct enterprise assistance which will be brought about by an economic turnaround of the enterprise through a direct transfer of management skills and knowledge.

Activities

MSME Finance Window: Four PFIs⁷ subscribed to the Turkish MSME Financing Facility. to provide EUR 100 million to on-lend to MSMEs. The priority is to develop the agricultural MSME portfolio and support MSMEs located in the most economically depressed regions. The EU contributed EUR 15 million of which 10.2 million has been allocated as a first loss guarantee, for the PFI on their underlying MSME portfolios up to a maximum of 10%.. Another EUR 2.1 million has been allocated for an extension of the technical assistance supporting MSME PFIs in the priority regions of South-east and Eastern Turkey. The remaining EUR 2.7 million was reallocated to Energy Efficiency Window. The four PFIs had disbursed 8,525 sub-loans totalling EUR 145 million. The average size of sub-loans is around EUR 17,000.

Energy Efficiency Window: In 2011 Isbank joined TurSEFF in addition to the four PFIs⁸ already participating. The five PBs are committed to providing up to EUR 183 million for sustainable energy investments of up to EUR 4 million each. Consultants provided technical expertise in training, marketing and preparing and assessing energy projects.

As of June 2012, signed sub-project investments amounted to EUR 138.6 million with a strong pipeline which should see the credit line completely utilised by the end of 2012. .

MidSEFF targets larger investments (EUR 10 to 50 million) in industrial energy efficiency, renewable energy and waste-to-energy. With the signing of Isbank at the end of June 2012, there are now six banks investing under MidSEFF: Isbank, Vakifbank, Garantibank, Denizbank, Akbank and YapiKreditbank will commit investments of up to EUR 900 million (this includes the EIB contribution) with consultants providing detailed technical, social and environmental analysis. Ten renewable energy investments for EUR 244 million have so far been made for a total projects value of EUR 307 million of which six were in wind and four in hydro technology.

Within the framework of the SBS programme, since the beginning of the Programme, 11 projects have been selected by EGP, of which 4 are work in progress: 1 approved, 3 have been successfully completed and 3 have been closed early.

Within BAS, after intensive recruiting throughout 2011, in 2012 one more Project Specialist has been recruited The BAS team started to promote the programme in Central and Eastern Anatolia and conducted presentations to local stakeholders in Corum, Samsun, Trabzon, Gaziantep and Malatya. A database of local consultants was created and qualification

⁶ In January 2012, the TAM/BAS team was renamed as the Small Business Support (SBS) team in line with the EBRD Strategic Plan. Building on its core products, the team will also assist SMEs more broadly through policy dialogue and initiatives such as women in business and local business development. Small Business Support makes the team's role clear to external clients and stakeholders. TAM was also renamed as Enterprise Growth Programme (EGP) to better reflect its objectives and clientele.

⁷ Denizbank, Garantibank, Vakifbank, Yapi Kredi.

⁸ Akbank, Denizbank, Garantibank, Vakifbank.

process started. As of end June 2012, 19 projects have been selected, of which, 8 projects are completed, 9 projects ongoing and 2 projects approved.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- MSME Finance Window: The disbursement level has been accelerated in the last reporting period and the Facility is fully invested in the MSME sub-loans.
- Energy Efficiency Window: ensure complete investment of the amounts currently committed with PFIs. Diversification of the renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency projects is under way as supported by the project pipeline.
- SBS activities for next semester include EGP project screenings from July onwards to identify more replacements for interrupted projects and complete screening activities. The Local Manager will ensure regular monitoring of ongoing projects and ensure smooth implementation.
- BAS activities will include active promotion of the Programme in the regions, organisation of a training programme for local consultants, development of databases of local consultants and companies, and implementation of new BAS projects
- At least two additional PFIs will be added to the MidSEFF during 2012 which will bring the overall MidSEFF investment to EUR 750 million including the EIB's co-financing.

Links and Contact

Link: www.turseff.org

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Project information

Private Sector Support Facility for the Western Balkans - Crisis Response Package IPA 2009/021-373, EUR 31.5 million

Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans
Type of Contract:	Contribution Agreement with EBRD ⁹ CN2009/229-273
Duration of activities:	23/12/2009- 30/11/2015

Purpose

The purpose of the Private Sector Support Facility (PSSF) is to provide loans supported by grants (Direct Lending) and technical assistance to the Western Balkans for (i) industrial investments necessary for SMEs to align with the EU *acquis*, and (ii) energy efficiency investments in the private sector. The PSSF consists of three windows, namely the SME Competitiveness Support Window (SME-CSF) of EUR 21.5 million, the Energy Efficiency Window (SEFF) of EUR 5 million as well as the EBRD Enterprise Growth Programme (EGP) and Business Advisory Services (BAS) Programme Window of EUR 5 million.

Activities

(1) SME-CSF/SEFF Credit Line

Under the SME-CSF credit line, activities continued to concentrate on marketing the PSSF to potential banks in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia.

2010: Four banks signed for EUR 33 million.

⁹ The EBRD has also established the EU/EBRD Western Balkans Private Sector Support Facility (WB-PSSF), which will provide financing of up to EUR 110 million in senior debt to commercial banks in the Western Balkans region for on-lending to the private sector

2011: Agreements were signed with Sparkasse Bosnia, PBZ Croatia, Unicredit Serbia, Banca Intesa Serbia and Societe Generale Serbia for a total of EUR 43 million. In addition, under the SEFF window a credit line of EUR 3 million was signed with Unicredit Serbia.

2012: A further EUR 7 million were signed with Unicredit Serbia. The funding shortage of the grant for financial incentives to Unicredit Serbia and sub-borrowers has been covered by the EBRD Special Shareholders Fund and EUR 1.54 million have been made available.

This brings the cumulative total EBRD commitments for SME-CSF and SEFF to EUR 88 million. By 30 June 2012 EBRD disbursed EUR 42.4 million (EUR 29.8 million at 31.12.2012).

The signed EBRD loans are supported by EUR 17.8 million of EC grant financing for financial incentives to Participating Banks (PB) and sub-borrowers. In 2011 four sub-projects were completed and verified and EUR 314,853 were paid in investment incentives to sub-borrowers. In the first half of 2012 seven sub-projects were successfully verified and EUR 467,089 disbursed. All consultancy services have been awarded for a total of EUR 2.8 million and EUR 882,614 have been disbursed by 30 June 2012.

Since the beginning of 2012 the speed of sub-project signings has increased. The consultants are in frequent discussion with Participating Banks and enterprises, assisting in preparation and processing of Investment Plans and their implementation. This has resulted in a total of 59 submitted sub-projects worth EUR 23.5 million (with an average sub-project size of about EUR 400,000).

(2) Direct Financing Facility

When it comes to the Direct Lending activities, the EBRD Shareholders Special Fund, the EBRD Western Balkans Fund and the Norwegian Government released EUR 4.5 million in the form of technical assistance (TA). Also, EUR 8 million¹⁰ was made available to provide incentive payments to end-borrowers upon successful project completion.

In 2010, the Western Balkans Sustainable Energy Direct Financing Facility ("WeBSEDFF") had a portfolio of 3 signed projects for EUR 8.7 million and in 2011, 5 more projects were signed for EUR 20.7 million.

In the first half of 2012, two more projects were signed for a total of EUR 11.4 million, bringing the portfolio to a total of 10 signed projects worth EUR 40.8 million: 5 in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 2 in Albania, 1 in Serbia, 1 in Bosnia and Herzegovina and 1 in Kosovo*. In addition, one more project was approved (but not signed yet) in Croatia for EUR 3.75 million, which will bring the overall total to EUR 44.51 million. As a result, WeBSEDFF came very close to committing fully its initial allocation of EUR 50 million. In order to ensure continuation of its activities, the EBRD provided an additional allocation of EUR 50 million, thus bringing the total amount available for investment to EUR 100 million.

Technical assistance exists for project preparation, project verification and support to policy dialogue reform. In 2010 seven Rational Energy Utilisation Plans (REUPs) were prepared and an additional five were prepared in 2011 bringing the total REUPs at the end of 2011 to 12. Two more REUPs were prepared in the first half of 2012, increasing the total since the beginning of the operations of WeBSEDFF to 14.

The consultant responsible for institutional capacity building undertakes individual, smaller assignment as requested by EBRD, covering issues such as renewable energy tariffs in Montenegro, supporting the Serbian Government in amending its energy law etc.

(3) Small Business Support

Within the SBS Programme, EGP has started 34 projects in the region, of which 11 have been completed, 5 have been closed early and 18 are under implementation. Out of these, 5

¹⁰ EUR 2 million from the EBRD Shareholders Special Fund, EUR 1 million from the EBRD-Western Balkans Fund and EUR 5 million from WB-PSSF.

projects were started and 3 projects were completed between January and June 2012. One project was closed early. BAS delivered 257 projects out of which 70 are currently on-going, 53 are evaluated, 114 have been completed and 13 have been cancelled. 18 projects have been implemented in Albania, 42 in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 83 in Croatia and 41 in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 23 in Montenegro and 31 in Serbia. Out of these, 65 projects started in between January and June 2012 (12 in Albania, 1 in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 12 in Croatia, 19 in Montenegro and 20 in Serbia). In addition, 5 Market Development Activities have been implanted of which 1 took place in the first half of 2012.

Out of the 53 BAS projects that have already been evaluated (one year after project completion), 77 per cent have been rated as successful or highly successful.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Under the CSF-SME and SEFF window activities will focus on the disbursement of the signed loans and financial incentives.
- It is anticipated that at least 30 sub-projects will be completed in 2012 resulting in improved environmental and health and safety standards.
- There is still a funding shortage of the grant for financial incentives thus negotiations with potential clients have been deferred. Once this issue has been resolved the aim is to fully commit the credit line.
- Under WeBSEDF, there are another 2-3 relatively advanced projects for about EUR 14.5 million, which could be signed by year end. Following the provision of another EUR 50 million the business development activities will be intensified with the intention to strengthen the existing pipeline and ensure sufficient number of projects for financing in 2013. During the second half of 2012 it is expected that 2-3 of the early projects will be completed. This will trigger the verification process, following which incentive payments will be distributed to the eligible borrowers.
- EGP projects are yet to be screened and started in 2012 in the following countries: Albania (3), Croatia (3), Montenegro (1 already screen and approved) and Serbia (1 already screened and approved).
- BAS plans to continue implementation of BAS projects in the region (8 projects have already been approved) as well as Market development activities.

Links and Contact

<http://www.sme-finance.mk/>

<http://www.cropssf.hr/>

<http://www.webpssf.com/> under development

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Project information

Support to the South East Europe Investment Committee, IPA 2011/022-507, EUR 0.8 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans
Type of Contract: Grant Contract with RCC
Duration of activities: 1/1/2012 to 31/12/2013

Purpose

To support regional cooperation in investment policy reform in South East Europe and promote an environment conducive to business and investment. This project is designed to provide the necessary resources to the RCC Secretariat to enable it to resume management

and coordination of the work of the South East Europe Investment Committee in accordance with the mandate received from the RCC Board.

Activities

The contract has commenced its implementation with the following activities:

- Hiring of project staff – Project Leader and Project Assistant Preparation and holding of the 10th Meeting of the SEEIC, which gathered member states and donor community representatives and re-affirmed the new mandate of the SEEIC, its reposition as the implementation vehicle for South East Europe 2020 Strategy, agreed on priority areas for determining the South East Europe 2020 targets, and reviewed possible actions in fostering regional value chains and planning joint investment promotion efforts.
- Development and adoption of a two-year rolling Work Plan of the SEEIC and Rules of Procedure at the 10th Meeting of the SEEIC. Direct missions to beneficiary countries to introduce the project team, re-establish country representatives where necessary (Country Economic Team Leaders), discuss the forthcoming procedures and activities on development on the SEE 2020 Strategy and other tasks stipulated by the Work Plan, and inform the EU delegation representatives in the beneficiary countries about the ongoing activities.
- Extensive consultations with the beneficiary countries' government administrations and experts on the development of the SEE 2020 Strategy within the 5 main pillars: integrated, smart, inclusive, sustainable growth, and governance for growth.
- Discussions with regional Investment Promotion Agencies on SEE joint investment promotion efforts.
- Formation of the SEE 2020 Task Force working group, jointly with beneficiary countries' government administrations, and preparation of the first meeting of the respective group.
- Establishing linkages with other regional initiatives, publications and private sector representatives related to the activities of the SEEIC, with the goal of identifying prospective opportunities for joint activities.
- Presenting activities of SEEIC at regional and international events and forums.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Preparation and holding of the 1st Meeting of the SEE 2020 Task Force in July 2012 and 2nd in September 2012 with the goal of formulating mutual regional headline targets of the SEE 2020 Strategy and the framework for quantifying national targets.
- Further extensive discussion with the member countries and other involved parties in formulation of role, objectives, and headline targets of the SEE 2020 vision.
- Preparation and holding of the 11th Meeting of the SEEIC (3 October 2012) in Sarajevo, with the main goal of approving headline targets of the SEE 2020 Strategy.
- Ministerial investment conference (9 November 2012) in Tirana, with the goal of endorsing the SEE 2020 Strategy by the Ministers of the SEE economies.
- Organising a working group on regional investment promotion.
- Organising a working group on fostering regional value chains (possible topics: logistics, removal of NTBs, definition of sectors of mutual regional interests, etc.).

Links and Contact

Link: <http://www.rcc.int/index.php>

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Competitiveness

Project information

Regional Competitiveness Initiative (RCI) - Crisis Response Package, IPA 2009/021-373, EUR 3.8 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Contribution Agreement with OECD CN2010/229-794

Duration of activities: 21/04/2010 to 21/04/2013

Purpose

The overall objective of the RCI is to strengthen the competitiveness of the economies in the Western Balkans in the medium to long term. To this end RCI's goal is to increase productivity and output by helping countries improve the development of human capital and boost innovation in manufacturing and services firms. The RCI focuses on policy responses and capacity building support to improve human capital development and innovation.

Activities

During the reporting period the following highlights and milestones were achieved:

- Pilot project in Albania: The OECD in co-operation with the Albanian Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Energy (METE) are implementing a business plan competition as part of the RCI pilot project in that beneficiary. The business plan competition was officially launched in Tirana on 27 April by METE and the OECD. The launch event was attended by over 70 participants and covered by all major Albanian media outlets. Participants included businesses, entrepreneurs, university students and other international organisations present in Albania. The first call for proposals closed on 16 June and 15 applications were received.
- Pilot project in Bosnia and Herzegovina: The OECD finished the Pilot Project during the reporting period. The final actions included wrapping up the three Triple Helix Partnerships: (i) organising a final presentation of the results of the market study and field trials of the Omega egg, which was launched on the market in June; (ii) completing a market study for the refining of field peas which showed that the focus should be on producing pea flower instead of functional foods; (iii) for the natural disinfection product, completion of a market study as well as laboratory tests which showed that the product had promising results and also relatively good market prospects on both poultry and pig farms. A final conference titled "InnoBiH" was organised in early May where stakeholders from academia, business and government were informed about the results of the project and future prospects which include continuing similar Triple Helix initiatives in the agri-food as well as other sectors. A national IPA project has been submitted to this effect by the Ministry of Civil Affairs, which now has the capacity of conducting such projects.
- Pilot project in Croatia: this project has two components: (i) support for the drafting of the National Innovation Strategy 2013-2020; and (ii) Review of the Innovation Policy. The project was officially launched in the presence of the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy Radimir Čačić and the Minister of Science, Education and Sports, Dr. Željko Jovanović. Three focus groups were held with innovative companies, research institutions and innovators in order to explore the strengths and weaknesses of the Croatian innovation system. A survey was performed on 300 companies and 50 research institutions to explore the innovation behaviour and main barriers to innovation.
- Pilot project in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: The OECD delivered the final draft of the Innovation Strategy to the Ministry of Economy in May 2012. To gather inputs for the Action Plan and discuss the draft Innovation Strategy, the OECD had organised a week of workshop meetings with members of the project team, steering committee and stakeholders in February 2012.

- Pilot project in Montenegro: The government of Montenegro is moving forward with implementation of the SME voucher scheme. A public call for SMEs to apply to the voucher scheme was opened on 18 June and will close on 16 July.
- Pilot project in Serbia: on 23 February the OECD presented the results of a comprehensive survey of the Serbian biomedicine sector to a focus group of over 30 participants in Belgrade. The focus group included representatives from the Serbian business and research community active in the biomedicine sector. The participants expressed their preferences on the specific services that should be offered under a competence technology centre. Both businesses and researchers agreed that a biomedicine competence centre would help improve the competitiveness and innovative capacity of that sector. A first draft of the Competence Technology Centre feasibility study was circulated to the Serbian project team in May 2012. The project team agreed that the study should be presented to ministers and senior officials once a government is in place. The Ministry of Economy and Regional Development indicated that the results from the feasibility study would contribute to another IPA project on innovation currently being implemented by the World Bank in Serbia.
- The OECD organised the second meeting of the RCI Working Group on Human Capital on 21-22 March at OECD headquarters. All beneficiaries were represented and participated in a workshop which focussed on transferring best practices in the design and implementation of skills gaps analysis. The workshop focussed on the use of a specific skills gap methodology piloted in Croatia in 2011. The second meeting of the RCI Working Group on Innovation was held in Paris on 21-22 June. Nearly all beneficiaries were represented. The Innovation Working Group: i) exchanged lessons learned in the implementation of RCI pilot projects; ii) discussed the results of OECD analysis on value chains in the Western Balkans and preliminary findings of a new OECD survey on high growth SMEs in the region; and iii) examined potential headline targets as part of the South East Europe 2020 Vision.
- Pilot project in Kosovo*: the project was launched on 2 March by the OECD and the Ministries of Education, Science and Technology, Trade and Industry and Economic Development in Pristina. The project will focus on the development of an innovation strategy for Kosovo*. During May and June the OECD conducted two surveys in Kosovo*: a company survey assessing innovation drivers and barriers as well as a questionnaire identifying innovation activities and linkages of universities and research institutes. Over 150 businesses participated in the survey. On 4 July the OECD organised a focus group to discuss the results of the business survey. Over 20 participants from the business community and various government ministries and agencies attended and engaged in discussion.

Activities and events planned for next semester

During the next reporting period key actions will include:

- Applications will be screened for the Albania business plan competition. The final competition will take place in early November in Tirana. Awards for the top three business plans will be awarded at that time.
- A fact finding mission in Croatia to deepen the understanding of the Croatian innovation system in July, followed by an Innovation Forum in September to discuss the first Strategy Guidelines. These Guidelines will then be developed into a draft Strategy by the end of 2012.
- The Innovation Strategy of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will be presented to the Government Committee for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, which will discuss its adoption and the implementation.
- The first applications for the Montenegro voucher scheme will be received on 16 July. The vouchers will be distributed during the next reporting period.

- The competence technology centre feasibility report will be presented to senior officials of the new Serbian government in autumn 2012.
- An innovation roundtable will be organised at the end of September in Pristina as part of the Kosovo* innovation strategy project. The draft Innovation Strategy and Action Plan will be presented during an Innovation Forum in late November or early December.
- The next RCI Working Group on Human Capital will be organised in October 2012 and the RCI Steering Committee will meet at the end of November 2012.

Links and Contact

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Project information

Regional Entrepreneurial Learning Centre, IPA 2009/021-373, EUR 1.7 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans and Turkey

Type of contract: Grant Contract with South East European Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning (SEECEL) CN2009/225-746

Duration of activities: 01/10/2009 – 01/10/2012 (request for no-cost extension of 7 months submitted)

Purpose

The overall objective of this project is to create the foundations for a more developed entrepreneurship culture across the region and foster alignment with the EU in the field of entrepreneurial learning. The specific objective of the project is to contribute to the implementation of the Small Business Act for Europe using the experience and the instruments developed in the application of the European Charter for Small Enterprises, in particular the elements of entrepreneurship and education and improved skills for enterprises in South East European countries.

Activities

- During the reporting period SEECEL organised Results Oriented Monitoring (ROM) meetings as follows: Kosovo* – 17 January, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – 18 January, Serbia – 24 January, Albania – 2 February, Turkey – 6 and 8 February and Montenegro – 25 March in order to monitor the progress of strategic piloting implementation and to agree on future necessary steps. These meeting resulted with monitoring reports on the implementation of strategic piloting and provided quality assurance of task outputs. During each ROM meeting, SEECEL has provided its expertise and guidance to foster capacity of representatives of pilot institutions in usage of learning package and EU funded projects.
- The network of 32 schools was established, including 256 teachers and 800 students, as well as network of 16 faculties, including 64 professors and 320 students.
- In cooperation with SEECEL Steering Committee members and with provided SEECEL expertise, during the reporting period, pilot institutions (7 per country, 56 institutions in total) submitted agreed task outputs as follows:
 - ISCED 2 level: interim reports, over 100 lesson plans in English and over 60 in mother tongue, annual school programmes, around 500 pre-questionnaires and around 500 post-questionnaires (directly supported by SEECEL which has developed an unique database of ISCED 2 pre and post questionnaires and was guiding pilot institutions on a daily basis), reports on teacher trainings (800 hours of advanced training) and individual teacher development plans, over 800 photos of different school events, activities and celebration of EU SME week, school web sites, CDs, DVDs, videos, school articles as well as articles for SEECEL web site in cooperation with SEECEL staff.

- ISCED 5/6 level: interim reports, annual HEI plans, four EL modules, over 150 pre-questionnaires and around 100 post-questionnaires (directly supported by SEECEL which has developed an unique database of ISCED 5/6 pre and post questionnaires and was guiding pilot institutions on a daily basis), photos of different HEI events, activities and celebration of EU SME week, CDs, DVDs, videos, HEI articles as well as articles for SEECEL web site in cooperation with SEECEL staff.
- TNA: eight TNA reports from regional business associations and around 2300 questionnaires delivered. The total number of 7200 SMEs was involved in regional TNA. As nominated pilot institutions have conducted TNA regional survey, but have delivered data with a delay of four months, the work of STE contracted to analyse and review the data and to deliver a final report was also delayed. Currently, the Final Report is being developed with the main goal to identify skilling, training and education needs of the employees in the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in SEE countries.
- CoP participation: throughout the pilot phase, pilot institutions accessed the CoP over 11,472 times, commented 1723 times in over 200 topics and posted over 1600 documents and pictures related to the piloting process and promotion of entrepreneurship on national levels.
- Between March and May 2012, SEECEL launched an independent external evaluation of the implemented activities at SEE level with the purpose to come up with recommendations relevant for future activities of the centre and next programming period 2013-2016. The evaluation was conducted by an independent international expert team and it consisted of interviews and meetings with SEECEL Steering Committee members, members of SEECEL working groups, DANET institutions, pilot institutions and other relevant stakeholders. Evaluation report was finalised in May and approved in June 2012.
- In April 2012, SEECEL organised its 6th Steering Committee meeting and presented the progress of the technical assistance team in preparing the feasibility study for the future SEECEL building.
- In May SEECEL submitted a request for contract addendum related to no-cost extension of the current contract for seven months, as well as modified budget breakdown with proposed reallocations. SEECEL is still waiting for the official signed addendum to the contract by the European Commission. Moreover, SEECEL has prepared, disseminated for consultations and submitted the Project Fiche for the programming period 2013+.

During the reporting period SEECEL organised and participated in various events.

- Together with ETF, SEECEL participated in teacher training in Palestine, January 2012.
- Invited by the Serbian Ministry of Education and Science, and Serbian Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, SEECEL participated at the second meeting of the Council of the Partnership for Entrepreneurial Learning in Belgrade, February 2012.
- As a part of strategic planning of the next SEECEL programming period, SEECEL organised meetings with relevant DGs in Brussels, between February and March 2012.
- As a member of a working group Entrepreneurial Learning within the Priority Area 8 (Competitiveness of enterprises including cluster development) of the EU Danube Region Strategy, SEECEL took part in the first Danube Financing Dialogue in Vienna, March 2012 and was also participating at the 3rd meeting of the Danube Strategy in Split, April 2012.
- In cooperation with the COWI-IPF technical assistance team, SEECEL also took part in the kick-off meeting of the WBIF project in Zagreb, March 2012 as well as the first Project Committee meeting in Zagreb, April 2012. During the reporting period, SEECEL held several meetings and was in communication on a daily basis with both the COWI-IPF technical assistance team and the Croatian Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Crafts to coordinate activities and necessary actions for the infrastructure project, with special

emphasis on development and finalisation of the Feasibility Study (FS) for future SEECEL building. The FS was finalised and sent to EBRD for approval in June 2012.

- SEECEL was invited to present a Project Fiche for programming period 2013+ at the NIPAC meeting held in Sarajevo and took part in IPA MB Programme Coordination Meeting held in Brussels, April 2012.
- By participating at the Danish EU Presidency conference "VET-business partnerships promoting new skills, innovation and growth for the future", organised by the Danish Ministry of Children and Education SEECEL presented the regional instrument for teacher training, in Copenhagen on 24 and 25 April 2012.
- SEECEL was also invited to present its developed teacher training modules for entrepreneurship as a key competence at the Enabling Teachers for Entrepreneurship Education workshop implemented by the European Commission in Dublin, May 2012.
- In June 2012, SEECEL received the Knowledge Economy Network international Best Practise Award for "original and successful practise in any domain of knowledge society and economy development" and especially for "good practice in successful regional cooperation in training and education", held in Maribor, Slovenia.
- SEECEL was invited to present within the Small Business Days 2012 on the topic of women entrepreneurs, June 2012, Kosovo*.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- SEECEL will continue to monitor and support strategic pilot institutions and in the next period final task outputs and concrete results are expected to be delivered.
- Final publications for ISCED 2 and ISCED 5/6 will be drafted and developed in autumn months (September/October). In addition, preparation for final publication of TNA analysis will take place during autumn months (September/October).
- In the upcoming period, based on the official amendment to the current contract to extend the implementation for 7 months, SEECEL will implement the remaining activities according to the new timeline and approved budget modification.
- The analysis of ISCED 2 and ISCED 5/6 pre and post questionnaires will take place and additional STE will be engaged.
- SEECEL will organise a high level ministerial conference on regional strategy that will be co-hosted by the Croatian Ministry of Entrepreneurship.
- During the upcoming period, SEECEL will also continue to work on complementary activities under SIDA-funded project (participating/organizing different meetings and/or events together with representatives of Embassy of Sweden, Regional Cooperation Council, Gender Task Force and other relevant stakeholders), and under WBIF programme as well. Where possible, SEECEL will disseminate acquired regional experience and knowledge to interested partners, countries and regions.
- SEECEL will continue to prepare all necessary documentation and will organise meetings with relevant stakeholders concerning the second stage of financing under IPA.

Links and Contact

Link: www.seecel.hr

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Project information

Implementation and Follow Up of the Small Business Act (SBA), IPA 2010/022-028, EUR 0.3 million

Beneficiary: Western Balkans and Turkey
Type of contract: Contribution Agreement with OECD, CN n/a (implemented by DG Enterprise)
Duration of activities: April 2011- October 2012

Activities

- The OECD organised an SBA Regional Meeting with partner organisations (EC, ETF, and EBRD) to present aggregated scores and to discuss scores and country performances with the National SBA Coordinators at a regional level (7-9 February 2012, Trento). Further analysis and evaluation were conducted in those areas where discrepancies remained.
- Partner organisations aggregated the final score for each country with the opportunity for countries to comment on the scoring (February–April 2012).
- The OECD and partner organisations reviewed the final scores and drafted the SME Policy Index 2012. The draft report was reviewed by partner organisations (April-June 2012).
- Overall, the SME Policy Index 2012 shows that economies have converged closer to EU SME policy practices and standards over the last three years. The Western Balkan economies have recorded moderate progress in several areas, including the institutional framework for SME policy, regulatory reform and administrative simplification, company registration, entrepreneurial learning and business start-up processes as well as the legal and regulatory framework for access to finance. Marked progress was achieved in skills development and export promotion. On the other hand, the average performance of Western Balkan economies on the provision of SME support services slightly deteriorated.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- The report will be reviewed by beneficiary economies (July).
- The SME Policy Index 2012 will be published on 23-24 October in Zagreb, Croatia. In addition, a workshop will be organised by the OECD to discuss the implementation of the priority measures of the Western Balkan governments.

Links and Contact

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Trade

Project information

Support to the CEFTA Secretariat (Central European Free Trade Agreement) 2011 – 2014, IPA 2011/022-964, EUR 682 500

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans (and Moldova)
Type of contract: Contribution Agreement with CEFTA Secretariat, CN 2011/271-151
Duration of activities: 15/09/2011 to 15/09/2014

Purpose

The project purpose is to support the implementation of CEFTA. Parties who are signatories to CEFTA enjoy the benefits of a regional free trade area, whose system of rules facilitate intra-regional trade relations.

Activities

- Various meetings and events were organised by the Chairmen of the CEFTA Structures. The Secretariat provided the Structures with technical advice and guidelines,

logistical and organisational support and prepared official documents and background materials for the meetings;

- The members of the CEFTA Working Group on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) at their 4th meeting in Malmo (1 February) identified the common priority product groups to be covered by the next assessment cycle of the Multilateral Monitoring Framework on elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs). The dynamics of adoption of the European and International standards, status of signing of European Accreditation Multi-lateral Agreements (EA MLA) in priority areas as well as coordination activities with the market surveillance bodies were reported.
- The 3rd CEFTA Secretariat Steering Committee meeting (23 February) gathered the CEFTA Parties and major donors, including the EC, to discuss the implementation of the work programme of the CEFTA Secretariat and achievements in implementation of the CEFTA Agreement. The Secretariat was praised for the last year achievements in supporting the CEFTA structures, organizing the tailor made technical assistance and coordination with the donors.
- For the purpose of the next assessment cycle under the Multilateral Monitoring Framework the common five priority sectors were identified and nine products selected. The members of the Subcommittee on TBT and NTBs at their fifth meeting (26 -27 April) approved the launching of the identified final products assessment based on which they will recommend to the Joint Committee the concrete actions to eliminate the NTBs.
- The 3-year Strategic Work Programme of the Subcommittee on Agriculture and Sanitary and phyto-sanitary (SPS) was adopted at its fifth meeting held on 29-30 May. The preliminary assessment of the implementation of the Additional Protocol and Annex 10 has been presented by the members. The Parties exchanged the updated information on harmonization process as well as on concluded bilateral mutual agreements. The project on the SPS Database was announced with the major objective to enhance the transparency and improve the exchange of data in the SPS area.
- The current market openness in the services sector was reviewed by the members of the Working Group on Trade in Services at their meeting held on 30 March. In order to overcome the lack of systematic information on barriers to trade and help identify which services sectors and which policy measures restrict trade the most, the Parties committed to work together with the OECD in creating the Regulatory Database based on the STRI methodology. The implementation of the services knowledge platform in cooperation with the World Bank will be also supporting the forthcoming negotiations. The one year Action Plan on creating conditions for opening the negotiations had been adopted.
- The establishment of a formal working group of CEFTA risk analysis experts was agreed at the Subcommittee on Customs and Rules of Origin meeting held on 18 May. The objective of this group is to propose modes of further cooperation in the field of risk management. At the workshop held on 27–28 June the CEFTA Origin Network discussed the developments in Pan-Euro Med Convention and the revision exercise of its origin protocol and list rules under the light of the reformed EU General System of Preferences Rules of Origin.
- At the annual deputy ministers meeting held in Tirana (21 June) under the chairmanship of Albania, the CEFTA delegates reported the achievements of the Agreement implementation and undertook preparatory activities for the 6th Joint Committee meeting to be held in November.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- The main objective of the Subcommittee on Customs and Rules of Origin and the Strategic Administrative Cooperation Meeting (26-27 September) will be discussion on customs related policy issues having direct impact on the facilitation of regional trade in the

presence of high level management of the Customs Authorities of the CEFTA Parties and identification of the areas of the joint actions at the regional level.

- The Working Group on TBT will hold its second session this year with the objective to prepare the inputs on elimination of the technical barriers to trade for the next meeting of the Subcommittee on NTBs and TBT to take place in late October.
- The sixth Subcommittee on NTBs and TBT is scheduled for late October. The main objective of the meeting is the preparation of the recommendations on the elimination of the NTBs to be endorsed by the Joint Committee. The recommendations will be based on the preliminary results of the second assessment of the NTBs to be performed by the CEFTA Parties and the OECD outsourced assistance.
- The fourth meeting of the WG on Trade in Services scheduled for late October will focus on preparing the recommendation to the Joint Committee to endorse the launching of the negotiations on liberalisation of trade in services.
- The 6th Joint Committee meeting at the ministerial level will take place on 8 November in Tirana under the chairmanship of Albania. The CEFTA high official delegates will gather to discuss the stock of one year Agreement implementation, endorse Ministerial decisions and recommendations and approve the priorities of the next Chair in Office. The meeting will be preceded by the two day CEFTA Week 2012, an event that will engage a broader circle of government officials, academia, business people and foreign investors to promote and advance the cooperation in the region.

Links and Contact

Links: CEFTA Secretariat: www.cefta.int and CEFTA Trade Portal: www.ceftatradeportal.com

Contact: Bo Caperman, Bo.CAPERMAN@ec.europa.eu

Project information

Trade, Development of Synergies between Trade and Investment within the Framework of the Regional Free Trade Agreement for South East Europe

IPA 2007/019-321, EUR 0.13 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans (and Moldova)

Type of contract: Service contract with OECD, CN2010/246-023

Duration of activities: 16/07/2010 -16/07/2012

Purpose

The purpose is to support the monitoring and implementation of the CEFTA Agreement and activities of the South East European Investment Committee through the provision of technical inputs.

Activities

During reporting period following highlights and milestones were achieved:

- The OECD completed the analysis on industry concentration and on supply chains in CEFTA 2006 and produced two working papers. The first analysis provides an overview of industry concentration and country specialisation in the CEFTA 2006 economies, indicating that while several capitals and regions tend to concentrate manufacturing activity, overall low, medium-low and medium-high technology industries are distributed rather evenly across the region. The second analysis uses data on trade in intermediate goods to describe supply chains in CEFTA 2006. Results indicate that CEFTA economies are mainly integrated at the final stage of low technology supply chains and at intermediate stages of medium-low technology supply chains.

- The OECD organised a regional technical workshop in Tirana on June 19-20 to present its findings and to discuss with the CEFTA 2006 contact points the issues of trade and investment in the region, as well as the competitiveness of the economies. The workshop gathered representatives of the CEFTA 2006 economies, international organisations (EC, World Bank and OECD) and academics from the region who addressed the future of the Agreement in the context of European integration.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- The OECD will finalise and publish the two working papers in its series of CEFTA Issues publications.

Links and Contact

Contact: Bo Caperman, Bo.CAPERMAN@ec.europa.eu

Project information

Monitoring the Elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers (NTB) in CEFTA 2006, IPA 2009/021-373, EUR 0.20 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans (and Moldova).

Type of contract: Contribution Agreement with OECD, CN2010/259-667

Duration of activities: 23/12/2010 – 30/11/2012

Purpose

The overall objective of the project is to assist the CEFTA 2006 Parties eliminate NTBs. This will be ensured by independent monitoring of the elimination of NTBs. The assessment will cover all areas of NTBs covered by the CEFTA agreement, namely: (i) Technical barriers to trade (TBT) (ii) Sanitary and phyto-sanitary (SPS) measures; (iii) Administrative barriers to trade and issues of trade facilitation.

Activities

The indicators of the Multilateral Monitoring framework (MMF) have been revised based on the experience of the 1st assessment cycle and endorsed by the CEFTA Parties in February 2012.

The draft copy of the report on the “Elimination of NTBs in CEFTA 2006” has been prepared and distributed to CEFTA Parties for their comments at the CEFTA Sub-committee meeting on NTBs and TBTs, held in Zagreb on 26-27 April 2012. Subsequently, the OECD proceeded with the finalisation of the CEFTA NTBs report.

The final report on NTB elimination in CEFTA 2006 has been presented to the Parties at the CEFTA Meeting organised in Tirana on 19-20 June 2012. The report provides policy guidance and recommendations to CEFTA Parties for coordinated actions in the elimination of different categories of NTBs. It identifies specific activities to help improve national quality infrastructure systems and to adjust CEFTA Parties’ technical legislation, SPS measures and customs procedures to meet EU requirements. The results of the NTBs assessment could be also used by the Parties as a basis for further negotiations in the area of NTBs.

A statistical analysis on CEFTA trade in final goods has been conducted by OECD for the purpose of the 2nd assessment cycle. Given the complexity and large number of EU standards associated to one product, the outcome of the analysis focused on maximum 8 products. The selection of the final products has been approved by CEFTA Parties.

Activities and events planned for next semester

The final report on NTB elimination in CEFTA 2006 will be published on the OECD website.

Links and Contact

Contact: Bo Caperman, Bo.CAPERMAN@ec.europa.eu

Project information

Quality Infrastructure in the Western Balkans and Turkey, IPA 2011/022-964, EUR 2.5 million (with EUR 0.125 million contribution from EFTA)

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans and Turkey
Type of contract: Service contract
Contractor: Comité Européen de Normalisation (CEN), 2011/270-456
Duration of activities: 16/08/2011 - 15/02/2014

Purpose

Through regional networking initiatives and training, to improve the capabilities of ministries, quality infrastructure bodies and other institutions which are implementing strategies to comply with Chapter 1 of the EU *acquis* (free movement of goods), enabling them to offer industry services to provide the tools to trade in the EU market, as well as in the markets of the beneficiaries;

Through regional proficiency testing schemes, improve confidence in products tested in beneficiary countries' laboratories, whose performance will be benchmarked with each other and with EU counterparts;

Contribute to the removal of technical barriers to trade between beneficiaries and the EU; and through the CEFTA Working Group on TBT, contribute to the removal of those barriers between beneficiaries.

Activities

The following activities were undertaken in this reporting period:

- The 2nd and 3rd meeting of the project steering committee ("Co-operation Committee" CC) were held in Malmö (January) and Istanbul (May);
- A close working relationship with the Commission, EFTA and with the structures of CEFTA (see IPA 2011/022-964 above) was maintained, with the proposed short-term involvement of the Project Director and Team Leader in the monitoring of TBT in the Western Balkans to be done by OECD (see IPA 2009/021-373 above);
- The results of the new simplified assessment methodology were validated by DG Enterprise and Industry and delivered to the CC in the form of *Progress Report Summaries* (PRS) in the six main fields covered by the project. The reports will be continuously updated and maintained throughout the life of the project.
- Three hands-on training (HOTs) courses were delivered in Copenhagen (February on Notification Procedures), in Brussels (April on Cooperation between Customs and Market Surveillance Authorities), and in Ljubljana (April on Reporting Guidelines for the Field of Metrology). An invitation to tender was launched in June for the delivery of 8 further courses.
- Two networking activities were delivered in Istanbul (May on Ethical Behaviour in Conformity Assessment) and Aranđelovac, Serbia (May on accreditation issues). One meeting of the CEFTA Working Group on TBT was held in February in Malmö. The project maintained its strong links with GIZ and PTB, both delivering technical assistance in the Western Balkans in related fields.
- The proficiency testing (PT) tender was evaluated and contract awarded to the University of Ljubljana. More than 70 laboratories were selected for participation in the PT activity in 11 different schemes. Pre-PT training was delivered in Ljubljana in June for the participating laboratories, together with the national accreditation bodies and national metrology institutes.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- 4th meeting of CC will take place in Tivat, Montenegro on 18 September with second set of PRS delivered.
- Meeting of CEFTA Working Group on TBT will take place in Tivat, Montenegro on 19 September.
- Project will participate in international quality conference ICQME 2012 in Montenegro in September.
- Project will participate in 5th meeting of the EURAMET – WELMEC “Focus Group on Facilitating National Metrology Infrastructure Development” in Belgrade in September.
- Project will participate in *CEFTA Week* in Tirana in November.
- HOTs will be delivered in at least four different topics, following evaluation of tenders.
- Networking activity will be held on Ethical Behaviour in Conformity Assessment to follow up on May workshop in Istanbul).
- The PT component will be in full implementation mode with testing and calibration activities in more than 70 laboratories throughout the Western Balkans and Turkey.

Links and Contact

Link: www.cen.eu

Contact: Bo Caperman, Bo.CAPERMAN@ec.europa.eu

Project information

Reducing Regulatory and Administrative Constraints Related to Trade Logistics and Harmonizing Cross-Border Clearance Systems and Services in the Western Balkans

IPA 2011/022-964, EURO 1.5 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Administration Agreement IPA 2011/276-335

Contractor: International Finance Corporation (IFC)

Duration of activities: 21/11/2011 to 20/06/2014

Purpose

The Western Balkans Regional Trade Logistics Project aims to improve the competitiveness of companies in the Western Balkans by reducing the time and costs associated with cross-border clearance procedures, such that firms can get their goods to market faster and at more competitive prices. The project works with private and public sector stakeholders to streamline and simplify export, import and transit procedures; promotes more harmonized practices among border control agencies, and a wider use of risk based controls, and electronic processing and payment systems.

Activities

The following activities were undertaken in this reporting period:

- The project undertook a fact finding mission in February/March 2012. A team of global, regional, and local specialists met with private sector and public sector stakeholders (producers, exporters, importers, freight forwarders, courier services, customs agencies, veterinary, phyto-sanitary, health, and market inspection services; Ministries of Economy, Trade, Finance, and others) in six countries to learn about major procedural obstacles to cross border trade in the region. An aide memoire reflecting these findings and initial recommendations was drafted in the following months and was disseminated to major public and private sector interlocutors.
- In close cooperation with the CEFTA Secretariat, the project conducted an in-depth analysis of the cross-border flow of processed agricultural goods, documentation,

fees, checks, and time required for major trading routes in the region. Preliminary findings as well as recommendations were presented to CEFTA subcommittees in May 2012. The team will present a final report in September.

- Further information about procedural obstacles to export/import and transit of agricultural products was conducted among 40 producers and traders at the region's largest agricultural trade fair in Novi Sad, Serbia, in May 2012. The team will present the final report in August.
- Also in May 2012, the project conducted a regional fact finding mission focusing on cargo clearance procedures in major regional airports and inland water way ports, and developed a number of recommendations. In the upcoming period, the project will discuss these recommendations with private and public sector stakeholders, and work on implementation.
- In June 2012, the project drafted a proposal for an agreement between the Customs Services of Kosovo* and Albania to conduct joint customs inspections at the Port of Durres in Albania, which is a major trading port for the region, and Kosovo* in particular. This draft was the direct result of consultations with the two countries' customs services and the recognition that there is strong interest in customs cooperation at this important border point.
- Also in June, the project organised a workshop on electronic payments between Albanian customs and major Albanian commercial banks in order to identify a method to speed up the reflection of payments made electronically by traders in the Customs' services' payment system.
- Agreements were signed with the Serbian Ministry of Agriculture, Trade, Forestry and Environment (Memorandum of Understanding), and the Chamber of Commerce of Montenegro (Cooperation Agreement).

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Completion of Supply Chain Mapping of Agricultural Products and Presentation to CEFTA Subcommittee on Customs and Rules of Origin in September (Supply Chain Mapping Phase II);
- Supply chain analysis of an additional product category, in coordination with OECD and CEFTA;
- Further analysis on air and Danube cargo procedures; development of recommendations; organization of one roundtable;
- Review of risk management systems used by border agencies, development recommendations for customs agencies and border inspection services;
- Outreach to the business community regarding the World Bank 'Doing Business Trading Across Borders' survey and its constituent components (at least 3 round tables);
- Development of recommendations on harmonization of operations of technical border control agencies;
- Review of, and recommendation for, improvements of electronic processing systems of customs documents and electronic payment systems for cross-border related fees;
- Advisory to the Customs and Food and Veterinary Services of Kosovo* and Albania on how to conduct joint controls in the Port of Durres;
- Signing of additional cooperation agreements with beneficiary governments and private sector associations.

Links and Contact

Contact: Bo Caperman, Bo.CAPERMAN@ec.europa.eu

Micro and Macro Prudential Supervision

Project information

Micro and macro prudential supervision in Western Balkans and Turkey, IPA 2009/021-373, EUR 2.65 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans and Turkey
Type of contract: Joint Management, CN2010/229-833
Contractor: European Central Bank
Duration of activities: 18/01/2010-18/01/2012

Purpose

The purpose of this contribution of the European Union to the European Central Bank (ECB) was to organise and supervise, with the help of a Steering Committee, a programme enhancing financial management and stability in the region. The programme provided support to central banks and supervisory institutions of the Western Balkans and Turkey, in order to enhance their macro and micro-prudential supervisory functions. The programme was implemented in partnership with 14 National Central Banks (NCBs) of the Euro Area.

Activities

The programme was structured in three components: (1) group trainings and seminars; (2) implementation of "quick win" actions identified by the Financial Sector Assessment Programs, and (3) the "simulation exercise" conducted by the World Bank. A stocktaking of the results of the entire project took place upon the project completion. The findings were presented at the last Project Steering Committee held in Frankfurt on 16 January 2012.

The Steering Committee was held back-to-back with the official high-level Closing Event to discuss "Challenges for macro and micro-prudential policies in EU candidates and potential candidates" attended by Governors, Deputy Governors or Heads of the Banking Supervision and Financial Stability Departments of the beneficiary institutions of the programme, as well as representatives of the Eurosystem central banks. The participants discussed further development of micro and macro-prudential policies and practices, financial stability issues and financial crisis management and resolution.

The completion of the programme is an important step towards strengthening prudential supervision in the region and contributes to the stability of the banking systems as an important element of sustainable economic growth.

The regional approach chosen for this program has proved to be a valuable tool in tackling challenges with a regional dimension and for promoting networking among experts in the region and with euro area institutions. Several challenges faced by the countries of the region, such as an efficient and effective home and host cooperation or the implementation of sound crisis management and resolution frameworks, have an inherent cross-border character and require cooperative effort on regional level. In addition, regional platforms can be effective multipliers for the consistent application of EU rules and procedures in the area of macro and micro-prudential supervision and regulation.

Limitations of such an approach might be seen in different levels of development across EU candidates and potential candidates with regard to the implementation of the EU *acquis* as well as in heterogeneous country groups. However, such concerns have been largely overcome by a comprehensive mix of methods and measures applied in this programme. The project partners had also established excellent working relations and expressed interest in continued cooperation, be it in a bilateral or multilateral form, after the formal completion of the programme. The ECB, as well as DG Enlargement, will build on the results of the programme when considering possible further support.

Links and Contact

Contact: Inga Stefanowicz, Inga.STEFANOWICZ@ec.europa.eu

Sector Environment and Climate Change

Assistance in this sector focuses on strengthening regional cooperation mainly through the Regional Environmental Network for Accession (RENA) in strategic planning for environmental policy and investments, alignment with the EU *acquis* and the development of capacities in the area of disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change.

Environmental Protection

Project information

Direct grant to the Sava Commission, IPA 2008/020-320, 0.3 million

Beneficiary region: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia
Type of contract: Direct grant
Contractor: International Sava River Basin Commission
Duration of the contract: November 2009 – August 2012

Purpose

Coordination for the development of the Sava River Basin Management Plan (SRBMP)

Activities

- Coordination of SRBMP development (incl. 3 meetings with beneficiaries)
- Development of SAVA GIS

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Preparation and publication of the final SRBMP
- Further development of Sava GIS

Links and Contact

Link: <http://www.savacommission.org/srbmp>

Contact: Kjartan Bjornsson, Kjartan.BJORNSSON@ec.europa.eu

Project information

Regional Environmental Network for Accession (RENA), IPA 2009/021-178, EUR 5.2 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans and Turkey
Type of contract: Service contract
Contractor: Hulla & Co. Human Dynamics KG
Duration of the contract: March 2010– March 2013

Purpose

The project aims at enhancing regional cooperation in the Western Balkans and Turkey in the field of environment. The project also provides the services of Secretariat to RENA.

Activities

The 4th Steering Committee Meeting took place in April 2012 (Albania).

The activities carried out under the 4 Working Groups were:

Working Group 1 – Strategic Planning and Investments

- Regional Workshop "Protection of Environment through Criminal Law" (May 2012, Budva)

- Regional workshop: Planning of environmental investment and prioritisation of environmental investment projects and project preparation (combined with the second Annual Meeting) (January 2012, Tirana)
- Regional meeting "Prioritization of environmental investment projects and project preparation" and Regional Workshop "Role of national and international financing sources in environmental financing and development of programmes of measures in accordance to the Water Framework Directive (21 – 23 May 2012, Skopje)
- 6 introductory meetings combined with national trainings on Progress Monitoring (PM) methodology (February - March 2012, various locations in the Western Balkans)
- Preparation of the draft Progress Monitoring Reports 2011 (June 2012)
- Compliance Checks for Kosovo* (air quality), Croatia (nature protection and waste management), Albania (air quality and waste management) (January - June 2012)

Working Group 2 – Climate Change

- 5 Regional Climate Change Action Platform (ReCAP) seminars and national EU Emission Trading Schemes (ETS) awareness events (February - June 2012, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey, Albania, Montenegro)
- GHG emission inventories – regional workshop to include the results of the GHG inventory pilot exercise (June 2012, Zagreb)

Working Group 3 – Cross-border cooperation and Multilateral Environmental Agreements

- Module 4 – Regional Workshop - Conducting nature impact assessments (May 2012, Shara Mountain, Kosovo*)
- 4th regional workshop - Coordination of criteria for good water status and modelling of environmental impact of human activities on water bodies (February - March 2012, Shkodra Lake)
- 5th regional workshop - Development of the Programme of Measures, joint training with Investment Planning sub-group training (May 2012, Podgorica)
- Regional workshop - EIA/SEA differences and common features (Apr 2012, Mostar)

Working Group 4 – ECENA

- 5th national training workshop on selected subjects Cluster I for Serbia, with common inspections (Cluster II), (March 2012, Belgrade)
- 6th national training workshop on selected subjects Cluster I for former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, with common inspections (Cluster II), (April 2012, Skopje)
- Regional Workshop on the Emission Trading Scheme (EU-ETS) (May 2012, Zagreb)
- Regional Workshop on the Trans-frontier Shipment of waste (EU TFS) no. 1 (harbour inspection) (April 2012, Istanbul)
- Regional Workshop on EU TFS no. 2 (road inspection) (June 2012, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

Activities and events planned for next semester

- RENA Ministerial Meeting (September 2012, Brussels)
- 5th Steering Committee Meeting (October 2012, Skopje)

Working Group 1 – Strategic Planning and Investments

- Final update of Implementation Handbook (December)
- Regional Workshop on Development of Environmental Financing Plans (November)
- Final Progress Monitoring Reports 2011

Working Group 2 – Climate Change

- 2 Regional Climate Change Action Platform (ReCAP) and national EU Emission Trading Schemes (ETS) awareness raising events (September 2012, Kosovo* and November 2012, Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- 4th regional workshop on GHG inventory reporting (September 2012, Zagreb)

Working Group 3 – Cross-border cooperation and Multilateral Environmental Agreements

- Module 5 - Regional Workshop - Developing sound nature cross-border projects (October 2012, Tara Mountain, Serbia)
- Regional Workshop – Water Framework Directive (WFD) derogations, public participation and stakeholder involvement (November 2012)
- 3rd Regional Workshop on INSPIRE (September 2012, Budva)
- Regional Workshop – EIA cross-border procedures, including consultation and interpretation of cross-border impact (November 2012)

Working Group 4 – ECENA

- 7th national training workshop on selected subjects Cluster I for Montenegro, with common inspections (Cluster II) (September 2012, Podgorica)
- 8th national training workshop on selected subjects Cluster I for Croatia, with common inspections (Cluster II) (October 2012, Croatia)
- Regional Workshop no 1 on Inspection and enforcement in cross-border nature protection areas (October - November 2012, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)
- Regional Workshop 2 on inspection and enforcement in cross-border nature protection areas (November - December 2012, Skadar Lake, Albania)

Links and Contact

Link: www.renanetwork.org

Contact: Kjartan Bjornsson, Kjartan.BJORNSSON@ec.europa.eu

Disaster Risk Reduction

Project information

Civil Protection Cooperation for the candidate countries and potential candidates, IPA 2009/021-178, EUR 3.8 million (3 lots – training, exercises, workshops))

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans and Turkey

Type of contract: Service contract (Lot 1)

Contractor: Hulla & Co. Human Dynamics KG

Duration of activities: 01/12/2010 – 30/11/2012

Type of contract: Service contract (Lot 2)

Contractor: Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief

Duration of activities: 01/12/2010 – 30/11/2012

Type of contract: Service contract (Lot 3)

Contractor: Hulla & Co. Human Dynamics KG

Duration of activities: 01/12/2010 – 30/11/2012

Purpose

The project aims at increasing the IPA Beneficiaries' capability of working with the Community Civil Protection Mechanism and to contribute to the development of their civil protection capacities through training, workshops and exchange of experts.

Activities (concerning all contracts)

- 2nd Steering Committee Meeting for all 3 lots (2-3 February 2012, Brussels)

Lot 1: Design, prepare, conduct and evaluate a training programme with exchanges of experts' component

- 4 Basic Training Courses (BAT) (January, March, May, and June 2012, Montenegro)
- 1 Operational Management Training Course (OMT) (April, Montenegro)
- Exchanges of experts (max 5-6 participants per exchange):
 - Establishment of 112 and other emergency numbers (March 2012, Croatia)
 - First responders in combination with chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) protection of first responders and civil protection forces (March 2012, Austria)
 - Structure and task of national civil protection training centres, 26 - 30 March 2012; Germany
 - Important steps to the Mechanism, experiences and lessons learnt (April 2012, Croatia)
 - Host Nation Support (May 2012, the Netherlands)
 - Fire and rescue system within cities (May 2012, Hamburg)
 - Preventing and fighting forest and wild fires (May - June 2012, Portugal)
 - Organising mechanism training courses (14 - 22 June 2012, Austria)

Lot 2: Design, prepare, conduct and evaluate two regional exercises, and arrange the participation of 8 beneficiaries' teams in the Mechanism exercises

- 2nd Table-top exercise (February 2012, Croatia)
- Exercise planning meeting (March 2012, Croatia)
- Participation of observers in the EU "Richter" field exercise (May 2012, France)

Lot 3: Prepare, organise and evaluate 12 workshops on the key identified topics

- 2 Workshops on Lessons Learnt systems and culture (June 2012, Croatia)
- Survey and interviews with the beneficiary countries on Host Nation Support; first draft on the Host Nation Support study on the Western Balkan countries (June 2012)

Activities and events planned for next semester

- 3rd Steering Committee meeting (November 2012)
- 2 Basic Training Courses (BAT) (September 2012, Montenegro)
- 2 Operational Management Training Courses (OMT) (November - December 2012, Montenegro)
- 1 Advanced Training (October 2012, Montenegro)
- Exchange of experts (max. 5-6 participants per exchange):

Volunteer organisation within civil protection (August 2012, Germany)

Preparatory Action and other EU programmes (September 2012, Sweden)

CBRN protection of first responders and civil protection forces (October 2012, Austria)

Organising mechanism training courses (September 2012, Denmark)

Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC) of the European Commission

National Flood Response

Lessons learnt meetings after the IPA CRO-Floods field exercise (June-July 2012, Montenegro)

2 Workshops on Host Nation Support (October 2012)

Workshops on 112 and Early Warning Systems

Links and Contact

Link: www.ipacivilprotection.eu

Contact: Kjartan Bjornsson, Kjartan.BJORNSSON@ec.europa.eu

Project information

Building resilience to disasters in Western Balkans and Turkey, IPA 2011/022-964, EUR 2.2 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans and Turkey

Type of contract: Contribution Agreement, CN2012/290-552

Contractor: United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)

Duration of activities: May 2012-May 2014

Purpose

Its overall objective is to reduce vulnerability of IPA beneficiary countries to disasters caused by the impact of natural hazards in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and increase their resilience to climate change.

More specifically, the project aims at:

- enhancing the regional cooperation and capacity in addressing disaster risk reduction in the context of existing risks posed by typical natural hazards related to meteorological and hydrological hazards, as well as, new risks posed by a changing climate, with focus on building/enhancing regional networking and coordination in the area of disaster risk reduction,
- strengthening the cross-border cooperation in the area of disaster risk management, and
- enhancing the regional capacity to supply/share/exchange data/information in the area of disaster risk reduction.

Activities

Tasks coordinated by the UNISDR:

- DRR capacity building,
- DRR knowledge management,
- Disaster Risk Transfer capacities (insurance for disasters) and
- Community based DRR;

Tasks coordinated by the WMO:

- risk assessments,
- meteorological forecast capacities,
- climate risk management and
- early warning systems.

Activities and events planned for next semester

Kick-off meeting (30 August, Zagreb)

Links and Contact

Link: www.ipacivilprotection.eu

Contact: Kjartan Björnsson, Kjartan.Bjornsson@ec.europa.eu

Food safety, Veterinary and Phyto-sanitary Policy

Project information

Support for the control and eradication of animal diseases, IPA 2008/020-319, EUR 1.0 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans
Type of contract: Service contract, CN n/a
Contractor: consortium led by OPERA Società Cooperativa
Duration of activities: July 2011 – July 2013

Purpose

The project aims to control and eradicate animal diseases in the Western Balkans, in particular those that continue to be a threat to EU Member States. It also aims to improve regional and cross-border cooperation in the Western Balkans and to ensure that the control and eradication of important animal diseases is harmonised and coordinated at regional level.

Activities

- First country meetings for national stakeholders in all 7 beneficiaries (February – April 2012)
- Workshop on cross-border epidemiology (March 2012, Zagreb)
- Regional laboratory network – draft report & plan (March 2012)
- Disease preparedness & simulation exercise (guidelines – March 2012, Exercise 1- Bosnia and Herzegovina (May 2012) and Exercise 2- the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (June 2012))

Workshop on wild boar surveillance (April 2012, Montenegro)

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Disease preparedness & simulation exercise (Exercise 3 – Kosovo* (September 2012))
- Second series of country meetings/events in each of the 7 beneficiaries (July – October 2012)
- 2nd regional workshop (September 2012, Belgrade)
- 2nd round of country visits (rabies and CSF) to each of the 7 beneficiaries

Links and Contact

Link: <http://www.ipawb-csf-rabies.eu/joomla/>

Contact: Kjartan Björnsson, Kjartan.BJORNSSON@ec.europa.eu

Sector Support to Civil Society

The overall objective of this support is to strengthen civil society organisations and their role in the political as well as European integration process of the IPA beneficiaries. This should result in an improved dialogue on legislation and policies between governments and civil society as well as the strengthening of social partnerships underpinning reforms. This support is mainly being delivered through the Civil Society Facility (CSF) and will ultimately result in a more civil society friendly environment, a consolidation of the democratic process and good governance. Media freedom and freedom of expression are also to be seen as important in this context.

Civil Society Facility

Civil society plays a fundamental role in bringing about the acceptance of EU values in the countries of the Western Balkans and in Turkey and their implementation.

The CSF is a single facility for the benefit of the whole of the Western Balkan region and Turkey. It is financed and implemented separately under both the multi-beneficiary IPA programme and the various national IPA programmes.

The CSF consists of three areas of activity ("strands") which aim to strengthen Western Balkan and Turkish civil society's commitment and involvement vis-à-vis their eventual integration into the EU:

- (1) Support for local civic initiatives and capacity-building thereby enforcing the role of civil society at national level;
- (2) A "People 2 People" (P2P) programme to bring journalists, young politicians, trades union leaders, teachers etc into contact with EU institutions;
- (3) Partnership Actions to build partnerships and develop networks between CSOs, businesses, trade unions and other beneficiary social partners and their counterparts in the EU to promote transfers of knowledge and experience.

Project information (1 of 4)

Civil Society Facility - Technical Assistance to Civil Society Organisations (TACSO)

IPA 2010 (Decision 2010/022-028), EUR 6.71 million (TACSO 2)

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans and Turkey
Type of contract: Service contract CN264-045
Contractor: SIPU International AB
Duration of activities: 17/08/2011 – 16/08/2013 (TACSO 2)

Purpose

This project comes under the first strand mentioned above. The objective TACSO is to give support to beneficiary Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) by increasing their capacity, improving their democratic role and by promoting networks of CSOs across regional borders.

TACSO's activities include:

- Identification of priority needs of the civil society sector in the region;
- Design and delivery of training programmes on five main topics (five manuals produced and being translated into the local languages; available on www.tacso.org)
- Design and delivery of Training of Trainers (TOT) activities as well as mentoring and coaching CSOs
- Support to networking and partnership making on both the national and regional level

- Facilitation of dialogue and cooperation between the governments and the CSO environment, including study tours
- Support to contact and cooperation between the CSO environment and the media
- Increasing activities for rural area organisations
- Development of communication tools, e.g. Web site and database
- Advice to individual CSOs on an *ad hoc* basis
- Evaluation of the impact of donor-funded actions
- Publication and dissemination of project results
- Advice on further actions (Calls for Proposals) and support to the implementation of grants

Activities

- Regional research on perceptions of CSOs and media relations
- Web broadcast of information session for Call for Proposals EuropeAid/132438/Multi “Partnership programmes”
- Implementation of the International Conference on Social Entrepreneurship in Istanbul in February/March in cooperation with the British Council and TÜSEV
- TACSO consultative meeting in Romania with consortium partner, Partners Foundation for Local Development in March
- TACSO communication meeting in March in Istanbul
- TACSO administrative and financial meeting in May in Opatija, Croatia
- Identification of further support to regional CSO networks; establishment of a platform, call for proposals on capacity development and support to EU call on CSO Partnership framework
- Assistance to the Commission with the IPA 2011 Call for Proposals “Partnership Programmes” (see Project information (3 of 4) below)
- Assistance to Commission on kick-off meeting for the “Empowerment of Women” Call
- Participation in the conference “Partnership event for change: Civil Society and Governments in the Western Balkans and Turkey”, March, in Belgrade
- Study visit and exchange of lessons learned for CSOs to consortium partner (FSLD) in Warsaw.
- Increasing monitoring and guidance activities to EU-rewarded projects (Support to EUCLID on PRAG guidelines)
- Assistance to P2P programme
- Publication of number of reports (e.g. Commentary of the law on non-government organisations – Montenegro; Donors’ information manual – Turkey)
- Number of study visits and exchanges between TACSO National Offices (Croatia, Turkey, Kosovo*)

Activities planned for next semester

- TACSO 2 submission of inception report including national and regional work plans
- TACSO 2 submission of first Interim report
- Several conferences with focus on institutional mechanisms for cooperation between governmental and CSOs institutions

- Preparation of participation in ECAS Conference “*For Europe of the Western Balkans*” to take place in September
- Conference “*Keeping up the momentum*”, identifying the next steps for improving civil society cooperation with public institutions in the WBT, November
- Study trip and exchange of information to Bucharest, in October (*tbc*)
- Working on initiative to make “Practical Guide to Contract Procedures for EU External Actions” (PRAG) more CSO friendly

Links and Contact

Links:

Web site: <http://tacso.org/>

Database: <http://tacso.org/cso-db-res/reg/>

Forum: <http://forum.tacso.org/>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/TACSO2>

LinkedIn: http://www.linkedin.com/company/tacso?trk=fc_badge

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/tascotube#p/u>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/#!/TACSO1>

Contact: Henk Visser, Henk.VISSER@ec.europa.eu,

Project information (2 of 4)

Civil Society Facility: IPA 2009 (Decision 2009/021-373), EUR 10.0 million

Civil Society Facility: IPA 2010 (Decision 2010/022-028), EUR 12.0 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans and Turkey

Types of contract: Service contract (1); grants (43)

Duration of activities: Maximum of 24 months

Purpose

The three strands mentioned above are all included: (1) see TACSO above; (2) see 2.2 below; (3) partnership actions via Calls for Proposals: see 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 2.3.1 below.

Activities

1. IPA 2009 Civil Society Facility

The three calls for proposals for partnership actions summarised below came into operation in early 2011 and will continue until the end of 2012.

1.1 Socio-economic partners, EUR 5.0 million

Twelve (12) grant contracts to develop strong regional partnerships between CSOs concerned with socio-economic issues both from within the region itself and with their EU counterparts and public authorities as well as to enhance the transparency and the accountability of CSOs. At the end of this reporting period, all projects were about half way through their implementation. All interim reports were received and approved. Three projects were also visited by the Commission’s Result Oriented Monitors (ROM) who gave positive assessments. For more information consult the Google website: <http://sites.google.com/site/129637>

1.2 Minorities and vulnerable group organisations, EUR 2.5 million

Ten (10) grant contracts to improve cooperation between CSOs and public authorities with special emphasis on the implementation of compatible measures for the better integration of minorities and vulnerable groups. All projects submitted their interim reports which in turn

were approved by the Commission. Following verification, further advance payments will be released allowing them to continue their work. For additional information please consult: <http://sites.google.com/site/129897>

1.3 Cultural organisations, EUR 2.5 million

Ten (10) grant contracts to improve public access to all types of culture and to enhance European identity based on common values (e.g. translation of essays and literary works). All interim progress reports have been approved by the EC. See Google website: <http://sites.google.com/site/ipa129799> for more information.

2. IPA 2010 Civil Society Facility

Activities focus on the following:

2.1 Technical Assistance (EUR 6.7m)

Continuation of project financed from IPA 2008: see Project information (1 of 4) above.

2.2 “People 2 People” Programme, EUR 1.785 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans
Type of contract: Service contracts, CN 262-606; 279-411
Contractor: GTZ; IBF International
Duration of activities: 01/04/2011 - 31/07/2014

The "People 2 People" Programme is being implemented through the provision of TAIEX-type technical assistance. Participants are identified after consultation with EC Delegations, the missions of countries concerned, other Commission Services and other European and international organisations. The contract with GTZ finished in June. The new contract continues until July 2014 with IBF International as contractor.

2.3 Partnership Actions, IPA 2010, EUR 3.3 million

2.3.1 Empowerment of women, EUR 1.85 million

Development of networks and CSO partnerships to promote gender equality: eleven (11) contracts were awarded at the end of 2011.

A kick-off conference involving all the projects took place 10 February in Zagreb where the projects were briefed about EU rules and procedures on grant management were invited to use the Google website and calendar and had the opportunity to learn about the other projects. For more information on activities, see: <http://sites.google.com/site/ipa131114/>

2.3.2 Children’s rights, EUR 1.65 million

This action aims to address measures for strengthening child protection systems and services to adequately monitor and respond to the incidents of violence against children in different social settings. The interim report has been submitted.

During the first year of implementation (from July 2011) the project helped improve the implementation of state policies on the response to “Violence Against Children” (VAC) through the introduction of various protocols, instruments and strategies on prevention, identification and referral of VAC incidents. The project has also established strategic partnerships and/or platforms bringing together NGO networks, Ombudsman offices and other relevant actors.

Activities during reporting period and events planned for next semester

- Empowerment of women: kick-off conference: 10 February in Zagreb.
- Continued implementation and monitoring of the 43 partnership actions (see 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 2.3.1 above).
- Further implementation of the work programme presented in the inception phase, including among other research activities and stakeholder workshops.

- Regarding the two Calls for Proposals from 2008 (now completed)¹¹, the Commission will invite up to two participants per project to a three-day event in September at the IMPACT Centre in Zadar (Croatia) organised by the European Citizens' Action Service (ECAS) and the Commission in order to take stock of the progress made and to plan the next steps.
- UNICEF: during the second year of implementation, the project will continue to address three key areas: (1) capacity- and (2) knowledge-building, and (3) policy dialogue between civil society and governments on effective policies and programmes to address VAC correctly. These key will be structured around the main findings/recommendations of the regional assessment on the system's responsiveness to violence against children.

Project information (3 of 4)

Civil Society Facility: IPA 2011 (Decision 2011/022-965), EUR 10.0 million

Civil Society Facility: IPA 2012 (Decision 2012/023-324), EUR 8.5 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans and Turkey
 Type of contract: Mainly grants
 Duration of activities: Maximum of 48 months per grant

Purpose

The multi-beneficiary and national CSF activities have now been brought under a single Financing Decision by the introduction of a three-year strategy for CSF programming in order to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, coherence and ultimately the achievement of sustainable results in support to civil society. This will allow for a more effective use of the Commission's political and financial instruments to bring about a civil society-friendly environment with a stronger impact on EU accession reforms. The implementation of the strategy will contribute towards the achievement of the objectives for EU support to the Civil Society sector. See also Project Information (2 of 4) above.

Partnership Programmes for CSOs, EUR 10.2 million (IPA 2011)

Long-term programme support to 10-15 thematic networks of CSOs organised at regional level. Outputs will include tools put into practice on advocacy, awareness-raising and constituency building. The Partnership Programmes will be implemented through a Call for Proposals for Framework Partnership Agreements (FPA) to last up to 48 months but subject to review after 24 months.

This Call for Proposals has been combined with the MB IPA 2011 programme "Strengthening European Integration - Partnership Programme for CSOs" for the design of CSO strategies (EUR 1 million). The total of the Call for Proposals is therefore EUR 11.20 million.

Action grants for media, EUR 0.5 million (IPA 2011) + EUR 1.0 million (IPA 2012)

Support to strengthen 'Media and Freedom of Expression' including capacity building for journalists. It will be implemented through:

- Contribution agreement under joint management with UNESCO for the project 'Alignment to international Standards in the Media Sector' with an indicative budget of EUR 500,000 (IPA 2011)
- Prizes for investigative journalism with an indicative budget of EUR 165,000 (IPA 2012).

¹¹ "Environment, energy efficiency, health and safety at work", EUR 3.79 million (15 grants), and "Minorities and vulnerable group organisations", EUR 2.5 million (10 grants). See previous Activity Reports.

- Calls for Proposals or direct awards: EUR 835,000 (IPA 2012) The final decision on the implementation method and schedule will be made following a mapping of actors in Q2-Q3 2012 which is being carried out through a service contract financed from ATA funds.

Strengthening civil society contribution to EU integration, EUR 0.3 million (IPA 2011)

Support to CSOs to address regional priorities identified in the European Commission's Regular Reports and Communications on the Enlargement Strategy for 2011 and 2012. It will be implemented by means of a direct award to Comunità di Sant Egidio for an amount of up to EUR 300,000 for the project "Living together in the Balkans 2012".

"People 2 People" Programme, EUR 1.0 million (IPA 2012)

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans
 Type of contract: Service contract (for logistics)
 Contractor: IBF

Continuation of programme financed from IPA 2008 and IPA 2010 (see 3.2 above). From mid-2013, planning, implementation and logistics it will be brought under the Technical Assistance contract mentioned below to ensure greater synergies between the two programmes.

Technical Assistance, EUR 6.5 million (IPA 2012)

Technical Assistance will be implemented through:

- A service contract for the continuation of TACSO 1 and 2: see Project information (1) above.
- Support for the development of a results framework for the CSF as a whole to assist learning and accountability as well as a mid-term review of individual Partnership Programmes for CSOs.

Activities

- Launch of Call for Proposals for Framework Partnership Agreements (FPA) in January.
- Amendment to Decisions of 2011 and 2012 to add budget and activities for 2013 approved by Member States, June.
- Negotiations with Comunità di Sant Egidio (CSE)
- Negotiations with UNESCO

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Adoption of Amendment to Decisions of 2011 and 2012 to add budget and activities for 2013.
- Completion of evaluation of the Call for Proposals for Partnership Programmes for CSOs and signature of contracts (deadline 30 November).
- Kick-off event for Partnership programmes for CSOs (November or December);
- Drafting of Terms of Reference and selection of framework contract for the development of a results framework for the CSF and mid-term review of the Partnership Programmes for CSOs;
- Completion of the media landscape mapping study.
- Media: launch of contest for prizes (IPA 2011)
- Preparation of restricted tender for Technical Assistance ('TACSO 3') at the end of the year (IPA 2012)

- Preparation and signature of grant to CSE after submission to EC of the standard documents including registration in PADOR
- CSE: inter-religious conference due in October, Sarajevo
- Preparation and signature of grant to UNESCO.

Project information (4 of 4)

Strengthening European Integration (SEI), IPA 2011 (part of Decision 2011/022-964), IPA 2012 (part of Decision 2011/022-966),

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans and Turkey

Type of contract: Grants

Duration of activities: 12 to 24 months

Purpose

See Project Information (2 of 4) above for CSF in general. The SEI component exists to ensure that EU requirements are fulfilled and that progress in the Stabilisation and Association Process continues satisfactorily. Some SEI funds are dedicated to CSF activities, as follows:

1. The sum of EUR 1 million from the SEI budget has been combined with the “Partnership Programmes for CSOs” (IPA 2011, EUR 10 million): see Project Information (3 of 4) above.
2. The SEI budget is also being used for “unspecified institutional building needs”. These include CSF advisory assistance as follows:

2.1 “Citizens’ property rights and status” (CN 272-039)

Contractor Centre for Regionalism (“Igman Initiative”)

- Implementation period: 12 months (01/10/2011 – 30/09/2012)
- Project budget: EUR 159,310
- EC contribution: EUR 143,379 (90%).

The “Igman Initiative” focuses on *citizens’ property rights*. When Yugoslavia disintegrated, many thousands lost their employment rights, pensions, disability pensions, property and other inherited rights. Since the end of the war there has been a lack of responsiveness and accountability of national institutions to address these issues. The project is establishing a regional expert group to review the current state of affairs, the legal situation and priorities to be made.

2.2 “Regional reporting on transitional justice issues” (CN 275-110)

- Contractor: BIRN Hub
- Implementation period: 24 months (01/11/2011 – 31/10/2013)
- Project budget: EUR 615,457
- EC contribution: EUR 465,457 (76%)
- Swiss co-financing: EUR 150,000

BIRN plays a unique role in the field of transitional justice by maintaining a balanced, impartial, fact-based reporting on war crimes, their causes and consequences. The project builds upon the experiences and lessons learned from Bosnia and Herzegovina on TV Justice and Justice Radio production leading to an expansion elsewhere in the region. The project sets out to build the capacity of a regional network of reporters from the Balkan region specialising in transitional justice reporting. BIRN regularly produces articles, features and analysis, including six TV pieces and a film on transitional justice issues as seen through the lens of six young journalists.

2.3 “Western Balkans and Turkey media and freedom of expression fact-finding and scoping study” (CN 288-659: framework contract)

- Contractor: Particip GmbH
- Implementation period: 110 man-days
- Project amount: EUR 175,418

The object of the contract is to provide DG Enlargement and its partners with an analytical and evidence-based overview guiding the design and implementation of a strategic, effective and feasible multi-beneficiary media and freedom of expression portfolio within the IPA region. The results will be of some importance to project 2.5 below.

2.4 “Strengthening and supporting the RECOM process” (CN 292-650)

- Contractor: Humanitarian Law Centre, Belgrade (HLCB)
- Implementation period: 24 months
- Project budget: EUR 509,337
- EC contribution: EUR 458,403 (90%).

The project aims to establish the Regional Committee for Truth and Reconciliation (RECOM). The idea is to move away from a process that is entirely led by civil society to one led by the states themselves. The RECOM coalition has driven the process so far (adoption of the draft statute for the states eventually to adopt, signature campaign, etc.) but it is now up to officials to take it to the next level.

2.5 “Enabling the democratic role of public service media in the EU Enlargement region”

- Contractor: European Broadcasting Union (EBU)
- Implementation period: 24 months
- Project budget: EUR 500,000.

The project will facilitate reform to enable the beneficiaries in the Western Balkans and Turkey to establish public service media that comply with proper standards of independence, effectiveness, accountability and sustainability.

Activities

- Igman Initiative paper “*White Paper on citizens’ property and status issues*” was published and disseminated in March, with résumé and recommendations translated into English. This was followed up with visibility and advocacy events.
- BIRN: completion in February of intensive training and on-the job training of six transitional justice reporters after which the production of new pieces and features in different formats (newspapers, web, radio and TV) were implemented in accordance with agreed expected outputs.
- Fact-finding and scoping study: evaluation of framework contract offers, June
- RECOM: contract signature in June.
- EBU: preparation of Partnership Agreement and contract with EC

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Igman Initiative: public activities based on findings of White Paper
- BIRN: regular production of articles on transitional justice issues
- Fact-finding and scoping study: signature of contract and kick-off meeting: September
- RECOM: international conference on transitional justice: Sarajevo, October

- EBU: preparation/clearance and signature of Partnership Agreement with EC and signature of grant contract: July/August

Links and Contacts

Links:

www.ebu.ch

www.birn.eu.com

www.igman-initiative.org

www.hlc-rdc.org

www.unicef.be

Contacts: Henk Visser, Henk.VISSER@ec.europa.eu,
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Sector Social Development

The MB MIPD 2011 – 2013 identifies as one of the priorities for IPA assistance to continue to foster reforms and regional cooperation in education. Support is mainly provided through established programmes such as “Erasmus Mundus” and “Tempus” programmes. Education in general and history teaching in particular are key in developing a stable, peaceful and democratic society and together with MB assistance in the area of cultural heritage can promote regional cooperation, thus fostering reconciliation and mutual understanding.

Tempus

Project information

Tempus, IPA 2007/019-333, EUR 19.655 million

Tempus, IPA 2008/020-358, EUR 19.7 million

Tempus, IPA 2009/SI2.533395, EUR 15.55 million

Tempus, IPA 2010/SI2.556384, EUR 13.8 million

The programmes are implemented by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans (except Croatia)

Purpose

The purpose of the Tempus programme is to facilitate the reform of higher education institutions by upgrading the quality and management of academic institutions, in line with changing political, social and economic needs and through voluntary convergence with higher education reform developments in the EU Member States.

Beneficiary Institutions are higher education institutions, associations/ organisations/ networks of higher education institutions, rector/ teacher/ student organisations, ministries and governmental organisations and other organisations dedicated to higher education. Tempus grant agreements are also concluded with National Tempus Offices (NTOs) in each partner country, which disseminate information on the programme and carry out project monitoring activities

Activities

- The selection for the fifth call for proposals (EACEA 25/2011, deadline 23 February 2012) was finalised and a total of 108 new projects were approved. These included 24 projects targeting the Western Balkans (including 20 Joint Projects and 4 Structural Measures; 11 of them are national projects, 13 multi-country projects; 12 of them are coordinated by WB universities). The grant agreements will be sent out during the summer and the projects will start on 15 October.
- Field monitoring activities of ongoing Tempus projects were carried out by the National Tempus Offices and EACEA staff. It can be concluded from these visits that projects in the Western Balkans are progressing well and achieving good results.
- In addition, a summary report with the main conclusions and findings from the field monitoring campaign 2011 was prepared and disseminated to the Commission services, EU Delegations and the NTOs/NCPs network. The report underlines the importance of field monitoring by giving concrete examples of the impact that field visits have on the quality of project implementation. The report also confirms that the ongoing Tempus IV projects are on track with regard to their relevance, efficiency,

effectiveness, impact and sustainability.

- The Agency organised a networking meeting of National Contact Points (NTOs) in the Member States and National Tempus Offices in the Partner Countries (NCPs) on 21-22 June in Brussels. During the meeting, the Agency briefed participants on recent developments in the Tempus Programme. Feedback from NTOs and NCPs on the meeting was highly positive and participants valued the opportunity for input and discussion on the various items, notably as regards the future Erasmus for All Programme.
- The mid-term evaluation of the Tempus IV programme started on 18 January with a kick-off meeting. Field visits took place in April/May and covered all Tempus regions, including Albania and Serbia for the Western Balkan region. The next phase of the evaluation consists of a questionnaire survey addressed to NTOs/NCPs and to all Tempus IV project participants. The questionnaire will be sent out in July and the final report is expected to be submitted in autumn.
- The conclusions (AR, FR, RU versions) of the 4 Regional Seminars on University Governance which took place in 2010 and 2011 were published and disseminated during spring 2012.
- An update of the 2010 publication on the "State of Play of the Bologna Process in the Tempus partner countries" was finalised. The data collection was organised with the support of the National Tempus Offices (NTOs) and Eurydice. The report was published in time for the Bologna Ministerial Conference and Policy Forum, which took place in Bucharest on 26-27 April. A mapping study was published including a two page summary per country on the implementation of the various Bologna action lines.
- The Tempus study "Human Resource Management in Public Higher Education in the Tempus Partner Countries" was published in June 2012. A series of regional seminars will be organised to discuss the results with stakeholders in the partner countries. The first seminar took place on 14-15 June in Sarajevo, for the region of the Western Balkans. The seminar was attended by around 60 participants from the region, including academic and administrative staff from universities as well as ministry officials and staff from higher education agencies. The feedback from the participants was very positive and showed that the topic is highly relevant for higher education institutions in the region.
- NTOs were requested to update the descriptions of national higher education systems (so called "country fiches"). The finalisation of the exercise is foreseen for summer 2012.
- Two seminars targeted at the HEREs (including WB representatives) were organised within the framework of the service contract signed with the UNICA network:
 - Study visit on "Diversification of Funding, Autonomy and Strategic Planning" (Vienna, 23-24 April 2012)
 - International conference "Putting Bucharest's Conclusions on Track" (Vilnius, 4-6 June 2012) for EU Bologna experts and HEREs (jointly organised with DG EAC).These activities were highly appreciated by the participants

Activities and events planned for next semester

- The projects selected under the 5th Call will start their activities on 15 October 2012

and will receive their first pre-financing payments in October 2012

- The 6th Tempus call for proposals will be published in October 2012. The publication of the call will be followed by an information campaign in the participating countries, including the Western Balkans. Promotion material will be disseminated on this occasion.
- A meeting of the coordinators of projects selected under the 5th Call for Proposals will be organised in Brussels in November / December 2012. The purpose of the event is to inform the grant holders and their partners about technical and financial procedures in Tempus. It will be followed by a meeting of National Tempus Offices and National Contact Points.
- The final report of the interim evaluation of Tempus IV is expected to be submitted in autumn.
- The country fiches will be finalised during summer and publication will follow in autumn 2012.
- The following events will be organised for the benefit of the Tempus HEREs (including those from the WB):
 - Higher Education Reform Expert's Seminar on 'Research-Based Education at BA, MA and PhD Level' (9-10 July, 2012) in Yerevan (Armenia).
 - Study visit on 'University-Business Cooperation (2-3 October, 2012), Brussels.
 - International conference on the Bologna process (5-7 November, 2012), Budapest (Hungary)

Links and Contact

Link: <http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/tempus>

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Erasmus Mundus

Project information

Erasmus Mundus, IPA 2007/019-333, EUR 10.0 million

Erasmus Mundus, IPA 2008/020-370, EUR 14.0 million

**Erasmus Mundus, IPA 2009/021-373,
Action 1 EUR 8.0 million and Action 2 EUR 12.0 million**

**Erasmus Mundus, IPA 2010/022-028,
Action 1 EUR 8.0 million and Action 2 EUR 12.0 million**

Beneficiary region: Erasmus Mundus Action 1: Western Balkans and Turkey;

Erasmus Mundus Action 2: Western Balkans (except Croatia)

** The programmes are implemented by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).

Purpose

The purpose of the Erasmus Mundus programme is to enable the exchange of academic staff and students at all levels thereby enhancing their knowledge and skills. Beneficiary Institutions are higher education institutions and – with associate status - associations/ organisations/ networks of higher education institutions, rector/ teacher or student

organisations, ministries and governmental organisations, other organisations dedicated to higher education.

Activities

A new selection of students and doctoral candidates was made under Erasmus Mundus Action 1 in April.

- For Masters students this included a special Window for the Western Balkans and Turkey. The number of Masters students from WB countries selected was: Albania 13, Bosnia and Herzegovina 7, Croatia 18, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 13, Kosovo* 3, Montenegro 6, and Serbia 42.
- These scholarships were awarded (a) from the overall general list funded by Education budget, (b) as part of an extra Window for the Western Balkans and Turkey, funded by the Enlargement budget which provided additional scholarships for nationals of these countries. A further number of students who are or have been resident in the EU have been awarded Category B scholarships usually awarded to EU nationals.

Country	Main	WB & Turkey Window	Category B	Total
Albania	4	6	3	13
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	4	2	7
Croatia	4	13	1	18
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	4	9	0	13
Kosovo*	0	2	1	3
Montenegro	1	4	1	6
Serbia	9	32	1	42

- The number of doctoral candidates selected from WB countries was: Albania 4, Bosnia and Herzegovina 2, Croatia 4, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 2, Montenegro 2, and Serbia 10.

Country	Main	WB & Turkey Window	Category B	Total
Albania	0	3	1	4
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	1	0	2
Croatia	1	3	0	4
The former Yugoslav Republic of	0	2	0	2

Macedonia				
Kosovo*	0	0	0	0
Montenegro	1	1	0	2
Serbia	2	8	0	10

Under Erasmus Mundus Action 2, the main 2012 Call for Proposals EACEA 42/11 set a budget of EUR 12 million to select three partnerships for the Western Balkans, which together would manage mobility for at least 510 individuals. Results are to be issued by mid-July. The general findings on the impact of the project implementation on students and universities from the regions could be summarised as:

- Contribution to capacity development of Western Balkan Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) via trainings/workshops on management of international mobility (Short-term trainings carried out at EU partners HEIs for administrative staff members from Western Balkans),
- Strengthening regional cooperation (South-South) very important for the region (existing network of International Relations Offices (IRO) in the region),
- Development of new teaching and research methods, curriculum, joint projects has been identified as main objective of the academic staff exchanges and further developments are being identified,
- Cooperation strengthened between EU and Western Balkans HEIs and increase of knowledge about the region at EU staff and students level,
- As one of the results of the workshops on ECTS and recognition of studies in 2011, further adaptation and improvement of internal procedures on recognition, promotion activities and organisation of mobility at Western Balkans HEIs are reported,
- Grant holders value the intercultural experience, become more open-minded, independent and outgoing. According to their feedback, the programme has been professionally enriching: learning about other educational systems, picking up new languages, acquiring ICT skills, doing a work placement and acquiring knowledge in their fields of specialization.
- Projects focusing on one thematic field seem to have better impact; however they had difficulties in reaching number of mobility flows foreseen in the Call.

Activities and events planned for next semester

The partnerships selected under the 2011 Call for Proposals EACEA/41/10 have recently organised their Selection Committee meetings and the selected students will have started the mobility till December 2012. The table below gives an overview of the planned mobility under those partnerships:

Country	Under-Grad.	Master	Doc.	Post-Grad.	Staff	Total per country
Albania	46	18	7	5	8	84
Bosnia and Herzegovina	82	31	14	7	14	148
Croatia	-	-	-	-	-	-

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	41	18	9	4	7	79
Kosovo*	13	6	2	1	2	24
Montenegro	26	11	4	2	4	47
Serbia	94	26	14	10	15	159
Total per type of mobility	302	110	50	29	50	541

- The partnerships under selection process within the 2012 Call for Proposals EACEA/41/10 are expected to organise the Kick-off meetings in September-October 2012.
- A new Call for Proposals for the 2013 selection of joint programmes, partnerships and projects under all three Actions of the programme will be launched in November/December 2012 with a deadline of 30 April 2013.

Links and Contact

Links: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus
http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/results_compendia/selected_projects_action_2_en.php

Contact: Kjartan Bjornsson Kjartan.BJORNSSON@ec.europa.eu

Youth in Action

Project information

Youth in Action, IPA 2007/019-333, EUR 1.0 million

Youth in Action, IPA 2008/020-370, EUR 1.5 million

Youth in Action, IPA 2009/021-373, EUR 1.5 million

Youth in Action, IPA 2010/022-028, EUR 1.5 million

Youth in Action, IPA 2011/, EUR 1.5 million

Youth in Action, IPA 2012/, EUR 3 million

Purpose

The purpose of this programme is to promote the sector of non-formal education and youth in the region by supporting exchanges of young people and those active in youth work and youth organisations as well as initiatives that reinforce young people's mutual understanding, sense of solidarity and tolerance.

Activities

- The 2012 Youth in Action Programme guide, which has the status of a permanent call for proposals, was published in December 2011 with implementation as of 1st January 2012. No changes have been introduced which will impact upon the implementation of the Youth Balkan Window or potential beneficiaries from the Western Balkan countries Window.
- The repartition of the projects selected was as follows: 27 projects presented by Serbian promoters, 19 projects presented by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia promoters, 11 projects presented by Bosnia and Herzegovina promoters,

6 projects submitted by Albanian promoters, 1 project presented by a Montenegrin promoter, and 2 projects presented by Kosovo* promoters. In terms of thematic repartition, 2 projects were granted under the Action 2 of the Programme (European Voluntary Service) and under the Action 3.1 of the Programme (Cooperation with neighbouring partner countries) 45 Training and Networking, and 19 Youth Exchange, projects were selected.

- The deadline for submission of applications for the second selection round in 2012 was 01/06/2012. The following table summarises the situation with regard to applications from Western Balkan countries.

ACTION	Number of Applications	Total Grant Requested
2 EVS	10	272,833.00 €
3.1 Training + Networking	112	2,070,256.40 €
3.1 Youth Exchange	57	973,532.90 €
TOTAL	179	3,316,622.30 €

Activities and events planned for next semester

2012 Round 3 - Deadline for applications on 1st of September, for projects starting from 1st of March 2013.

Links and Contact

Link: <http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth>
http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/results_compendia/documents/compendium_2011_round_1.pdf

Contact: Kjartan Bjornsson, Kjartan.BJORNSSON@ec.europa.eu

Cultural Heritage - Ljubljana Process, History

Support to cultural heritage in the Western Balkans is financed both from the IPA and on the initiative of the European Parliament from the EU budget.

The EU budget has financed two "pilot schemes" (from the 2008 and 2009 budgets) and three "preparatory actions" (from the 2010, 2011 and 2012 budgets). With these funds, the Commission is helping to rehabilitate cultural heritage sites affected by war-related actions, foster inter-cultural dialogue, reconciliation and return, and to raise the awareness of cultural diversity in the Western Balkans among the population and eventually support human and/or local economic development.

Three such projects financed by the EU budget and eight from IPA national programmes are currently being *managed by EU Delegations* in the Western Balkans.

Actions *managed centrally* with funds from the IPA and the EU budget ("Phare") are as follows:

Project information (1/6)

RCC "Regional Task Force for Culture and Society" (TFCS), IPA 2010/022-057, EUR 1.1 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Grant contract, CN 2011/261-565
Contractor: RCC, responsible for Task Force for Culture and Society (TFCS)
Duration of activities: 01/01/2011 - 30/04/2014

Purpose

The purpose of the project is to set up a regionally-owned transitional management mechanism to ensure the smooth continuation of the "Ljubljana Process" and to contribute to the strengthening of regional capacities in the field of restoration and rehabilitation of cultural heritage in the Western Balkans. Matters such as the following are being contemplated:

- Establishment of a new operational framework to continue the "Ljubljana Process"
- Awareness-raising of the importance of culture and its values for society
- Strengthening of cooperation between Beneficiaries
- Development of partnerships to secure funding and to sustain the long-term implementation of the "Ljubljana Process"
- Monitoring of progress of the implementation of the "Ljubljana Process II"

These activities rely upon the expertise and transfer of know-how from the Council of Europe (see 2/6 below)

Activities

- Establishment of national Task Forces for Culture and Society in most beneficiary countries
- Assessment of the political, legal, training and fundraising environment and needs in culture heritage
- Second Working Meeting of the TFCS, Danilovgrad, Montenegro – March
- Third Working Meeting of the TFCS, Prcanj (Kotor), Montenegro – June
- Submission of application

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Preparation of the Terms of Reference and signature of the grant to the RCC on behalf of the TFCS under the Preparatory Action 2011 (see 5/6 below)
- Fourth Working Meeting of the TFCS, Ohrid – October (*to be confirmed*)

Project information (2/6)

Support to the Ljubljana Process II – Rehabilitating our Common Heritage (RCC), IPA 2010/022-057, EUR 0.4 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans
Type of contract: Grant contract, CN2011/264-707
Contractor: Council of Europe (CoE)
Duration of activities: 18/05/2011-17/05/2014

Purpose

Assistance to the RCC-TFCS in its assumption of responsibility for the management of the "Ljubljana Process" (see above), in particular political, methodological and practical feasibility management, professional capacity and educational development, promotion of cultural diversity and dissemination activities and evaluation and quality assurance.

Activities

- Audit mission to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to evaluate the functioning of cultural rehabilitation systems and procedures and to identify institutional and practical obstacles hampering implementation of the LP II.
- Three workshops in May and June comprising both regional and international experts to develop a political, legal, training and fundraising road map and action plan by each beneficiary country.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Assistance in preparation of the Terms of Reference and signature of the grant to the RCC under the Preparatory Action 2011 (see 5/6 below)
- Workshop debriefing, 12-13 July, Brussels
- Training workshop, October

Project information (3/6)

Strengthening the Southeast European Joint History Project as a tool for reconciliation in Southeast Europe, IPA 2010/022-507, EUR 0.98 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Grant contract, CN2011/260-676

Contractor: Centre for Democracy and Reconciliation in South East Europe (CDRSEE).

Duration of activities: 01/04/2011-01/04/2014

Purpose

Reform of the educational system in Southeast Europe by the promotion of new teaching methods to encourage reconciliation and democratic values thereby empowering citizens to defend and promote such values.

Activities of CDRSEE include the introduction of the Alternative History Education Materials in schools in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia in cooperation with the Ministries of Education and informal introduction elsewhere in the Western Balkans; training of history teachers to use participative teaching methods and multi-perspective history sources in the Western Balkans; encouragement of strong teacher associations capable of advocacy work and adequate representation of teachers in national strategies; and establishment of a strong regional network to promote reconciliation via history teaching in Southeast Europe.

Activities

- Launch of first Montenegrin language edition, Podgoriça – March
- Publication of third Serbian language edition – March
- Second meeting of the teaching methodology expert group "Dynamic teaching: knowledge and tools", Kotor - May
- Education capacity building tour in Albania and Serbia – May
- Shared teacher training event for Albanian and Serbian communities in South Serbia (Vranje) - June
- Teacher Training Workshop, Podgoriça - June
- Policy dialogue on the EU and the Balkans, Brussels – June (with European Policy Centre)

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Launch of second Bosnian edition – September
- Three teacher training Workshops in Bosnia and Herzegovina – September to December

- Second shared teacher training event for Albanian and Serbian communities in South Serbia, Presevo – September
- Consultations with Serbian Communities in Northern Kosovo*
- Focus Group testing of Teaching Methodology Manual “Dynamic teaching knowledge and tools” in all countries – September
- Second meeting of the regional teaching methodology expert group "Dynamic teaching: knowledge and tools", Sarajevo - September
- Launch of second Albanian edition - October
- Two teacher training workshops in Albania – October to December
- School Presentations in Albania – October to December
- Three teacher training workshops in Montenegro – September to December
- Two teacher training workshops in Croatia – November to December

Project information (4/6)

Preparatory Actions for preserving and restoring cultural heritage in conflict areas in the Western Balkans for the year 2010, “PHARE” 2010/022-659, EUR 2.25 million (EU budget)

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans
 Type of contract: Grant contracts,
 Contractor: Various CSOs (8)
 Duration of activities: Between 18 and 36 months

Purpose

The actions set out to raise awareness of cultural diversity in the Western Balkans, build confidence and support local development of restoration skills:

- *At institutional level:* improvement of legal and regulatory environment, capacity development at local and regional level, development of indicators and benchmarks.
- *At educational level:* development of curricula, mobility schemes of cultural professional students and educators.
- *At socio-economic level:* holistic protection of cultural heritage and its territorial implication, development of tourist activities, network activities, awards and contests, crafts and skill preservation, cultural heritage-related economic activities, development and application of economic models
- *At cross-cultural level:* culturally based social inclusion examples, cross-cultural tolerance and understanding and strategic approaches to tackle them, cooperation for restoration, cross-cultural media campaigns.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Continued implementation and monitoring of the 8 partnership actions.
- Further implementation of the work programme presented in the inception phase, including stakeholder workshops.

Project information (5/6)

Preparatory Actions for preserving and restoring cultural heritage in conflict areas in the Western Balkans for the year 2011, “PHARE” 2011/023-372, EUR 0.50 million (EU budget)

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans
Type of contract: Grant contract,
Contractor: RCC (for TFCS)
Duration of activities: 24 months

Purpose

The action will facilitate certain preliminary technical processes (e.g. consolidation works, preliminary studies, master plans, project design, tender design) for the restoration of monuments and sites. The RCC-TFCS will provide assistance to national authorities to overcome procedural problems and to ensure that the most mature projects are funded.

Activities

- Preparation of the Terms of Reference.
- Preparation of details of the Preparatory Actions for 2012 (see 6/6 below).

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Completion of the Terms of Reference and signature of the grant.

Preparation of details for the 2012 Preparatory Action

Project information (6/6)

Preparatory Actions for preserving and restoring cultural heritage in conflict areas in the Western Balkans for the year 2012, "PHARE" 2012/023-867, EUR 3 million (EU budget)

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans
Type of contract: Contribution agreement,
Contractor: Council of Europe (CoE) and/or Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) (to be confirmed)
Duration of activities: up to 24 months

Purpose

Possible cooperation with CEB and /or CoE to support WB projects on cultural rehabilitation for implementation of projects on the Priority Intervention List of the Ljubljana Process. The selected projects would benefit from a grant (financed by these EU funds) complemented by national or other funding and/or loans of the CEB. This approach would have a multiplier effect on the funding of rehabilitation thereby promoting the effectiveness of the Ljubljana Process.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Preparation of the Commission Decision.
- Preparation of details of the Preparatory Action

Links and Contact

Links:

<http://tfcs.rcc.int/>

<http://tfcs.rcc.int/index.php/projects/ljubljana-process>

Contacts: Petra Schlüter, Petra.SCHLUETER@ec.europa.eu

Other

Preparatory Measures for the Participation of the Candidate Countries and Potential Candidates in EU Agencies

Project information (1 of 2)

Preparatory measures for the participation of the candidates and potential candidates in Community Agencies, IPA 2008/020-320, EUR 7.8 million (closed)

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans and Turkey
Beneficiary Institutions: Counterpart government institutions of an EU Agency
Type of contract: Grants (12 contribution agreements) with EU Agencies

Purpose

The overall objective of this project is to ensure that Beneficiaries participate effectively in the activities of EU Agencies either prior to EU accession, wherever this is permitted, or following accession.

The programme supports EU Agencies in carrying out preparatory measures with Beneficiaries and stakeholders so as to allow for their future participation in EU Agencies as well as to encourage cooperation *inter se*.

Activities are designed to help Beneficiaries understand the function and operations of EU Agencies, and more importantly their role within them. EC support also permits Beneficiaries to involve other relevant national stakeholders in their activities in ways similar to those of EU Member States. This support mainly consists of advice on organisational matters and staff training.

Activities

During the reporting period, EU Agencies terminated their activities under this programme, continuing their work under the follow-up programme described below.

Project information (2 of 2)

Preparatory measures for the participation of candidates and potential candidates in EU Agencies, IPA 2011/022-964, EUR 8.0 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans and Turkey
Beneficiary Institutions: Counterpart government institutions of an EU Agency
Type of contract: Grants (13 contribution agreements) with EU Agencies

List of Agencies, duration of activities and total amounts

CRIS	Agency	Duration	Amount
270-378	EFSA	16/09/2011 - 16/09/2013	EUR 1.0 million
272-515	EMSA	26/10/2011- 26/04/2014	EUR 0.3 million
273-995	EU-OSHA	24/10/2011 – 30/11/2014	EUR 0.9 million
274-042	European Railway Agency	09/11/2011 – 30/11/2013	EUR 0.3 million
274-058	European Medicines Agency	20/10/2011 – 15/09/2013	EUR 0.9 million
276-973	CPVO	31/10/2011 – 30/04/2014	EUR 0.4 million
277-045	European Environment Agency	13/12/2011 – 30/11/2013	EUR 1.0 million

279-326	EUROFOUND	01/01/2012 - 31/12/2013	EUR 0.7 million
279-348	EASA	01/01/2012 – 31/12/2013	EUR 0.7 million
280-057	EMCDDA	01/01/2012 – 30/11/2014	EUR 0.9 million

Purpose

The programme supports EU Agencies in carrying out preparatory measures with Beneficiaries and stakeholders to ensure that Beneficiaries are able to participate effectively in the activities of EU Agencies either prior to accession if permitted to do so or following accession to the EU.

Activities are designed to help Beneficiaries understand the function and operations of EU Agencies, and more importantly their role within them. EC support also permits Beneficiaries to involve other relevant national stakeholders in their activities in ways similar to those of EU Member States. This support mainly consists of advice on organisational matters and staff training.

Activities

Due to the belated adoption of the programme, it was decided to extend the duration of the preceding projects to the maximum possible and to use the new programme to allow projects to go beyond the anticipated duration of 24 months. The above-mentioned contracts were consequently concluded in the last quarter of 2011.

Given the large number of contracts, a thorough presentation of each would go beyond the scope of this report. Therefore only some highlights are presented. On a general note, each Agency carried out preparatory measures such as training activities, study visits, workshops, conferences and outreach actions. Activities also covered the preparation of documents such as manuals, guides, reports and other relevant documents for the benefit of the Beneficiaries.

European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound)

During the first six months of 2012, IPA countries were involved in the following activities:

- 3rd European Quality of Life Survey (EQLS) 2011-2012:

The fieldwork for preparing the 3rd EQLS in Croatia, Iceland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and Kosovo* started during the first six months of 2012. The 3rd EQLS covers 34 countries in total (including 27 EU Member States). The EQLS is a survey carried out every four years and looks at a range of issues, such as employment, income, education, housing, family, health and work-life balance. The following deliverables are expected: dataset from the fieldwork in the participating countries.

- Measures for tackling undeclared work in the EU and Norway since the crisis and in five EU candidate countries in the last 10 years:

Work started during the first half of 2012. The project will analyse the developments in tackling undeclared work in the EU27, Norway and the candidate countries (Croatia, Iceland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Turkey) since 2008 in order to identify inputs to the existing on-line database of measures to tackle undeclared work. This will include information regarding the effectiveness of measures where available. The findings will be validated at a workshop to be held in one of the candidate countries. The following deliverables are expected: an update and extension of an on-line database of measures to tackle undeclared work and an overview report summarising its content.

European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

During the first six months of the programme the Focal Points of the beneficiaries participated at two Focal Point meetings along with the Member States, expert meetings as e.g. a seminar on New Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Research Priorities, 11 May 2012, in Paris and a seminar on Road Safety organized in April in Brussels. Representatives of the beneficiaries participated to a kick-off meeting organized by European Network Education and Training in Occupational Safety and Health (ENETOSH) for South Eastern European countries, 17 April 2012, Zagreb.

Among the awareness raising activities a seminar took place on "Risk Assessment for Labour Inspectors", 26-28 April 2012, Bitola, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and in Turkey on "Risk Assessment and Good Practices for the Metal Industry", 29 June 2012, Konya, Turkey.

Ipsos Mori finalized the Opinion Poll on OSH on behalf of the EU-OSHA, the result of which were promoted in the countries. Project co-ordination meetings on project activities were held on 12 June in Bilbao.

Under the umbrella of the EU-OSHA's new awareness raising campaign "Working together for risk prevention" further four seminars are under preparation for autumn in Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Turkey.

The European Maritime Safety Agency EMSA started on January 2012 the implementation of the contribution agreement (2011/272-515) signed on October 2011. During the first six months of the Programme (January-June 2012) 7 actions have been organised in order to continue strengthening the capacity of candidate countries and potential candidates to comply with the EU acquis in the field of maritime safety, security and pollution prevention.

Training sessions

1. Training on ISM Code – auditing techniques, attended by 12 participants
2. Training on EU maritime legislation, attended by 9 participants
3. Training on PSC and Ro-pax directives, attended 10

In-the country trainings

1. Training on environmental issues for Croatia (Zagreb), attended by 28 participants
2. Training on LRIT/SSN for Croatia (Zagreb), attended by 15 participants

Participation in meetings/workshops/training sessions organised for MSs

1. 5th Meeting of the LRIT National Competent Authorities, 1 participant
2. CleanSeaNet Training For Duty Officers, 4 participants

Activities and events planned for next semester

All Agencies will continue to implement their working programme along the lines stated above.

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) will sign the contribution agreement with DG ELARG in the last quarter of 2012 and will start its work with the beneficiaries in early 2013.

The information and communication contract is expected to be awarded to the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA).

Links and Contact

Link: <http://sites.google.com/site/communityagencies>
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/networks/euenlargement.htm>

Contact: Henk Visser, Henk.VISSER@ec.europa.eu

Regional Strategy for Research and Development for Innovation for the Western Balkans

Project information

Regional Strategy for Research and Development (R & D) for Innovation for the Western Balkans, IPA2010/022-028, EUR 1.5 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans and Turkey

Beneficiary Institutions: Government institutions dealing with Research and Innovation, Research Institutes, Universities, Intermediaries, Business Associations and other relevant stakeholders

Type of contract: Administration Agreement to the World Bank Group, CN 2011/263-314

Duration of activities: 30/09/2011 - 31/05/2014

Purpose

Building on the existing collaboration in the area of R&D and innovation between the EU and the Western Balkan countries, the World Bank and the EU signed an agreement to implement a technical assistance programme for the development of a Regional Research and Development Strategy for Innovation in the Western Balkans.

The aim of the two-year project is to develop a strategy that will foster cooperation at regional level by interconnecting research institutes, pooling resources, training scientists and transferring knowledge across the region to increase its competitiveness. The Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) has facilitated and supported its development in close cooperation with national authorities from the Western Balkans and international partners, as one of priority activities of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013.

The strategy will identify priorities in terms of legal requirements, infrastructure, education and training, policies and programs to be implemented by the beneficiary entities. The value added of the proposed technical assistance is twofold. First, the focus would be on how to increase the economic impact of research and development (R&D) in the Western Balkans. Second, the technical assistance would have a comprehensive approach integrating the three axes of the knowledge triangle, namely education, research and innovation.

Activities

- An Inception report identifying the key issues related to the development of a regional R&D strategy in the Western Balkans was drafted and presented.

- A launching event took place in Belgrade in November 2011 resulting in a: (i) agreement on the governance structure for implementation of the technical assistance, including formal acceptance of the Steering Committee members; (ii) level of participation of other key stakeholders in the development of the Strategy; and (iii) next steps to be taken and activities to be included during the first year of the project.

- A Steering Committee meeting followed by a two-day workshop took place in Sarajevo in March 2012, in order to identify areas of possible cooperation to be included in the Strategy and corresponding measures to be included in the Action Plan. This workshop was attended by 50 participants including delegations from all the beneficiaries, the European Commission, the Regional Cooperation Council, the World Bank, as well as a group of leading regional experts. Delegations included representatives from the government, higher education, research science institutes, and the private sector.

- In June 2012 another two-day workshop took place in Dubrovnik, where the beneficiaries, experts and other essential stakeholders discussed the progress made on the strategy and Action Plan Outline. Furthermore, on the issue building Regional Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialization, the participants looked what the sectors/industries and science areas are where the Western Balkans show potential, and how the strategy can support this.

As concerns promoting Research Excellence and Innovation, the possible models of regional cooperation programmes that focus on research in an industry/sector/research area with

potential for increasing competitiveness, creating economic value and which capitalizes on regional strengths were discussed.

The participants also brainstormed on potential applications of the Strategy and Action Plan to improving the quality and competitiveness of research by tapping into the knowledge of scientific Diaspora, through collaboration and knowledge exchange.

The last session was to exchange views on promoting a Regional Approach to Innovation Financing, including possible models on creating a regional business support and financing entity that can leverage already existing national efforts.

Activities and events planned for next semester

Continuation of the drafting of the Strategy and its subsequent action plans.

Links and Contact

Link: <http://www.rcc.int/articles/0/114/western-balkans-challenged-to-unleash-its-innovative-potential>

Contact: Alexander Troppmann: Alexander.TROPPMANN@ec.europa.eu

Support to the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)

Project information

Support to the Operating Expenditures of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), IPA 2010/022-507, EUR 2.4 million

Beneficiary Institution:	RCC
Type of contract:	Grant contract, CN2011/256-605
Duration of activities:	21/12/2010-20/12/2013

Purpose

This project finances the operating expenditure of the RCC Secretariat.

Activities

Currently the main activity of the project is to assist the RCC in implementing its strategic work programme for 2011-2013. The programme defines the permanent "horizontal" activities of the RCC, covers all agreed priority areas and offers an analysis of its regional dimension and importance. The first year of the implementation of the SWP has been assessed, on the whole, as positive. In June 2012, the South East European Cooperation Process (SEECPP – the "political umbrella" of the RCC) decided on a new Secretary General for the RCC, Mr. Goran Svilanović, who will replace Mr. Hido Biščević in January 2013. The EU is preparing a decision for the continuation of the financing of the RCC for the period 2014-2016.

Links and Contact

Link: <http://www.rcc.int/>

Contact: Kjartan Bjornsson, Kjartan.BJORNSSON@ec.europa.eu

Project information

Strengthening of the RCC Secretariat, IPA 2010/022-507, EUR 0.8 million

Beneficiary Institution:	Central European Initiative (CEI)
Type of contract:	Grant contract, CN 2011/278-252
Duration of activities:	29/11/2011-29/11/2013

Purpose

This project aims at strengthening the operational capacity and capabilities of the RCC Secretariat. It is designed to assist it to plan and organise its activities and implement its general strategic and sector priorities as well as follow up on regional initiatives.

Activities

The CEI supports the administrative capacity development of the RCC Secretariat enhancing its overall impact in promoting result-oriented regional cooperation. Activities foreseen in the space of 24 months include:

- Project Management: overall coordination of the action through the coordination of a Twinning Unit.
- Enhancement of RCC's operational capacity;
- Raising awareness and consensus on RCC's activities;
- Innovation of RCC's operations through the design of a pilot ICT platform etc;
- Dissemination and communication.

Links and Contact

Link: <http://www.rcc.int/>

<http://www.ceinet.org/>

Contact: Kjartan Bjornsson, Kjartan.BJORNSSON@ec.europa.eu

Cross- Border Cooperation

Project information

Cross-Border Institution Building (CBIB+), DN2011/022-964, EUR 2.5 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Service contract

Contractor: Procurement on-going

Duration of activities: 01/11/2012- 30/10/2014

Purpose

The CBIB+ project aims at strengthening the capacity of Beneficiaries in implementing and managing the Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) component of IPA (Component II) through the provision of technical assistance and expert support of the national authorities in charge of implementing CBC programmes, with a view to enhance regional coordination and harmonisation of approaches and mechanisms in line with EU frameworks and guidelines in the area of territorial cooperation. The IPA CBC programmes mirror the rules of the Structural Funds and provide a learning opportunity for Beneficiaries to prepare for the EU Cohesion Policy.

The specific objectives of the CBIB are:

- To support regional coordination and interaction between cross-border cooperation stakeholders and target groups in the Western Balkans.
- To enhance efficiency and effectiveness of programmes implementation, as well as simplified access to available funds for final beneficiaries, in line with EU standards and IPA requirements.
- To support national authorities in promoting best practice culture and cross-fertilisation of experiences
- To establish pathways with EU practices and stakeholders in relation to territorial cooperation
- To enhance visibility on cross-border cooperation at intra Western Balkan borders

Activities

CBIB+ tender was cancelled in February 2012.

As of March 2012, actions were taken with a view to launch the tender again:

- An interim solution was put in place in order to assure the maintenance of the CBC MIS, which would assure the continuity in its use by the beneficiaries with a view to the upcoming CBIB+ contract. A single tender procedure was carried along and contract was signed in May 2012.
- With reference to Croatian authorities' position in November 2011 not to take part in the upcoming CBIB+, official consultation was made to new authorities in place (after Croatian elections in December 2011). Croatian authorities rectified previous statement and confirmed their interest in taking part in the new CBIB+ project.
- Consultations with EU Delegations - CBC officers with a view to better adapt the terms of reference to the actual needs and incorporate comments provided after the end of CBIB II contract in November 2011.
- New ToRs were drafted based on the previous version of ToRs and DCEs inputs.
- Tender forecast was launched on the 16th May 2012
- 9 tenderers were received by the end of June 2012.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Shortlisting of candidates
- Invitation to tender
- Evaluation of tender
- Signature of the contract (foreseen for November 2012)
- Start of the activities (inception period)

Links and Contact

Contact: Patricia Perez-Gomez, Patricia.PEREZ-GOMEZ@ec.europa.eu

Monitoring

Project information

Results-Oriented Monitoring (ROM) in the Western Balkans and Turkey, IPA 2009/021-052, EUR 3.48 million

Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans and Turkey
Type of contract:	Service contract, CN2010/255-269
Contractor:	Particip GmbH
Duration of activities:	01/12/2010 – 30/11/2012

Purpose

The monitoring of projects is undertaken by means of Results-Oriented Monitoring (ROM). The overall objective of the ROM system is to gather information on projects and programmes in the field and to report on progress in order to maintain and where appropriate improve the quality of external cooperation activities.

ROM is based on the analysis of relevant project documents, site visits and consultations with relevant stakeholders in project implementation whether or not identified in the original design of the project. This information is provided to the Commission by means of reports on the technical and managerial aspects of project implementation.

The current project monitors the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of EU assistance to the Western Balkans and Turkey. It covers both IPA projects/programmes during their implementation ("ROM ongoing") and those between 12 and 18 months after their completion ("ex-post ROM"). The project has the following overall

annual targets: 190 “ongoing” projects; 20 completed projects “ex-post”. The above includes monitoring of 20 regional (multi-beneficiary) programmes.

Activities

The project is half-way through the 2012 ROM programme. The coverage of ROM activities for the first six months of 2012 in terms of the number and value (EU allocation) of projects was as follows:

	Number of projects			Value (EU allocation) of projects		
	A	B	C	D	E	F
Country	Projects eligible for monitoring	Projects monitored	B/A %	Projects eligible for monitoring	Projects monitored	E/D %
	Number	Number	%	€ million	€ million	%
National	336	98	29%	730.4	194.6	27%
Regional	22	11	50%	89.4	59.6	67%
Overall	358	109	30%	819.8	254.2	31%

The regional projects covered include two contributions to the European Fund for South East Europe (EFSE) and three contributions to the Energy Efficiency Financing Facility (EEFF) 2007. This accounts for €52.2 million of the EU allocation covered for regional projects.

The analysis of the portfolio of projects covered and the results in terms of ROM reports produced during the current period and the cumulative project output from December 2010 to date is as follows:

ROM Reports	Ongoing		Ex-post	Total	Ongoing		Ex-post	Total
	>€1m	< €1m			<€1m	>€1m		
Country	Performance January to June 2012				Cumulative performance during the contractual period			
<i>Albania</i>	10	2	0	12	32	6	3	41
<i>Bosnia and Herzegovina</i>	9	5	1	15	36	11	4	51
<i>The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</i>	1	3	1	5	13	14	2	29
<i>Kosovo*</i>	16	6	0	22	58	9	2	69
<i>Montenegro</i>	5	4	3	12	16	8	4	28
<i>Serbia</i>	19	8	5	32	73	14	9	96
National total	60	28	10	98	228	62	24	314
Regional	7	3	1	11	23	5	4	32
Total	67	31	11	109	251	67	28	346

The shortfall in monitoring ex post projects in 2011 has been addressed in the 2012 work plan and the overall ex post quota for the two years is expected to be achieved.

The ratings emerging from the ROM work are better in the current period than for 2011. This is attributed to a larger proportion of re-monitoring in the first half of the year where

recommendations have been taken on board. The ROM Workbook shows that the overall scores for Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo* have improved while the scores for Serbia and Montenegro have declined. High ROM grades were given to EFSE and the EEFF2007 facilities. The overall performance remained with over 81% of ROM assessments reflecting “good” or “very good” performance but with a higher proportion of “very good” grades.

Activities and events planned to 30 November 2012

Delivery of third Progress Report is due in July

The project is on course to marginally exceed the agreed work plan for two years. The 2012 work plan is continuously updated in response to the demand for ROM assessments by the EU Delegations and EU Offices. The latest 2012 Work Plan is to produce 230 ROM assessments for 208 national and 22 regional projects, monitoring a total EU allocation of €467.0 million (national) and €101.3 million (regional).

The contract is due to continue for another two years from 30 November 2012, for which the TORs will be reviewed.

Signature of new contract

Links and Contact

Link: www.particip.de

Contacts: Robert Nelson, Robert.NELSON@ec.europa.eu and Petra Schlüter, Petra.SCHLUETER@ec.europa.eu

Participation of the Western Balkans and Turkey in the Union for the Mediterranean

Project information

Programme to support the participation of eligible candidate and potential candidate countries in the Union for the Mediterranean – Measure 1 "Institutional Dialogue – Euromed Events"

IPA 2008/020-566, EUR 0.75 million

Beneficiary region: Albania, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Turkey

Type of contract: Service contract, CN 2009/226-503

Contractor: GIZ

Duration of activities: 1/01/2010 –31/12/2011, addendum 01/01/2012-31/12/2013

Purpose

The purpose is to help Beneficiaries contribute to and benefit from interregional cooperation and dialogue whilst taking part in a pro-active and constructive relationship with their Mediterranean neighbours. Moreover, the project aims at increasing the presence of IPA beneficiaries in the Partnership. It also supports capacity-building so as to contribute to improved governance and public administration.

Activities

During the reporting period the representatives of the Western Balkans and Turkey participated to the following meetings:

- EUROMED meeting on Enhanced Sectoral Cooperation (8-9 February, Brussels. Participation of Turkey);
- Meeting of the Union for the Mediterranean-Euro-Mediterranean Employment and Labour High-Level Working Group (13-14 February, Brussels)
- EUROMED information and Training Seminars for Diplomats (11-14^h May, Malta)

- Euro-Mediterranean Energy Forum - Experts' Group Meeting (19-20 June, Brussels)

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Meeting of the Working Group on Euro-Mediterranean Industrial Cooperation (10-11 July, Brussels)
- High-Level Working Group on civil protection (8 November, Brussels)
- Euromed Summit of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (17-19 October, Amman)
- EUROMED Working Group on Integrated Maritime Policy (14-15 November, Brussels);

Participation of the Western Balkans and Turkey in others conferences and seminars, during the second semester of 2012, to be confirmed

Links and Contact

EEA/Euromed: <http://eeas.europa.eu/euromed/>

Contact: Roxana Toran-Villarroya Roxana.TORAN-VILLARROYA@ec.europa.eu

Project information

Multi-Beneficiary Programme to support the participation of eligible candidate and potential candidate countries in the Union for the Mediterranean – Measure 2a "Environment - Horizon 2020 Capacity Building (H2020)"

IPA 2008/020-56 EUR 1.0 million

Type of contract: Service contract, CN 2009/220-191

Contractor: Consortium led by the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA)

Duration of activities: 24/02/2010 – 29/10/2012

Purpose

The purpose of the "Environment – Horizon 2020" measure is to promote environmental mainstreaming in the Beneficiaries via targeted support within the framework of the H2020 Initiative. The project tries to promote a sustainable use of the Mediterranean Sea and the coastal areas of the Beneficiaries; an integrated approach of environmental protection by fostering the inclusion of environmental issues in other sector policies; and contribute to the establishment of the Mediterranean Environmental Information System.

Activities

The following H2020 activities have taken place in the Western Balkans and Turkey or for the benefit of representatives of the region:

- Linking waste water management to ICZM and IWRM with emphasis on Karstic coastal areas: 19-22 March 2012, Split, Croatia (Sub-Regional)
- Clean technologies: Application to the food processing industry, 24-25 April 2012, Sarajevo, BiH (national)
- Waste water treatment and reuse targeted specifically to hotels in an ICZM framework, 24-25 May 2012, Dubrovnik, Croatia (national)

Representatives of the Western Balkans and Turkey participated in the following regional H2020 Capacity Building training courses:

- Best environmental practices in olive mill waste management and new technologies, 19-21 March 2012, Athens, Greece
- Minimizing marine litter in the Mediterranean, 21-23 May, Gothenburg, Sweden

- GIS theory and applications on Urban Waste Water Management, 21-23 May, Budva, Montenegro
- Improving capacity for monitoring industrial emissions, 11-13 June, Athens, Greece

Activities planned for next semester

The following H2020 events will take place in the region:

- Improving the environmental governance in the banking sector in Turkey: introduction to green banking, 5-6 July 2012, Istanbul (national)
- Hazardous Industrial Waste Clean-up and Management (re-focused from: Cross border cooperation for solid waste management), 10-12 July 2012, Podgorica, Montenegro (sub-regional)
- Waste water treatment, reuse of sludge in agriculture, 5-7 September 2012, Istanbul, Turkey (national)
- Maintenance and Operations of Wastewater treatment and reuse facilities, 12-14 September 2012, Turkey (sub-regional)
- Sustainable Management of Industrial Cities (the contribution of "green infrastructures" to the de-pollution of the Mediterranean Sea), September 2012, Zagreb (sub-regional)
- Options for SMEs, 13-14 September 2012, Zagreb (national)
- Developing incentive systems to finance application of pollution prevention strategies and measures, September 2012, Western Balkan country(sub-regional)

Participation of representatives of the Western Balkans and Turkey is planned for the next semester in the following regional activities:

- Integrated modelling of Urban Water Systems, 10-12 September, Istanbul, Turkey
- Strengthening Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) policies in the Mediterranean, early October, Croatia
- Workop on H2020 priorities for Mediterranean Parliamentarians, end of October, Athens, Greece

Links and Contact

Horizon 2020: <http://www.h2020.net/>

Contact: Alessandra Sensi, Alessandra.SENSI@ec.europa.eu

Project information

Multi-Beneficiary Programme to support the participation of eligible candidate and potential candidate countries in the Union for the Mediterranean – Measure 2b "Programme for the Prevention, Preparedness and Response to natural and man-made Disasters in the Mediterranean region (PPRD South)"

IPA 2008/020-566 EUR 0.6 million

Beneficiary region: Albania, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Turkey
 Type of contract: Service contract, CN 2008/171-311
 Contractor: Consortium led by the Italian Department of Civil Protection
 Duration of activities: 6/12/2010 –02/12/2012 (extended in February 2012 via a contract addendum)

Purpose

The purpose of this project is to improve coordination of actions in the field of risk preparedness, prevention and reduction, whilst focusing on interventions that are complementary and bring added value to activities already planned or underway in the context of IPA regional programmes.

Activities

- Training workshop on Early Warning Systems for Civil Protection on 17-19 January 2012 (Arona, Italy)
- Training workshop on Civil Protection Operational Models on 14-15 February 2012 (Geneva, Switzerland)
- Study Visit to UN Agencies (ISDR, OCHA) and IFRC on 16 February 2012 (Geneva, Switzerland)
- PPRD South National Correspondents' Network meeting on 17 February 2012 (Geneva, Switzerland)
- Participation in IPA CP Cooperation Programme on 13-15 February 2012 (Tuhely, Croatia)
- Training workshop on Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Mitigation for Critical Facilities, on 21-24 March 2012 (Larnaca Cyprus),
- Workshop on "Tsunami emergency preparedness in Mediterranean coastal zones", on 28 May-03 June 2012 (Rome and Stromboli, Italy)

Activities and events planned for next semester

Representatives of the Western Balkans and Turkey will participate in the following activities:

- Technical assistance for Turkey only on "EU & UN experiences and tools for risk assessment and mapping" from 9 to 13 July 2012 (Rome and Milan)
- Workshop (with the participation of BIH & HR Representatives only) on the role of national Civil Protection/Civil Defence Authorities in managing forced migration crises in complex emergency and disaster situations from 16-17 July 2012 (Tunis)
- High level Conference on Civil Protection and Final Steering Committee Meeting on 8 November 2012 (Brussels)

Links and Contact

Link: PPRD South: <http://www.euromedcp.eu/index.php>

Contact: Caroline Maion, Caroline.MAION@ec.europa.eu

Project information

Multi-Beneficiary Programme to support the participation of eligible candidate and potential candidate countries in the Union for the Mediterranean –

Measure 2c "Transport policy" – SAFEMED II

IPA 2009/020-566, EUR 0.3 million

Beneficiary region: Albania, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro

Type of contract: Service contract, CN 2010/235-897

Contractor: International Maritime Organisation (IMO)

Duration of activities: 30/04/2010 – 30/11/2012

Purpose

The SafeMed Project sets out to develop Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in maritime safety and security, prevention of pollution from ships and marine environmental issues by providing technical advice and support to non-EU Mediterranean countries identified in the 1995 'Barcelona Process'. The objective is to mitigate the existing imbalance in the application of maritime legislation in the region between the EU Member States and Mediterranean partner countries through promoting a coherent, effective and uniform

implementation of the relevant international conventions and rules aimed at better protecting the marine environment in the Mediterranean region by preventing pollution from ships.

Activities

Activity – Description	Participants
SafeMed II Project Fellowships at the World Maritime University (WMU) and at the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI): One SafeMed II sponsored student from Turkey graduated from WMU in December 2011 whilst two SafeMed II sponsored students from Albania and Turkey graduated from IMLI in May 2012. (This Task was extended to the Western Balkans)	Albania and Turkey benefited from the fellowships.
3 rd Annual Workshop on Maritime Security held between the 31 Jan and 1 Feb 2012 in Marseille, France. (This Task was extended to the Western Balkans)	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Turkey participated.
Two National VTS Operator's Training Courses to IALA Standards were held in Bar, Montenegro between the 24 – 28 April and 25 – 29 June 2012 in which a total of 15 officers participated. (This Task was extended to Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro)	Albania and Montenegro are benefiting from this training.
Regional Workshop on LRIT held between the 19 and 20 March 2012 at EMSA, Lisbon. (This Task was extended to the Western Balkans)	Albania, Croatia, Montenegro and Turkey participated.
Consolidation and Implementation on the BWM Convention to be held between the 8 and 9 May 2012 in Malta. (This Task was extended to the Western Balkans)	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Turkey invited to participate.
ISM Auditor Training Course to be held between the 29 May and 1 June 2012 in Marseille, France. (This Task was NOT extended to the Western Balkans)	Turkey participated.
Maritime Inspectors Training in the application of the ILO MLC, 2006, 18 – 29 June, 2012, Turin, Italy. (This Task was NOT extended to the Western Balkans)	Turkey participated.
Secondment of Med MoU on PSC Port State Control Officers (PSCOs) with Paris MoU on PSC Member States: Two Turkish PSCOs were seconded to the UK Maritime & Coastguard Agency between the 24 and 30 June, 2012 to accompany UK PSCOs on PSC inspections. (This Task was NOT extended to the Western Balkans)	Turkey participated.

Activities and events planned for next semester

Participation of representatives of the Western Balkans and Turkey is planned in the following activities:

Activity – Description	Participants
A National VTS Operator's Training Course is planned to be held in Albania in the second half of 2012 whilst four participants from Montenegro are expected to participate in a VTS Operator's Simulator Training Course to IALA Standards tentatively planned to be held at the end of August 2012 in	Albania and Montenegro are benefiting from this training.

Malta. (This Task was extended to the Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro)	
Regional Training Course on the HNS Protocol, 2010, 11 – 12 December, 2012 (Tentative). (This Task was extended to the Western Balkans)	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Turkey are expected to participate.

Links and Contact

Link: Safemed II: <http://www.safemedproject.org/>

Contact: Bruno Macedo bruno.macedo@ec.europa.eu

Project information

Multi-Beneficiary Programme to support the participation of eligible candidate and potential candidate countries in the Union for the Mediterranean –

Measure 2c "Transport policy" – Support to the implementation of the Regional Transport Action Plan (RTAP) for the Mediterranean

IPA 2009/020-566 EUR 0.25 million

Beneficiary region: Albania, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Turkey

Type of contract: Service contract, CN 2009/223-771

Contractor: TYP SA - Tecnica y Proyectos SA

Duration of activities: 01/01/2010 – 31/12/2012

Purpose

The purpose of the "Transport policy" measure of this programme is to ensure the presence and the active participation of the Beneficiaries in the RTAP, improve the coordination of transport policies between Beneficiaries and other Mediterranean partners while complementing and ensuring added value to activities already supported by IPA.

Activities

- 10th Working Group Infrastructure & Regulatory Issues meeting " - Brussels 26 March 2012

Countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Turkey

- 6th Task Force Action 18 meeting – Brussels 21 May 2012

Countries: Turkey

Activities and events planned for next semester

- 11th Working Group Infrastructure & Regulatory Issues meeting - Brussels, October 2012

- Euromed Transport Forum – Brussels, to be confirmed

- Ministerial Euromed Transport Conference – Brussels, to be confirmed

Links and Contact

Contact: Bruno Macedo bruno.macedo@ec.europa.eu

Project Preparation Facility and Strengthening European Integration (SEI)

The Project Preparation Facility or Strengthening European Integration project forms part and parcel of each MB programme. The overall project objective is to ensure effective programming and project development as well as implementation of the MB Programmes IPA thus contributing to the overall progress of the accession process and increasing the effectiveness and impact of accession-oriented projects financed through IPA. The project purpose is to strengthen the ability of the Beneficiaries to effectively design and develop programmes and projects to be submitted for financing under IPA as well as to enable the

implementation of a number of accession-related actions of various public/private actors in order to meet specific and urgent needs in the Beneficiaries. Furthermore, to support the Beneficiaries' participation in activities for the exchange of information, networking, participation in workshops, conferences, study visits and similar activities and to assist in smaller-scale projects supporting European integration.

For a complete overview of all contracts signed under the PPF or SEI, please refer to the Annex 1 and 2. Following is an overview of selected projects/contracts.

Project information

Strengthening European Integration - Support to the South East Europe Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group, IPA 2011/022-964, EUR 0,149 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans
Type of contract: Grant Contract, CN2011/271-250
Contractor: Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group
Duration of activities: 21/09/2011–20/09/2012

Purpose

In 2009 and 2010, DG Enlargement and DG Agriculture and Rural Development held discussions to explore ways in which coordination of approaches at regional level in the Western Balkans could be improved in the area of rural development, and more specifically social and economic innovation and local integrated development. It was agreed to provide support to the only existing regional organisation in the Western Balkans in the field of rural development, namely the South East Europe Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SEE SWG). In particular, assistance to SEE SWG was planned with a view to asking them to develop strategic initiatives of a regional importance, after an assessment of the organisation itself and its capacities in project and programme management has been carried out in 2010/2011.

In line with the above, the aim of this grant is to prepare a proposal for an area based development project in the Western Balkans promoting local integrated development following a selection of pilot areas.

Activities

- Preparation of a baseline study (incl. SWOT analysis), strategies and action plans for each of the 3 target cross-border regions selected for implementation of the Area Based Development approach (Drina-Sava, Prespa, Sharra)
- Establishment of the structures for local participation, including Stakeholder Groups in all 3 target regions
- 2nd and 3rd meetings of the Project Steering Group (Feb 2012, Brussels, respectively May 2012, Milocer)
- Meeting of the Stakeholder Group of the "Drina-Tara" cross-border region (Mar 2012, Zlatibor, Serbia) to discuss the experience acquired so far and the need for local project management structures in the context of future implementation of an Area Based Development approach in the Western Balkans
- Stakeholder meetings in the selected target cross-border regions "Drina-Sava", "Prespa" and "Sharra" for discussion of the strategic priorities and preparation of action plans for implementation of an Area Based Development Approach (ABD)

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Finalization of the baseline study and strategic frameworks for the "Drina-Sava", "Prespa" and "Sharra" cross-border regions

- Consolidation of the structures for local participation which include Stakeholder Groups
- 4th meeting of the Project Steering Group (Sep 2012, Croatia)
- Finalization of the Project Fiche for implementation of Area Based Development in the Western Balkans

Links and Contact

Link: SEE SWG Website: <http://www.seerural.org/>

Contact: Kjartan Bjornsson, Kjartan.BJORNSSON@ec.europa.eu

Project information

Support to preparation of the 3rd South-Eastern Europe (SEE) Ministers of Health Forum, IPA 2011/022-964, EUR 54,786

Beneficiary region: South-Eastern Europe (SEE)
 Type of contract: Contribution Agreement CN2011/274-211
 Contractor: World Health Organization
 Duration of activities: 15/09/2011–14/03/2012

Purpose

The overall objective of this project is to strengthen the regional cooperation in the area of public health and create the premises for reinforcement of the values, priorities and actions for Health in All Policies (HiAP) in the South-Eastern Europe, with a view to further strengthen the public health capacities and services for the control and prevention of non-communicable diseases, in particular in South-Eastern Europe countries.

Activities

- Follow-up meeting to the Forum to evaluate its results and consider the preliminary action plan for their implementation (Mar 2012, Brussels)

Activities and events planned for next semester

- n/a (project ended in Mar 2012)

Links and Contact

Link: <http://www.euro.who.int/en/what-we-do/health-topics/Health-systems/public-health-services/publications2/2011/a-decade-of-regional-cooperation-on-public-health-in-south-eastern-europe.-a-story-of-successful-partnership>

Contact: Kjartan Bjornsson, Kjartan.BJORNSSON@ec.europa.eu

Project information

Project Preparation Facility - Local Development Capacity Assessment in EU Candidates and Potential Candidates, IPA 2009/021-373, EUR 0.29 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans and Turkey
 Type of contract: Grant contract to the OECD, CN2010/253-252
 Duration of activities: 23/12/2010 – 22/03/2012

Purpose

The aim of the project is to:

- provide an assessment of local development capacities in view of EU accession in the Western Balkans using OECD criteria;

- develop recommendations for policy and institutional framework improvement in each partner country;
- support the emergence of initiatives to increase area-based development planning and delivery capacity;
- identify capacity building priorities that could be addressed as part of a future project.

Activities

The project was launched through a series of OECD missions to the target countries. All line ministries responsible for: (1) skills and employment; (2) social inclusion; (3) SME promotion (and regional development where relevant) showed a good degree of commitment. In each country, thematic government teams have been formed (under the coordination of line ministries) on each of the 3 policy areas to provide information on national policies and implementation frameworks; facilitate project implementation in the case study territory; validate the assessments and Action Plans.

Case study territories were selected by the OECD (*see below*) drawing on the suggestions of country thematic teams.

Capacity assessment work was conducted between and the results of the field work were discussed at a series of thematic round tables in each case study territory and at national level.

A high-level peer dialogue session on the preliminary assessment results was organised as a part of the OECD Local Economic and Employment Development Programme as a follow up. Senior representatives of beneficiary line ministries participated in this event.

A regional meeting was held on 7-8 February 2012 at the OECD LEED Trento Centre for Local Development gathering Small Business Act (SBA) Co-ordinators from the Western Balkans to discuss and validate national and local scoring and assessment results of EU SBA Implementation.

The project activities were completed in March 2012.

Work is on-going on the finalisation of country reports and synthesis report including: Discussion with partners on key recommendations and scoring results, action plans targeting case study territories and national actors. The reports will be submitted to the EC in the course of September.

Links and Contact

Contact: Bernd Wild, Bernd.WILD@ec.europa.eu

Project information

Strengthening European Integration – Improving the visibility and communication strategy of the IPA Multi-beneficiary projects.

IPA 2011/022-964, EUR 0.064 million

Type of contract: Specific Contract under Framework Contract

Contractor: (tba)

Purpose

The global objective is to increase the overall visibility of the IPA MB Programme.

Specific objectives:

- The elaboration of a communication strategy for the IPA MB Programme, identifying target audiences and partners, messages and expected outcomes in the EU and the enlargement countries. This should be accomplished in close cooperation with A2, DG Enlargement "Information and Communication", in line with the current Communication Strategy of DG

Enlargement, the IPA Communication Strategy (currently at the stage of validation) as well as the conclusions of previous evaluations of IPA assistance¹².

- Based on the findings of the communication strategy, the production of communication material, including drafting of Project Factsheets¹³, thematic presentations and Success Stories.

- Support and advice to ELARG D.3 staff on visibility policy and events.

Activities

-Request for Services re-launched

Links and Contact

Contact: Kjartan Bjornsson, Kjartan.BJORNSSON@ec.europa.eu

Administrative and Technical Assistance Facility (ATA)

Project information

Administrative and Technical Assistance Facility (ATA)

IPA 2012/023-743, EUR 1.87 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans, Iceland and Turkey

Beneficiary Institutions: European Commission services, principally DG Enlargement and EU Delegations in the Western Balkans and Turkey

Purpose

The purpose of ATA is to provide short-term technical assistance and studies to support the Commission's activities, in particular the preparation and implementation of activities such as programming, monitoring, visibility, assessment, tender evaluations and general project supervision.

Links and Contact

Contact: Petra Schlüter, Petra.SCHLUETER@ec.europa.eu

Travel, Accommodation and Conference Facility (TAC)

Project information

Travel Accommodation and Conference facility (TAC), IPA 2012 EUR 0.386 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans, Iceland and Turkey

Beneficiary Institutions: European Commission services

Purpose

The TAC Facility is used to finance the logistical and venue costs of conferences in connection with enlargement and the pre-accession strategy organised by the Commission both in the EU and in beneficiary countries.

TAC funds cover the travel and accommodation costs of beneficiary participants at these conferences as well as the relevant costs for the organisation of the meetings apart from interpretation services.

¹² "Thematic evaluation of IPA-funded information and communication activities – Final report, 2011"

¹³ See, for example, http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/publication/elarg-factsheet_en.pdf or http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/western-balkans-conference/wbif-a4-def_en.pdf

Links and Contact

Contact: Petra Schlüter, Petra.SCHLUETER@ec.europa.eu

Iceland

Purpose

Following Iceland's application for EU membership in July 2009, IPA was amended to include Iceland as a beneficiary country. Due to the country's level of economic and social development and its extended degree of alignment with the EU legislation (Iceland is a member of the European Economic Area (EEA) and Schengen), IPA financial support to Iceland is to be exclusively implemented under IPA Component I "Transition Assistance and Institution Building".

It pursues two strategic objectives:

- i) to further enhance Iceland's ability to assume the obligations of membership by supporting the institutional capacity building of the Icelandic central and local administration for *acquis* transposition and implementation and
- ii) to reinforce Iceland's institutional capacity while preparing for participation in and implementation of Structural Funds¹⁴ and other EU funds¹⁵.

Unit D3 contributes to implementation of these objectives by making the MB IPA funds available for additional support besides the National IPA programme.

In particular, further to the 2011 National IPA programming exercise, the Unit supported two of Iceland's regional projects, which were submitted under the National Programme, but given the limited resources and the necessity to prioritise, were not selected for funding. At the same time, these were typical Structural-Funds-like projects in the regions, upon which one could start building the EU project development experience and disseminate information on EU support beyond the capital region.

The multi-beneficiary Facility for Strengthening European Integration was used to launch the project on Sustainable Economic Development of the Sudurnes region in October 2011¹⁶. At the same time, the Western Balkans Investment Framework / Infrastructure Project Facility was made available to support the Gardarsholmur Sustainability Centre project in Northern Iceland.

Both projects were completed during the first half of 2012. The beneficiaries in Sudurnes (the Southern region) and in the Northern region were as a result equipped with additional project and strategic documents and tools allowing them to advance their regional development plans. The projects were also highly regarded by both, the local and national level authorities and generated interest and spill-over effects beyond the two regions where the assistance was provided.

Unit D3 continues monitoring the activities implemented under the National IPA for Iceland with a view to extending similar project development support in the future.

While in 2011, the Regional Cooperation and Coordination Unit supported the Iceland's programming and implementation activities to a greater extent, following the reinforcement of DG Enlargement Iceland Unit, the main responsibilities in these areas have been transferred to the Iceland Unit in 2012.

¹⁴ European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF)

¹⁵ European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), European Fisheries Fund (EFF)

¹⁶ Framework Contract No 2011/270-282

Consequently, the contract on "EU Information and Communication Services in Iceland" providing EUR 1.4 million of support to the newly established EU Information Centre in Reykjavik, which started in August 2011, is as of 2012 being implemented by the Iceland Unit¹⁷.

The MB envelope for 2010 also allowed for the utilisation of EUR 3.0 million for projects in the area of statistics (implementation delegated to EUROSTAT) and for translation of the EU *acquis* launched in November 2011 and currently implemented by the Iceland Unit¹⁸.

The availability of these funds allowed initiating of some urgent activities before the first projects under the National Programme 2011 start in 2012.

Links and Contact

Contact: Inga Stefanowicz, Inga.STEFANOWICZ@ec.europa.eu

¹⁷ Service Contract No 2011/268-980 and 2011/269-114

¹⁸ Direct Grant Contract No 2011/274-599

Annexes

Annex 1: List of Strengthening European Integration (SEI) projects under IPA decision 2011/022-964

TITLE	CN NO	Signature date	Amount in €
South East Europe Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG SEE)	271250	20/09/2011	150,000.00
Joint EU and ICTY Training project for National Prosecutors and Young Professionals from the Former Yugoslavia	265762	11/08/2011	400,000.00
Assessment of Corruption and Crime affecting the Business Sector in the Western Balkans (UNODC)	276036	13/01/2012	450,000.00
NEEAPS Study in-country WS	295514	5/09/2012	200,000.00
RECOM Regional Commission	292650	26/06/2012	458,403.30
BIRN: Regional Reporting on Transitional Justice Issues	275110	28/12/2011	465,456.74
Monitoring and Evaluation Capacity Development for the WB & Turkey	286828	15/05/2012	1,200,000.00
CSF Partnership		30/11/2012	1,000,000.00
Support to preparation of the 3rd South-Eastern Europe (SEE) Ministers of Health Forum – "Health in all policies of the SEE: a shared goal and responsibility" and implementation of its outcomes	274211	16/12/2011	54,786.00
SEED Systematic Electronic Exchange of Data	300108	30/11/2012	500,000.00
CEFTA Secretariat	288791	30/04/2012	200,000.00
IT Interconnectivity	298664	21/08/2012	500,000.00
IGMAN Expert Elaboration of Unresolved Issues among the Countries Signatories of the Dayton Agreement: Issues of Citizens' Property	272039	4/10/2011	143,379.00
Visibility	300161	30/11/2012	63,600.00
Media fact finding study	288659	30/11/2012	200,000.00
Support to organisation of 2 Meetings: Closing Event and NGO Environment Forum	284574	30/11/2012	142,207.00
Hosting and maintenance of the Management Information System for CBC programmes in the Western Balkans (WB CBCM MIS) and provision of related technical assistance	292737	30/11/2012	9,982.00
Standing Working Group (SWG)		30/11/2012	440,000.00

Annex 2: List of Strengthening European Integration (SEI) projects under IPA decision 2012/022-966

TITLE	CN NO	Signature date	Amount in €
Better Policies for Innovative and High Growth SMEs - Policy reform support under the "Western Balkans SME Platform"	295825		302,756.00
Joint EU and ICTY Training project for National Prosecutors and Young Professionals from the Former Yugoslavia	296002	16/07/2012	400,000.00
Support to the Development of SEEMIC (South East European Military Intelligence Chiefs) forum	299621		100,000.00

Annex 3: Unit D3: Regional Cooperation and Programmes: Organisation Chart

Name	Function	Phone
Yngve ENGSTROM	Head of Unit	99668
Kitija KRUMINA	Unit Secretariat Coordination of Missions, HR co-ordination	59266

Section for Regional Cooperation and Political Criteria		
Kjartan BJORNSSON	Head of Section	87414
Pauline JANNES	Support Unit Secretariat and Section Secretariat	63743
Roberta CORTESE	Rule of Law, Justice Freedom and Security including Integrated Border Management. Reporting on ICTY (SENSE)	87794
Vacant (K. Bjornsson a.i.)	Fundamental rights, Minorities, Social inclusion, Refugees	
Vacant (K. Bjornsson a.i.)	Regional Cooperation, Regional Cooperation Council, Political briefings	
Patricia PEREZ-GOMEZ	RESPA, Parliamentary Cooperation, Training in Public Procurement	93391
Gerry RENDERS	Cross Border Cooperation, Education/Youth, Disaster Preparedness/Civil Protection, Veterinary	62546
Véronique VERBRUGGEN	Sigma and Strategy framework, Public Administration Reform	80755
Bernd WILD	Statistics, Spatial Data Infrastructure, Union Programmes and EU agencies	52467
Agnieszka IWANOWSKA-BIEL	Contract Assistant	98258

Section for Civil Society, Media and Research		
Nicola BERTOLINI	Head of Section	63309
Robert NELSON till Nov.2012	Head of Section	54430
Dario DI BENEDETTO	Section Secretariat	98503
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Vacant till Nov.2012	Social Infrastructure	
Vacant till Oct.2012	Trainee	

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