



MULTI-BENEFICIARY PROGRAMMES ACTIVITY REPORT

July – December 2012

Enlargement Directorate-General
IPA Strategy
Unit D3 - Regional Cooperation and Programmes

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There is a full list of current ELARG/D3 staff at the end of the report.

Introduction

This report covers the activities of all on-going Multi-beneficiary projects which are the responsibility of Unit D3 of the Directorate General for Enlargement of the European Commission. It covers the period 1st July – 31st December 2012.

Highlights

(1) Programming and implementation of Multi-beneficiary (MB) IPA programmes is well underway. For the MB programmes 2011, all funds were committed before the final date of contracting, including the signature of 18 partnership agreements for the Civil Society Facility. By the end of the year, the contracting rate of the MB programme 2012 stood at 47% for decision number IPA 2012/22-966.

The Unit has prepared and brought to adoption a financing decision for civil society support in 2013; a monitoring programme; and the cultural heritage programme (not IPA) for 2012. On 5th December, the IPA Committee gave a unanimous positive opinion to the MB IPA programme 2013 which will be adopted in February 2013.

Following an initial financing decision of EUR 7.84 million from IPA 2011 funds, D3 has processed another financing decision for a total of EUR 102 million, covering phase 2 of the Regional Housing Programme for 2012 and 2013. The remaining EU pledge of a total of EUR 230 million (for a total estimated cost of EUR 580 million) is subject to the overall EU budget under the new financial perspective 2014-2020.

(2) On 9th November, at the Ministerial Conference of the SEE Investment Committee, Ministers of the Western Balkans economies adopted a statement committing to support the strategy 'South East Europe 2020 – Towards Convergence and Growth' ("SEE 2020"). The strategy has headline targets for integrated, smart, inclusive and sustainable growth within a good governance framework and is the first regional strategy for economic development in South East Europe.

(3) At the IPA MB Programme Coordination Meeting in Zagreb on 14 -15 November, discussions focused on:

(i) the SEE 2020 vision: its importance for the overall accession process as it provides long-term targets for the countries to achieve which are measurable. It also visualises in a concrete manner the benefits to the countries for undertaking reforms necessary for the EU accession process;

(ii) the new IPA II (2014-2020) instrument - its planning and programming (including a Sector Approach presentation); its implementation and monitoring (including a World Bank presentation).

(4) The Western Balkan Enterprise Development and Innovation Facility (WB EDIF) was launched on 5 December in Paris with an EUR 145 million budget which is expected to mobilise in excess of EUR 300 million of financing to Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in the region. EDIF originated from the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) as the first initiative in the area of Private Sector Development.

The WB EDIF has four components: two equity funds for innovative and high-growth SMEs, a regional guarantee facility and a technical assistance facility.

EDIF should become a regional hub of SME support, evolving to address the needs of the beneficiary economies, depending on their markets' maturity and regulatory environment for business.

(5) The 7th meeting of the WBIF Steering Committee took place on 6th December 2012 in Paris, organised by the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB). The Committee discussed the need to increase awareness of ensuring investments in the social sector, i.e. human capital and education and inclusion of vulnerable groups such as Roma. The Committee approved 13 WBIF grants totalling EUR 10.98 million to support the preparation of investments in the key sectors of WBIF (transport, energy, including energy efficiency, social infrastructure).

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1 Public administration reform sector

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

1.1 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. 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, good practice exchanges through the networking events are also organised, which foster knowledge transfer and cross-fertilisation of concepts and initiatives between stakeholders, both inside and outside the Western Balkans.

1.1.1 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 direct grant to ReSPA supports the school in delivering training to improve the professionalism of the civil service in the Western Balkans.

There is a clear division of support to the budget coming from the EU and that coming from 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 supports the ReSPA activities, such as training and other events, communication and visibility actions, resource centre, etc.

Activities

ReSPA has made a significant step forward in both its institutional construction as well as in its capacity to respond more accurately to the training needs at regional level.

Under the first component, ReSPA has hosted the first meeting of its Advisory Board; it has also completed its work programme for 2013. It has upgraded its multi-annual business plan in line with a reviewed and consolidated mission and vision of the regional institution.

The ReSPA team has achieved the implementation of quality training sessions and the accomplishment of a new capacity needs assessment at regional level for 2013.

These developments include the following activities:

- A number of facilitation sessions to fine-tune a common vision of the core values of ReSPA (Mission, Vision, and Objectives) both at regional level but also at institutional level (Governing Board (GB), ReSPA secretariat and European Union). The results of these sessions guarantee the elaboration of a fully consistent and regionally endorsed Business Plan that responds to the actual needs of the region. The first session took place in Istanbul in September 2012.
- The Capacity Needs Assessment for 2013 was successfully conducted in cooperation with representatives from the Member States. The process was launched with a workshop in which questionnaires were discussed; it was structured around three focus groups and outputs were presented at the Advisory Board meeting for endorsement.
- The programme of work for 2013 was drafted by the ReSPA Secretariat following the findings and results of the Capacity Needs Assessment. The new programme includes additional data and indicators to facilitate evaluation of performance and impact. It was adopted at the GB Meeting at Senior Officials' and Ministers' level.
- In line with the consolidation of a common regional institutional vision, a new Corporate Identity was shaped and its different elements developed. The new identity represents the multiplying effect of working together and should strengthen ReSPA's awareness, visibility and image among stakeholders and target audiences.
- The ReSPA website has been completely revamped and modernised with new applications and a logo. The website provides the most accurate information about ReSPA's core activities. It also features new elements such as external events, ReSPA Campus, ReSPA news, Partner News, a photo and video gallery. The website was officially launched in November 2012.
- 3 Governing Board Meetings at Senior Official Level were organised during the reporting time, 1 Governing Board at Ministers Level whereby Chairmanship was handed over from Bosnia and Herzegovina to Croatia and 3 Budget Committee Meetings.

Many of the core activities were delivered, improving the reputation of ReSPA as a reliable training and networking institution. One that is capable of responding with quality training to the common national needs in the region, mainly in terms of EU integration criteria and Human Resource Management as a fundamental vector of Public Administration Reform.

Around 330 civil servants from six ReSPA member states and Kosovo* attended different capacity building events. They have been provided with the up-to-date information and know-how to help their understanding of relevant aspects of Public Administration Reform and implementation.

One of the main achievements has been the synergies built up during different ReSPA activities (networking events, trainings, training-of-trainers, Regional Comparative study etc.) helping to strengthen institutional and individual relations at regional level. Related activities are listed below:

Training:

- 1) Workshop - Performance Assessment Training for Managers in Public Administration, Danilovgrad (Montenegro), 03-06 July 2012
- 2) Workshop on Evaluation of Public Administration Policies, *Danilovgrad (Montenegro)*, 17-19 September 2012
- 3) Workshop on HRM: Recruitment and Selection Interviewing, *Danilovgrad (Montenegro)*, 16-18 October 2012

*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

- 4) Workshop on Public-Private Partnerships, Danilovgrad (Montenegro), 30 October - 1 November 2012
- 5) Workshop on Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights, *Danilovgrad (Montenegro)*, 20-22 November 2012
- 6) Workshop on Change Management in Public Administration Institutions, *Danilovgrad (Montenegro)*, 27-29 November 2012
- 7) Workshop on Free Access to Public Administration, *Danilovgrad (Montenegro)*, 27-29 November 2012
- 8) Workshop on Regulatory Techniques and Processes, *Danilovgrad (Montenegro)*, 11-13 December 2012

Networking events:

- 1) 3rd Regional Network for Senior E-government Practitioners, *Danilovgrad (Montenegro)*, 17-18 September 2012
- 2) 2nd Meeting of the Network for European Integration Affairs, *Zagreb (Croatia)*, 30-31 October 2012
- 3) First Networking Event of the Community of Practice, *Danilovgrad (Montenegro)*, 4-5 December 2012
- 4) 2nd Networking Event on Ethics and Integrity, *Danilovgrad (Montenegro)*, 10-11 December 2012
- 5) Meeting of the Network of Secretary Generals, *Riga (Latvia)*, 13-14 December 2012

Training of Trainers:

- 1) Training of Trainers” on EU Accession Negotiations, Danilovgrad (Montenegro), 5-9 November 2012

Summer Schools:

- 1) Summer School on “Young Managers in Public Administration”, Danilovgrad (Montenegro), 02 – 11 July 2012
- 2) Summer School “EU Law and its Implementation”, Luxembourg, 2-13 July 2012

Activities and events planned for next semester

- 1st Regional Common Assessment Framework Conference 29-30 January 2013
- Institution Building for EU Membership and Law Approximation, NISPAcee Training (Network of Institutes and Schools of Public Administration in Central and Eastern Europe), 12-14 February 2013
- Job Analysis, Competency Frameworks & Performance Management Systems, Institute of Public Administration of Ireland, 05-07 February 2013
- Launching of the First round in 2013 of Mobility Scheme Programme, February 2013
- Launching of Regional Comparative study on Ethics and Integrity, February, 2013
- Ethics and Integrity Network, 28-29 February 2013
- Change Management Advanced, Royal Institute of Public Administration, 12- 14 March 2013
- Training on Ethics and Integrity, OECD, 12- 14 March 2013
- Launching of Regional Comparative study in the field of EU integration, March 2013

- Effective People Management - Interpersonal Skills for Managers, IPA Ireland, April 2013
- eGovernment network + Launch event of the regional eGovernment comparative study, 21-22 February 2013
- E-governance, E-diplomacy and Business diplomacy, Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, TBC
- EUI network, 19-20 March
- Community of Practice (CoP), March 2013
- Intensive Course on EU Issues, Bruges, March 2013
- Accredited Training on Managing Successful Programmes for Senior Managers, March 2013
- Second meeting of Advisory Board on Thematic Level, March/April, 2013
- Launching of Regional Comparative study in the field of HRM/HRD, April, 2013
- 7th ReSPA Annual Conference, April 2013
- Follow-up to PPP Trainings – Study Visit to Croatian PPP Agency, April 2013
- Training on Service Delivery, April 2013
- Secretary Generals Network, May 2013
- Network of the Diplomatic Academies of the WB countries, May 2013
- Training on Strategic Management and Leadership, May 2013
- Training on Intercultural Communication, May/June 2013
- Capacity Needs Assessment workshop, May 2013
- Competency Framework, RIPA UK, June 2013
- Training on Policy Coordination, June 2013
- Launching of the First round in 2013 of Mobility Scheme Programme, June 2013
- ToT on EU negotiations, June 2013

Links and contact

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

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1.2 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.

1.2.1 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 – 21/06/2013

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 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 is training up to 180 trainers using a detailed tailor-made module developed as part of the joint EC-OECD SIGMA initiative.

Activities

The fourth Steering Committee Meeting was held in Paris on the 6th of July 2012. During this meeting and in the light of the project's achievements so far, the project risk analysis and the consequent need to support a sound sustainability strategy, a non-cost contract extension of 7 months from December 2012 to June 2013 was approved. This will enable the following objectives and impact:

- 1) the consolidation of the ToT programme and an increased number of trained trainers;
- 2) the timely elaboration of the Training in Public Procurement (PP) Roadmaps, in collaboration with national authorities;
- 3) the presentation of the Roadmaps for national endorsement in coordination with the European Commission and other donors, with a view to ensure political support and coordination of external actions regarding PP at national level;
- 4) a structured handover strategy of the project's achievements to ReSPA to strengthen a regional sector approach in terms of PAR.

With the longer operational perspective granted to the project, the following activities were achieved:

- Completion of the delivery of Stage II Training of Trainers (ToT) workshops: 40 in-country training workshops (5 one-week workshops per Beneficiary) were delivered using primarily Phase I ToTs as trainers who delivered their respective sessions under observation by the Project's experts. These workshops resulted in several different achievements simultaneously:
 - Giving the opportunity for Phase I ToTs to deliver 10 sessions as a pre-requisite for their certification/accreditation as national procurement trainers.
 - Validation of the eight national versions of the translated and customized SIGMA modules, through collection of the comments and refinements required as put forward by the respective representatives of public procurement authorities (PPA), as well as Phase I & II ToTs.
 - In-country training of a second batch of ToTs who are not fluent in English (5 ToTs per Beneficiary were trained in Turin during Phase I while 9-25 ToTs per Beneficiary were trained in Phase II).
- Update of the Project's online e-learning platform.
- Development of two options for the certification/accreditation schemes of Stage I and Stage II ToT participants (total of 203 candidates) - and subsequent selection by each

PPA of one of the proposed two options for joint PPA/ITC-ILO certification or only attestation by ITC-ILO, as well as preparation of the descriptive content of the certificates to be issued to Phase I and Phase II ToTs.

- Production of Final Draft versions of OECD/SIGMA Modules incorporating the comments received through the validation process of Phase II.
- Development of the structure and self-assessment tools in English of the on-line short course on Public Procurement for Economic Operators and the general public:
 - Identification in consultation with the respective PPAs of national experts
 - Preparation of ToRs for the tasks
 - Recruitment of experts
 - Development of the guidelines for compilation of the narrative part of the on-line course
- Purchase of eight InDesign software licenses
- Development of draft Roadmaps for National Sustainable Delivery of Procurement Training in the Western Balkans and Turkey (July / November 2012)
 - Redrafting of the ToR of the survey to be conducted for each Beneficiary
 - Development of the list of stakeholders to be interviewed for each Beneficiary and the corresponding survey questionnaire to collect essential data about i) foreseen procurement training priority needs, ii) general data on procurement reform, annual procurement volumes, numbers of contracting authorities and existing requirements for certification of procurement officers and trainers, iii) the capacity of national training institutions
 - Country visits for interviews with the stakeholders, followed by preparation of the respective first draft Roadmaps.
- Provision of an International Public Procurement Library (in English) for each of the 8 Beneficiaries' PPA (selection of publications and purchase November 2012 - Delivery foreseen mid-January 2013)

The fifth Steering Committee meeting took place in Paris on the 4th of December 2012. During this meeting the national representatives expressed their satisfaction about the extension of the training scope to phase II trainers. They proposed collaboration with ITC-ILO to try to reach full certification for all of them, which would increase significantly the impact of the project in terms of ToT.

Roadmaps were also presented country by country by the project team in order to get a first feedback from the country representatives, who agreed with the main conclusions and proposals.

A ReSPA representative also took part to confirm the collaboration in the upcoming semester between the project and the regional institution in a handover strategy of the networking component.

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).
- Receipt of PPA comments on the respective Draft Roadmaps and incorporation of comments for production of the final Roadmaps.

- Delivery of one National Stakeholders' Workshop for presentation and refinement of the Roadmaps in consultation with the stakeholders and donors attending the workshops.
- Delivery of 5 workshops for procurement practitioners per Beneficiary as part of the implementation of the respective Roadmaps to give an opportunity of certification for Phase II ToTs.
- Development of the eight online self-learning short courses in the national languages with the participation of a representative of each PPA. Posting of these online courses on the respective PPA website.
- Transfer of the Project's web applications and Regional Networking Platform to ReSPA and initial support in its animation and maintenance.
- Holding the first Annual Networking Forum at ReSPA for the regional members of the Procurement Trainers Network.
- Certification/Attestation of Phase II ToTs.
- Preparation of the Project's overall Final Report.
- Organisation of the Final Steering Committee meeting

Links and contact

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1.3 Public finance management

All countries in the region have been increasingly placing emphasis on the improvement in the management of public finance. This 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.

1.3.1 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

This World Bank-led project provides a platform for systematic improvement of public financial management across the Western Balkans through coordinated action by donors. It uses 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 entire one million EUR provided for this programme have now been committed. All funds have been transferred to the World Bank Trust Fund in accordance with the Administration Agreement. A total of 8 projects have been funded, including at least one project in each beneficiary jurisdiction, except Kosovo;
- One project has been completed (Albania PEFA assessment). The follow-up Albania PFM Strategy is in the final quality assurance stage, following completion of the draft in November 2012. The Fiscal Impact of Structural Reform initiative was extended to the end of February 2013 to permit completion of a consolidated publication of case studies. Data collection activities are underway in both the Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Montenegro PEFA assessments. All of the other projects have commenced and are either in the process of finding suitable consultants or completing project concept approval processes.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Four projects will be completed: Fiscal Impact of Structural Reforms; Albania PFM Strategy; and Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina PEFA assessments.
- The Serbia Roads Financial Management Assessment will be in the final reporting stage and data collection activities for the Croatia Cities PEFA assessments are expected to be completed.
- A Steering Committee meeting is planned for mid-February, which will primarily focus on review of progress under the Trust Fund.

Links and contact

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1.4 Support for Improvement in Governance and Management (SIGMA)

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.

1.4.1 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

This contract contributes 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 make significant advances in their administrative reforms 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 increase complementarity with other instruments of IPA assistance, including TAIEX and Twinning.

Activities

Albania

SIGMA continued to work with the Department of Public Administration on developing a new civil service system and a new policy for the organisation and functioning of the state administration. SIGMA also continued to work with the General Directorate of Internal Audit on developing the competencies of the (CHU) Central Harmonisation Unit's staff and its internal guidance and training.

SIGMA also launched two new public finance projects: (i) with the High State Control (the Supreme Audit Institution - SAI) on drafting a new Strategic Development Plan and in preparing a Twinning project by developing the staff's knowledge of financial and performance audit and awareness of IT auditing; and (ii) with the MoF's CHU 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. SIGMA also continued to support the development of the public procurement and PPP/concessions systems.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

SIGMA provided advice to the Brcko District Government on four public administration laws to better align them with European standards and practices and to make them more coherent with public administration laws in other administrative levels of Bosnia and Herzegovina. SIGMA also supported the various civil service management institutions to design and implement better civil service management tools and to provide support to the Federation Bosnia and Herzegovina Government on its new civil service legal framework and other public administration reform initiatives. In the area of public finance, SIGMA completed a peer review of the Supreme Audit Institution.

Croatia

SIGMA started to provide assistance on various issues (including access to public information, civil service salaries) of civil service and administrative law reform. SIGMA also continued to: (i) support the MoF on various issues (implementation of an action plan for Public Internal Financial Control (PIFC) policy; implementation of the Fiscal Responsibility Act); (ii) provide assistance to various institutions on developing the public procurement and PPP/concessions systems; (iii) provide support on the development of legislative drafting capacities.

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

SIGMA started support on the preparation of a new law on general administrative procedures and continued providing assistance on the reinforcement of the merit system in the civil service. SIGMA also continued providing assistance on the development of the public procurement and PPP/concessions systems.

Kosovo

SIGMA started support to the Ministry of Public Administration on improving the coordination and implementation of public administration reform and to provide support to the Ministry of European Integration on developing: (i) the capacity of key structures for EU acquis harmonisation; (ii) the public administration component of the SAA Action Plan. SIGMA also continued supporting the work of the Ministry of Public Administration on improving the Law on General Administrative Procedures; providing assistance on the development of PIFC; and supporting the development of the public procurement system.

Montenegro

SIGMA continued providing assistance in the area of civil service on: (i) the preparation for the implementation of the new civil service system; (ii) the development of an anti-

corruption institutional framework: (iii) the establishment of a new system of administrative procedures. In the area of public finance, SIGMA started supporting the SAI in various areas (implementation of the Strategic Development Plan, improving audit quality, auditing of political parties) following the peer review conducted by SIGMA in 2011. It also supported the MoF on the implementation of the PIFC Strategy and also provided assistance on the development of the public procurement system.

Serbia

SIGMA continued supporting the SAI in developing its position in the whole system of public financial management and in clarifying the role of external audit. In the area of public finance, SIGMA also started support for the establishment of the Audit Authority and to the joint MoF-SAI working group recently set up as one of several major vehicles for joint efforts to strengthen PIFC and external audit. This was partly as a result of the support previously provided by SIGMA to both organisations.

Turkey

SIGMA started supporting the Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA) strengthen its key function of monitoring the executive. In the area of public finance, SIGMA continued supporting the Court of Accounts on change management processes and the quality of audit. It also supported the MoF on the development of internal audit and continued to help the authorities strengthen their ability to proceed with Chapter 5 (Public Procurement) negotiations.

Multi-country assistance

SIGMA finalised the policy paper on the rule of law, which was published in November. It launched a project (i) to refine the baselines for policy-making and coordination used for its annual Assessments, and (ii) to review policy development, coordination and implementation in two countries (Kosovo, Montenegro). SIGMA also started to prepare a 3rd regional PIFC conference to be held in June 2013, and continued to provide support to the Candidate Countries and Potential Candidates SAI Network, to the Public Expenditure Management Peer Assisted Learning (PEMPAL) Network, and to the EC on the implementation of the IPA public procurement regional training programme.

Activities and events planned for next semester

Albania

SIGMA will continue to work with the Department of Public Administration on developing a new civil service system and a new policy for the organisation and functioning of the state administration.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

SIGMA will organise a workshop for high-ranking officials and politicians to facilitate the implementation of the recommendations of SIGMA's 2012 Assessment. SIGMA will also continue to provide advice to the Brcko district on two public administration laws (Law on the Civil Service, Law on Public Administration), to better align them with European principles and good practices of public administration.

Croatia

SIGMA will continue providing assistance on key aspects of civil service and administrative law reform, and provide assistance to various institutions on developing the public procurement and PPP/concessions systems.

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

SIGMA will continue providing support to the preparation of a new law on general administrative procedures.

Kosovo

SIGMA will continue supporting the Ministry of Public Administration to improve the coordination and implementation of public administration reform and provide support to

the Ministry of European Integration on developing: (i) the capacity of key structures for EU acquis harmonisation: (ii) the public administration component of the SAA Action Plan. SIGMA will also continue supporting the work of the Ministry of Public Administration to improve the Law on General Administrative Procedures and provide support to the development of the public procurement system.

Montenegro

SIGMA will continue assisting the implementation of the new civil service system and the establishment of a new system of administrative procedures. In the area of public finance, SIGMA will continue supporting the Supreme Audit Institution in various areas (implementation of Strategic Development Plan, audit quality, auditing of political parties) and provide support to the MoF on the implementation of the PIFC Strategy. SIGMA will also continue providing assistance to the development of the public procurement system.

Serbia

In the area of public finance, SIGMA will continue supporting the Audit Authority and the joint MoF-SAI working group. SIGMA will also continue assisting the development of the public procurement system

Turkey

SIGMA will continue supporting the Turkish Grand National Assembly to strengthen its overseeing the executive function and support the MoF develop internal audit.

Multi-country assistance

SIGMA will conduct its 2013 annual Assessments of IPA countries and will organise a regional conference on public procurement in June 2013. SIGMA will also continue working to: (a) refine the baselines for policy-making and coordination used for its annual Assessments and (b) review policy development, coordination and implementation in Kosovo and Montenegro.

Links and contact

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

1.5 Land administration

Modernisation of land administration in the Western Balkans is needed for a number of activities such as state survey, cadastre and official mapping, as well as registration of secure property rights. Land administration is referred to in many parts of Accession, European Partnerships and Stabilisations and Association Agreements. 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 environmental protection projects.

1.5.1 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, including specific country analysis and tailor made recommendations for each of the beneficiaries. A series of regional training and workshop sessions are to 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 landmark in the second half of 2012 was the delivery of the regional draft legal framework analysis, which outlined the legal gaps for each of the beneficiary countries. The contractor also provided a draft public awareness study and a draft capacity and education study.
- The Beneficiary steering committee meeting in Becici in Montenegro endorsed the preliminary findings: The legal and institutional framework in the beneficiary countries is not yet sufficiently developed. In order to comply with the requirements of the directive and in order make full use the potential of the geospatial data network the countries need to invest in human resources (education & manpower) and create the right institutional structures. Last but not least they need to lobby the decision makers in their countries.

Activities and events planned for next semester:

- The contractor will fine-tune on the above studies and organise a number of workshops and awareness raising activities in Tirana, Skopje, and Belgrade.
- The next steering committee will take place concurrently with the national workshop in Belgrade in June 2013.

Contact

Contact: Bernd Wild, Bernd.WILD@ec.europa.eu

1.6 Statistics

Statistics has been identified as an important aspect of public administration reform and good governance. The principal aim of assistance in statistics is to develop the capacities of the Beneficiaries and harmonise their statistical methods and standards with EU norms by providing technical assistance, delivering the necessary equipment and building networks to share experience and best practice.

All projects are sub-delegated to, and managed by, Eurostat.

1.6.1 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, EUR 2.38 million;
Grant to Central Bureau of Statistics of Croatia, EUR 1.09 million;
Grant to State Statistical Office of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, EUR 0.45 million;

Grant to Statistical Office of Serbia, EUR 0.52 million;
 Grant to Turkish Statistical Institute, EUR 0.89 million;
 Grant to Hagstofa Íslands, EUR 0.56 million

Duration of activities: December 2010 – November 2012
 (December 2012 for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

The implementation of the two service contracts and four grant contracts has been finalised. The grant contract to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was extended by one month. The 3rd interim report for the service contract lot 2 is still suspended for technical verification, the financial verification is still not complete and the final report is still not delivered. The draft final report for the service contract lot 1 was delivered and discussed, the final version remains to be approved and final payment to be done. The final reports for the grant contracts are expected in the 1st quarter of 2013.

1.6.2 Project information

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

Beneficiary region: Iceland
 Type of contract: Grant to Hagstofa Íslands
 Duration of activities: April 2011 – April 2013

Activities

- A farm structure survey has been conducted and registers to be used for the population census have been prepared and updated.

1.6.3 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:
 A service contract with GOPA Consultants, EUR 3.2 million;
 Grant to Central Bureau of Statistics of Croatia, EUR 1.10 million;
 Grant to Hagstofa Íslands, EUR 0.81 million;
 Grant to State Statistical Office of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, EUR 0.88 million;
 Grant to Statistical Office of Serbia, EUR 1.10 million;
 Grant to Turkish Statistical Institute, EUR 1.08 million

Duration of activities: July 2012 – June 2014

Purpose

The project 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 Policy Group for Statistical Cooperation (PGSC) met in Tirana in October 2012. The Directors of the National statistical offices of the beneficiary countries and their heads of international departments discussed cooperation in statistics;

- Implementation under the IPA 2011 service contract started immediately in July 2012 but financing the activities only started in October 2012 once the funds under the IPA 2009 service contracts were exhausted; the inception report was delivered and approved; the 1st progress, technical and financial report is due in the first quarter of 2013
- All beneficiaries participated in working group meetings, study visits, ad hoc consultancies, workshops on National Accounts and Quarterly National Accounts, etc.
- Statisticians from the beneficiaries participated in a round of traineeships at Eurostat and in some of the EU NSIs for a period of 3.5 months from September to December 2012 and a new round of traineeships will start in January and end in June 2013

1.6.4 Project information

Statistical Cooperation for the Western Balkans, Iceland and Turkey, IPA 2012/023-625, EUR 10.0 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 (end of November 2015 at the latest)

Eurostat will proceed with the tendering and call for proposals in spring 2013, with the aim to have the contracts signed in the third quarter of 2013.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Contracting the IPA 2012 grants and service contract is planned for spring 2013. Contracts are expected to be signed in the third quarter and implementation should only start in January 2014, with a small period of overlap with the IPA 2011, to allow continuity;
- The Management Group for statistical Co-operation will meet in Luxembourg in March 2013 to discuss the cornerstones of a multi-annual strategy for statistical cooperation for the next programming period.

Links and contact

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

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

1.7 Customs and taxation

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

1.7.1 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 – 14/10/2012

Purpose

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

The project will 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”. It will also set a standard for structured data exchange with other interested parties and other initiatives.

Activities

- Secure communication links between Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and between Albania and Kosovo were established in July 2012;
- Legal base (Protocol) between Albania and Montenegro as well as between Kosovo and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia were signed;
- SEED User Manuals for system end-users and system administrators were finalised and translated into all local languages in the Region;
- Fifth SEED Regional Training for the system end-users (operational staff) was conducted on 10-11 July, in Zabljak, Montenegro;
- The Final Conference of the SEED Project took place on 5 October 2012, in Taormina, Sicily, Italy;
- All project outputs, including SEED software source code, Technical Documentation and User Manuals were officially handed over to the Beneficiary Administrations during the Final Conference;
- Project officially ended on 14 October 2012;

1.7.2 Project information

Maintenance of the Systematic Electronic Exchange of Data system in the Western Balkans (SEED Maintenance), IPA 2012/22-964, EUR 0.50 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans (except Croatia)

Type of contract: Service contract, CN2012/300-108

Contractor: Agenzia delle Dogane

Duration of activities: 15/10/2012 – 14/06/2014

Purpose

- Support the customs administrations of the Beneficiaries to continue to use the SEED platform by providing regional coordination and maintenance of the existing SEED infrastructure. Also further functional improvement of the SEED software, based on the Beneficiaries' requests, within the current business objectives: automatic data matching and alarm module on pre-arrival data.
- Support the customs administrations of those Beneficiaries using INES+ software to further improve it. Also to support the customs administrations of the Beneficiaries which currently do not possess INES+ but want to have it.

- Support the customs administrations of the Beneficiaries to further expand the scope of functionality of the SEED platform, on a voluntary basis (on the basis of a common agreement of two and more Beneficiaries) and under the pre-requisite that such a request does not imply significant IT development of the Beneficiaries IT systems, as well as current modules of the SEED system.

Activities

- On-site training to the SEED end-users was delivered to:
 - Customs Administration of Montenegro: BCPs: Dobrakovo (border with Serbia), Rance (Serbia), Bozaj (Albania - 2 times) and Ilino Brdo (Bosnia and Herzegovina - 2 times);
 - Customs Administration of Serbia: BCPs: Gostun (Montenegro), Jabuka (Montenegro), Bajna Basta (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Kotroman (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Uvac (Bosnia and Herzegovina), as well as, Customs House Uzice;
 - Customs Administration of Albania: BCP Hani i Hotit (Montenegro);
- Based on the requirements of the Beneficiary Administrations, a new version (V 4.0.0) of the SEED2 software has been developed, tested and deployed at all 6 SEED servers in the Region in 3-7 December 2012. Newly added functionalities are summarised in the Release notes document, which is uploaded to the SEED Web Portal;
- Following signing of the Protocol (during the Final Conference on previous project), and consequent technical preparations, the 9th SEED Phase 2 data exchange has been launched between Kosovo and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;
- Following signing of the IBM Agreement between Serbia and Kosovo earlier in February 2012, the two Parties have signed an Action Plan at Government level, which includes wide ranging activities in relation to the exchange of information at all levels involving cross-border crime and traffic. This Action Plan includes SEED, which is also covered by an exchange of officially signed letters with the EU;
- The new version of the SEED2 Web application (V 4.0.1) has been installed on all six servers in the region on 25-26 December 2012;
- The Albanian Customs Administration officially requested the installation of the INES+ software. Presentation of the software and an initial meeting for its customisation was conducted in Tirana on 22 November 2012.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- The first technical meeting for possible establishment of SEED data exchange between Serbia and Kosovo, via an intermediate server which will be placed at a neutral location, is to be held in January 2013;
- The new version (V 4.1.0) of the SEED2 software, according to new user requirements that will be collected up to the 31 January 2013, will be developed, tested and deployed at all 6 SEED servers in the region on 1 March 2013;
- A number of “on-site” trainings will be organised for the operational staff at the BCPs as well as for law enforcement staff at the Customs HQs;
- The first regional event of the SEED Maintenance project will be organised in March 2013, most likely in Ohrid;
- A first version of the customised INES+ software will be installed in the premises of Albanian Customs Administration in May 2013;

- The new version (V 4.2.0) of the SEED2 software, according to new user requirements that will be collected up to the 30 April 2013 will be developed, tested and deployed at all 6 SEED servers in the Region on 1 June 2013;
- Site visits to the headquarters of all six Beneficiary Administrations will be conducted by the Key Experts to collect inputs for writing the “Exit Strategy”;
- A draft version of the “Exit Strategy” will be produced.

Links and Contacts

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

2 Justice and home affairs, including fundamental rights and vulnerable groups sector

The MB MIPD 2011-2013 identifies enhancing regional cooperation in the fight against organised crime and corruption as a priority for IPA support. It further highlights the priority of ensuring the rule of law, non-discrimination and respect for Human Rights as well as freedom of expression and assistance with 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.

2.1 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.

2.1.1 Field: Fight against organised crime Project information

Police Cooperation: Fight against organised crime, in particular illicit drug trafficking, and the prevention of terrorism (DET ILECUs 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 improves and promotes international cooperation in the fight against organised crime at strategic and operational levels. More specifically, it improves cross-border intelligence collection systems and criminal intelligence capacities. It enhances strategies and instruments for the trial, freezing and confiscation of terrorist assets and organised crime-related proceeds and it consolidates the International Law Enforcement Coordination Units (ILECUs).

Key achievements

During the project there has been an increase in the percentage of organised crime and economic crime cases in which regional and international cooperation mechanisms were used to support investigations. For example Albania estimates a 75% increase in international investigations. This cooperation has been promoted and supported by the signature of agreements with international police authorities.

The project activities have directly facilitated the establishment of international communication channels, contacts and the building of trust between police authorities in the region.

Activities

- The second simulation exercise took place in Ohrid, with the participation of Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo. The simulation tested the work channel and communication flow between the ILECU offices involved.
- A regional workshop on drugs, under the leadership of Turkish experts, was held in Istanbul to expand international networks in the fight against drug crime and improve cooperation. Know-how and best practices were exchanged and contacts created between the Beneficiaries and the Turkish experts.
- The closing conference took place on 12 December 2012 in Berlin: project results and sustainability strategy were discussed and will be thoroughly reported in the Final Report.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- A roundtable with experts from Croatia, Austria and Turkey in mid-January to exchange best practices and build further ties and networks in the region.
- Strategy meetings will be held to assess the project's impact and to discuss the Beneficiaries' views and recommendations on how to secure the sustainability of the project results.

Outputs

A joint operation involving investigators from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Germany and Austria and partly coordinated by the local ILECU was successfully concluded in Skopje. Within operation 'Fire Alarm' a major international gang of drugs smugglers operating in Europe was dismantled. Some of the coordination meetings for this operation were conducted in relation to project activities.

- IT capacities were improved, through secure communication links established with Europol and SELEC (Southeast European Law Enforcement Centre). Five ILECU have already established a secure line of communication in Europol's 'SIENA' secure communication channel. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia the secure link is in the process of being established, whereas Kosovo is already able to exchange information securely with INTERPOL via a third party (UNMIK).

Links and contact

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

2.1.2 Project information

Cooperation in Criminal Justice: Witness Protection 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.

Key achievements

The key achievements have been in developing and strengthening operational relationships and trust between the Witness Protection Units across the region. The project has successfully promoted a mutual aid ethos, enabling the units to co-operate and co-ordinate activities more effectively in terms of international relocation of witnesses within the Western Balkans. The Witness Protection Units are now better informed about their respective procedures and protocols in relation to international co-operation and are able to apply them in practice and at an operational level, also taking into account best EU practice.

The project has also had a positive impact on raising awareness of Witness Protection procedural and non-procedural measures amongst the other stakeholders in the region, including the prosecution and judiciary, establishing networks, improving regional cooperation and harmonisation of Witness Protection legislation in the region.

Activities

- A final, multi-country, cross-border exercise took place in October across the Western Balkans.
- A Policy Document has been drafted for each Witness Protection Unit. Each Unit Head has been consulted about the content. The document contains relevant protocols and templates to be used by the units in the region, to harmonise their approach to the implementation of Witness Protection programmes and enable better co-operation across the region.
- Albania: Reorganisation of the State Police Witness Protection Directorate was approved in October 2012 (Witness Protection duties have been separated from RESI - VIP and close protection service). RESI is a Special Operations Group responsible – amongst other things - for close protection of VIPs (politicians, judges etc.) and witnesses, e.g. on their way to the courts.
- Training programme under WINPRO I concluded in October 2012.
- Final conference held on 8th November 2012 in Tirana.

Outputs

- International co-operation (protocols and procedures) developed/strengthened in the region based on practical application of Witness Protection relationships, development of definite lines of communication with regard to international cooperation and building trust between Beneficiaries'.
- Professional capacities of the Witness Protection units in the region strengthened through training and practical exercises, enabling the units' personnel to perform their duties more effectively.
- Progress made in harmonisation of Witness Protection legislation, procedures and protocols across the region, through practical application of the best European practice in relation to operational aspects of Witness Protection as presented and promoted by the WINPRO team.

Links and Contact

Link: www.nico.org.uk

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

2.1.3 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 objective of this project is to combat organised crime and corruption at regional and European level. This is 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 a trial, within and/or outside their territory.

Activities

- The project started on the 1st December 2012.
- The Inception phase has started and relevant planning for implementation of activities has been put in place.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- A management visit of the WINPRO II core team to all Beneficiaries will take place in January and February 2013 to meet all Witness Protection Units, Heads of Police, prosecution, judiciary and other relevant stakeholders. They will also present and discuss the objectives of the project as well as implementation of planned activities in each Beneficiary.
- The opening conference is planned for 7th March 2013 in Belfast with participation of representatives of all Witness Protection Units, prosecution, judiciary and other relevant senior stakeholders.
- A comprehensive review of organisational, operational and financial structures of the Witness Protection Units in each Beneficiary as well as a review of their HR structures (including e.g. recruitment and vetting procedures) will be initiated.
- Further harmonisation of legislation in the region will continue, based on the achievements of WINPRO I to ensure continuity and sustainability of approach.

Links and contact

Link: www.nico.org.uk

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

2.1.4 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 enhances the ability of countries of the region to prevent and control cybercrime as well as strengthening the capacities of criminal justice authorities in the Western Balkans and Turkey to cooperate effectively against cybercrime.

Key achievements

The project has engaged the authorities in a broad process of reform towards a concerted and consistent approach to cybercrime, in line with standards of the EU and the CoE. There is clear evidence that a great deal of progress has been made in the Beneficiaries in the implementation of mechanisms to combat cybercrime. The key achievements of this project have been in raising awareness, including through training activities, establishing networks, improving regional cooperation and bringing about legal reform. The Beneficiaries are now aware and able to deal with a range of cybercrimes and have developed responses both by police and prosecutorial departments.

The project has helped make cybercrime a priority concern in the region amongst decision-makers, parliaments and governments. The need for cybercrime strategies – aimed at crime prevention and criminal justice – was tackled in many activities implemented by the project to ensure a comprehensive response to cybercrime and other offences involving electronic evidence.

Activities

- Regional workshop to finalise the basic judicial training pack.
- Workshop on electronic evidence (legal and practical aspects) for institutions of the criminal justice chain (investigators, forensic experts, prosecutors, judges), in cooperation with CyberCrime@EAP.
- Four advanced judicial trainings on cybercrime and electronic evidence for judges and prosecutors.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Regional Conference on strategic priorities on cybercrime for Ministers and Senior Officials to adopt a declaration on cybercrime to ensure that progress at the technical level is backed up by political commitment.
- Train-the-trainers and First responders courses for law enforcement.
- Second Train-the-Trainer Course for judges and prosecutors and First Annual Conference of the Training Institutions from Western Balkans and Turkey.
- Regional training meeting on international judicial cooperation.

Outputs

- The Beneficiaries are now prepared to pursue national cybercrime strategies for an effective criminal justice response to offences against and by means of computers, as well as to any offence involving electronic evidence. In most of the project areas the inclusion of cybercrime in the training strategies is under consideration, as well as the introduction of training to all police recruits in the handling of electronic evidence (this was not the case at the beginning of the project).
- Around 100 judges and prosecutors who attended the basic training participated in the advanced training course in October and November 2012. As a result all the Beneficiaries have mounted cybercrime prosecutions and had positive verdicts returned.

Judges and prosecutors are now aware of the EU and the CoE instruments as well as the threat of cybercrime to society.

- International cooperation has increased, making full use of existing bi- and multilateral and regional agreements, in particular the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime and other CoE and EU instruments, as well as channels of communications. Governments (Parties and Observers to the Convention) are actively participating in the work of the Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY) and they are advised to engage in cooperation with the European Cybercrime Centre (EC3) at Europol.
- In Turkey, a new Cybercrime Department was established within the Turkish National Police comprising 750 officers (an increase from 350). The recommendations of the good practice study developed under the project were considered when setting-up this department.

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

2.1.5 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 strengthens 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 institutionalises the Western Balkan Prosecutor Network and increases cooperation with International and European Networks.

Activities

- On-going on-the-job training and support through the seconded prosecutors of EU Member States (MS) and the national legal officers. Thereby establishing contacts with EU MS and relevant EU institutions; supporting the set-up of Joint Investigation Teams and promoting other instruments of mutual legal assistance; involvement in the re-drafting/amending of Criminal Procedure Codes (with a focus on international cooperation); and organisational development measures for the prosecutors' offices in the beneficiaries.
- Regional Conference on Data collection and Data Protection to raise awareness among beneficiaries and to exchange knowledge for preconditions to deepen cooperation with EUROJUST and the European Judicial network.
- Launch of the procurement of necessary IT equipment (secured channels of communication).
- Finalisation of the Training Needs Assessment and development of a training plan (national and regional). Agreement reached with national Judicial Training Centres about

the incorporation of the training modules in the national training plans to secure sustainable application. A Study Tour to EUROJUST, EUROPOL and European Judicial Network (EJN) in September 2012 to establish professional contacts with national desks and to explain the day-to-day work of the institutions.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Organisation of the 2nd Regional Conference “International Cooperation in Fighting organised Crime and Corruption: Achievements and Challenges”. The conference will address the current achievements and the future of cross-border cooperation between the beneficiaries in the Western Balkans, as well as with the European institutions. The further strengthening of the Prosecutors` Network and cooperation with other networks and organisations will also be addressed.
- Procurement and installation of IT-equipment (including training for end-users) to support the secured exchange and communication of involved prosecutors` offices.
- Implementation of the training plan with the national Judicial Training Centres and conduct of job-shadowing placements among the beneficiaries. Also further Study Tours to enable members of prosecutors` offices to increase their knowledge of latest developments in international cooperation and European standard cooperation mechanisms. Increased human capacities will lead to further use of these instruments and enhanced cross-border cooperation among beneficiaries and to EU institutions and EU member states.
- Further support to the amendment and re-drafting of national legislation (Criminal Procedure Code).

Outputs

- Through the support of the project, a series of formal Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) with various EU Member States has been concluded, focussing especially on human trafficking and forgery of documents.
- Specific modes of international cross-border cooperation have been introduced and implemented where possible (e.g. coordination meetings of prosecutors and police officers, witness hearings in neighbouring countries, asset recovery measures).
- Increased cooperation between national prosecutors` offices and those of the EU Member States.

Links and contact

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

2.1.6 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 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.

Key achievements

Based on a preliminary analysis of the data already available, the survey should produce highly interesting and policy-relevant results on corruption in the business sector of the Western Balkans. The outcome of the work will be a better understanding of the scope and nature of corruption and contribute to better, and more targeted, anti-corruption efforts in the region.

Activities

Testing survey instruments took place in national pilot surveys (covering around 100 business enterprises in each country). The testing resulted in 7 national reports on the pilot surveys that led to a better understanding of where the methodology worked and where problems in conducting the survey were experienced.

Based on the pilot, the survey instrument/questionnaire was modified and improved and the methodology adapted to respond to the technical problems identified in the pilot. Additional consultations with project partners and stakeholders ensured that the questionnaire and methodology maintained consistency among target countries.

Fieldwork for the full survey started in all project countries after a short delay in September/October. The survey proceeded according to schedule in most countries, but problems in achieving the desired number of net responses of sampled businesses meant some extension of the fieldwork in several project countries. The sample coverage was finally achieved in all countries, as documented in the seven technical reports on the implementation of the field work.

Data entry and tabulation started in December and was finished by the end of December in four project countries, while quality control and data checking procedures caused some delays in three project countries.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Finalisation of data entry procedures, production of final database, production of draft analytical reports by several project partners, tabulation of results.
- Analysis of data by UNODC; production of report outline; drafting first draft national reports and draft regional report; comparative analysis and data checking.

Outputs

- The outputs so far produced and submitted by the implementing partners – pilot reports, pilot database, technical reports on field work, and databases with survey data – are all of high quality and suitable for rigorous statistical analysis for production of the final national and regional corruption reports.

Links and contact

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

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

2.1.7 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 2012/022-966, EUR 0.4 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Contribution Agreement with the ICTY, CN2012/296-002

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

Purpose

The objective 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 are trained at the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) of the ICTY.

In terms of impact, the participation in the Visiting Young Professionals Programme is helping the Young Professional receive invaluable experience which will help them in their future professional life. This is a first-class opportunity that contributes to receiving, improving and perfecting criminal law knowledge amongst young professionals.

Activities

Visiting National Prosecutors component

The Office of the Prosecutor of the ICTY - Transition Team supported the Visiting National Prosecutors from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia during searches for investigative material. According to the records of the OTP Transition Team, 45 requests for legal assistance generated by the Liaison Prosecutors were dealt with during the period 1 July 2012-31 December 2012.

Visiting Young Professionals component

The first group of 9 young legal professionals started their internship on 10 September 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.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Visiting National Prosecutors from Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina will end their term in March 2013 and will be replaced by two new Visiting National Prosecutors from those countries.
- The first group of Visiting Young Professionals will end their term on 9 February 2013. The second group will start their term immediately after that.

Outputs

- More war crimes cases tried at the national courts in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia.
- Young lawyers better trained in investigating and prosecuting war crimes cases.

Links and Contact

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

2.1.8 Field: War crimes – 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 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 the domestic prosecution of war crimes.

Key achievements

The work of the SENSE Agency is highly valued by victims and their associations, journalists and professionals in the field of transitional justice:

- “For organisations such as the Humanitarian Law Centre, which provides support to the national courts in their effort to try war crimes cases, SENSE materials, from their daily reports to their special programmes are invaluable and help us in our work immensely.”, Natasa Kandic, director HLC, Belgrade
- “The importance of SENSE lies in the fact that it managed to bridge the terrible media divisions that still characterise the media scene in all the countries in the region. As long as the media in the region remains divided, partisan and confrontational, we will need to have SENSE Agency and its reports.”, Senad Avdic, Editor, "Slobodna Bosna"
- “The weekly programmes and documentaries that SENSE produces are important sources for researchers and for various centres that will be dealing with these issues in the former Yugoslavia in the forthcoming period.”, Eugen Jakovcic, Dokumenta, Zagreb

Activities

- Daily reporting from trials and other Tribunal proceedings: more than 400 reports in Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian and English language. Production of 20 weekly TV updates entitled “The Tribunal”, focusing on trials and other developments at the ICTY;
- Start of the trial of Goran Hadzic, former political leader of Croatian Serbs, The Tribunal's last fugitive arrested in 2011.
- Extensive coverage of Appeals Chamber judgments to Croatian generals Gotovina and Markac and former KLA commanders Haradinaj, Balaj and Brahimaj, who were acquitted on all counts in the indictments. SENSE journalists provided in-depth analyses of court proceedings and judgments.
- Continued digitalisation of SENSE audio-visual trial archive.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Coverage of three remaining major war crimes trials (Karadzic, Mladic and Hadzic)
- Trial Chamber Judgments in cases Prlic et al. (six former Bosnian Croat leaders); Mico Stanisic and Stojan Zupljanin, as well as Jovica Stanisic and Franko Simatovic.
- Appeal chamber judgement is planned in the case of Momcilo Perisic, former chief of Staff of Yugoslav Army.

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

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

2.2 Human rights, respect and protection of minorities

The respect of human rights - including those of minorities – is a core European value 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.

2.2.1 Field: Migration – 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 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:
 - 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
 - to provide opportunities for return of skills and human capital and foster partnerships between countries of origin and destination

Activities

- The purchase, delivery and instalment of technical equipment for the Migrant Service Centres continued.
- The range of services offered by the MSCs has been further expanded to include:
 - information sessions for returning migrants
 - pre-departure orientation seminars for potential migrants
 - CV writing and job interviewing skills for labour migrants
- IOM Diaspora focal points in key EU countries and Switzerland completed the distribution of informational leaflets promoting the reintegration services and support assistance of MSCs for returning migrants.
- Outreach and information campaigns were organised in a number of locations with the involvement of the local media. Meetings were held at local institutions including high schools, universities/faculties and employment offices.
- Under the Temporary and Virtual Return (TVR) component of the MIDWEB, 34 temporary returns and 6 virtual return assignments were completed, resulting in a total of 61 people completing temporary assignments and 11 completing virtual assignments in their countries of origin since the beginning of the project. A number of monitoring visits to host institutions were concluded to check the progress of the TVR assignments and to prevent potential problems with their implementation.

- During the reporting period, three labour migration training courses for consular staff were delivered in Serbia, Kosovo and Albania.
- A final project evaluation was undertaken by the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance in October – November 2012.
- On 13-14 November 2012 as the concluding event of the MIDWEB project, the regional seminar on “Skills Transfer Programmes and their Contribution to Development” took place in Sarajevo. Best practices on skills transfer programmes, were shared, including the MIDWEB Temporary and Virtual Return component, building on previous events.
- IOM undertook a feasibility study of the response to tackling irregular migration in the Western Balkans proposing concrete recommendations. Specific areas of focus included detention centres, information exchange system, readmission agreements with non-EU countries, pool of interpreters and linguistic experts.

Outputs

- The objectives were to promote and support cooperation initiatives between the relevant actors in EU Member States and in the Western Balkans to facilitate the entry of potential migrants to the labour markets in the EU and the Western Balkans. It was also to develop measures to facilitate the return of skilled labour force, reintegrating them into their home society and support the dissemination of newly acquired skills.
- The Migrant Service Centres concept has been well embedded in the national structures and there is a continuous commitment on the part of local authorities to continue with the service. The database of skills shortages is being used by the Migrant Service Centre counsellors and is proving a useful tool in the labour matching process. Temporary Return options have met with great interest among diaspora communities and the local institutions alike.
- Training on labour migration for consular authorities has been reported to be useful, and highlighted the need for involving consular authorities in working with their own diaspora. Project events have offered useful fora for discussions on migration and development links, particularly when human capital and skills transfer is concerned and created a momentum on this topic in the region which is plagued by brain drain.

Links and contact

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

Contact: Liane Adler, Liane.Adler@ec.europa.eu

2.2.2 Field: Human rights and minorities – 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:

- strengthen the implementation of relevant national legislation and promoting good implementation practices, in line with relevant European and International standards
- develop a functioning regional network of relevant national bodies to exchange best practices in minority protection at regional level.

Activities

- As a necessary base for impact-oriented programme implementation, a thorough review has been undertaken in all beneficiary jurisdictions mapping the legislative and institutional framework and status quo relating to minority issues. The project team met with around 300 stakeholders in all beneficiary jurisdictions.
- A database was created identifying all relevant stakeholders who potentially have political or other forms of influence on the protection of minorities within their jurisdiction. The list includes persons from government institutions, parliamentarians, Ombuds staff, staff of specialised minority protection bodies, academics, NGOs and others.
- The project office was set up and almost all project staff recruited. A project web presence was introduced.
- A 5 day colloquium, 'Regional School of Minority Rights', was organised in Croatia, delivering lectures on minority protection issues to 40 university students from the region. This was to foster their interest and active participation in minority rights in South East European countries, as well as to create an interactive regional network of young academics.
- The South East European Network of Minority Rights Defenders has been created. Set up under this programme, the network consists of more than 100 representatives of the government institutions concerned with minority rights; minority representatives in the Parliament; Ombudsmen and equality bodies; Minority councils; Specialised bodies at the regional and municipal level concerned with minority rights; NGOs. As a first step the seven Ombudsperson Institutions and two Equality Bodies met to evaluate the scope of engagement they will have throughout the project implementation cycle.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Core staff from Ombudsperson Institutions and equality bodies will be trained on international standards and case work techniques.
- Various activities will be undertaken to strengthen the implementation of recommendations of international monitoring mechanisms pertaining to minority issues, including one regional conference and several national meetings, as well individual follow-up meetings with relevant stakeholders.
- A conference related to national minorities and census will be organised in Sarajevo in view of the upcoming census.
- A regional conference '10 years of the Law on national minorities in Croatia' will take place and publication of the best legislative practices in the region drafted.

Links and Contact

Link: http://www.coe.int/t/democracy/migration/jp-minorities-see_en.asp

Contact: Liane Adler, Liane.Adler@ec.europa.eu

2.2.3 Field: Human rights and minorities – 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 context 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 Work plan was adjusted reflecting conclusions of the joint kick-off meeting in Budva in June 2012.
- First Regional Project Co-ordination Committee Meetings held, attended by all government and Roma representatives, EC representative, relevant project staff and other stakeholders as appropriate. The Self-Governance Working Group also met for the first time.
- Work is continuing in support of the development of Local Action Plans in selected municipalities.
- In regard to improving the housing situation of the Roma people, a national roundtable on social housing was held in Podgorica and the first regional roundtable in Zagreb. A Regional Small Grants Commission was established to award small grants in Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo. These small financial contributions help to improve living conditions in Roma settlements and/or contribute to their legalisation. A call for proposals was sent out and applications are under review.
- A focus group meeting was held in Budapest to support the development of a Curriculum on Anti-Discrimination in primary schools and pilot training was organised for 26 teachers from the region on the subject.
- 12 Roma women from the Western Balkans were provided with the opportunity to participate to the OSCE Human Dimension Meeting, exposing them to international fora on human rights where they were able to interact and engage with other Roma from OSCE Participating States.
- A regional report on Best Practices for Roma Integration – covering Anti-Discrimination and participation of Roma in local decision-making - has been drafted.
- A regional meeting was organised in Skopje to improve the political participation of Roma women. At national level, training sessions will be held. The project also promoted the initiative of Roma woman in local elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina, through a short film and speeches at regional events.
- A website was set up to show the work done by the project.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- To promote the participation of Roma in decision-making, a good practice protocol will be prepared and promoted in target municipalities.
- The Young Roma Professionals Programme will start, providing 25 Roma with a traineeship opportunity in OSCE field operations and relevant ministries.
- A comparative review of anti-discrimination laws will be produced and a training session provided to National Human Rights Institutions and state actors. The project supported a public awareness campaign in Albania, helped strengthen the capacity of service providers (social workers, employment service and healthcare providers) from the former

Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and will provide free legal aid in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

- Technical expertise will continue to be given to governments relating to the legalisation of informal Roma settlements. The regional report on this issue will be drafted and presented to the relevant stakeholders.

Links and contact

Link: <http://bpri-odihr.org/>, <http://www.osce.org/odihr/91077>

Contact: Liane Adler, Liane.Adler@ec.europa.eu

2.2.4 Project information

Regional support for Inclusive Education, IPA 2012/022-966 EUR 4.6 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Contribution agreement with the Council of Europe (CoE)
CN/308-048

Duration of activities: 01/01/2013 – 28/11/2015

The contract has been signed with implementation commencing on 1 January 2013.

Contact

Contact: Liane Adler, Liane.Adler@ec.europa.eu

2.2.5 Field: Refugee housing – Project information

Regional Housing Programme (RHP)- phase I IPA 2011/023-537 EUR 7.8 million

Beneficiary countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia

Type of contract 1: Contribution Agreement with CEB, Phase I (EUR 1.6 million)
Contractor: CEB

Duration of activities: 23/03/2012- 22/10/2013

Type of contract 2: Contribution Agreement, Phase I (EUR 1.2 million)
Contractor: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Duration of activities: 30/11/2012- 31/12/2014

Type of contract 3: Contribution Agreement to the RHP Fund (EUR 5.0 million earmarked for Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Duration of activities: 14/12/2012- 30/11/2017

Purpose

The Regional Housing Programme (RHP) is based on a political agreement of the four participating Partner Countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia) to jointly address, in a regional framework, the housing needs of the most vulnerable refugees and internally displaced persons from the armed conflict in the 1990s. The RHP contributes to a satisfactory resolution of the protracted displacement situation in the four Partner Countries (PCs). It does so by providing durable and sustainable housing solutions, with full respect for the rights of refugees and internally displaced persons still in need and of the mutual obligation of the signatories to closely cooperate and synchronise their activities. The durable housing solutions will take place through voluntary return and reintegration, or local integration.

The RHP will consist of four Country Housing Projects (CHPs), one in each country, and will assist about 27,000 households or 74,000 individuals. The total budget of this housing programme is estimated at EUR 584 million with a planned duration of 5 years. This programme is financed mainly through donor contributions by the international community. A multi-donor Trust Mechanism will provide grants to CHPs. The Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) has been selected to be the Manager of the multi-donor Trust Mechanism. The CEB's involvement is threefold. It will:

- Act as Fund Manager responsible for managing Donors' contributions, monitoring its use, and reporting on the activities financed, for the approval of Donors. The Fund will also keep track and record the disbursements of the Fund's resources
- Serve as Finance Institution that offers technical expertise in the appraisal, implementation and supervision of PCs' sub-projects. CEB also manages and supervises the Technical Assistance (TA) component provided to the PCs throughout the programme. The Finance Institution could also offer loans to complement the PCs' own contributions to the RHP
- Provide Secretariat services to facilitate coordination and efficient cooperation between CEB, the PCs, the Donors (including the European Commission) and other international stakeholders, during RHP preparation and implementation phases

UNHCR and OSCE are responsible for monitoring the beneficiary selection process and to check that the implementation of the programme is providing durable and sustainable solutions and provides for access to socio-economic rights.

At the donors' conference in April 2012, the EC pledged EUR 230 million, while other international donors pledged EUR 31 million with another EUR 30 million likely to follow in the coming years. The biggest contributions came from the US (EUR 7.5 million for 2012, with similar-sized annual contributions over the following years) and from Norway, Switzerland, Germany and Italy (EUR 5 million each for the entire duration of the Programme).

As of February 2013 EUR 24.0 million has been paid in contributions to the RHP Fund, with the European Commission paying EUR 5 million so far, with another EUR 75 million committed under the IPA 2012- 2013 programme.

In addition to the EC contribution to the RHP Fund as an investment subsidy grant, the IPA multi-beneficiary programme is financing the Technical Assistance component, which is managed by CEB.

Activities and events

In 2012, CEB set up the RHP Fund and the whole structure governing the RHP, including finalisation of the related legal framework. A dedicated RHP team of 8 people, responsible for overseeing the preparation and implementation of the RHP, was assembled by the CEB and was fully operational as of November 2012.

CEB selected in October 2012, following a stringent tendering process, a consortium led by Eptisa to be in charge of the TA component of the RHP and the contract was signed in November 2012. The first phase (to last approximately 4 months) of TA started immediately, consisting of assistance to each PC in preparing a Country Feasibility Report (CFR) which reviews all key project aspects in detail. The first drafts of the CFRs were received in January/February 2013 and CEB and the TA consultant are currently assisting PCs to finalise them.

The first Donor Consultation Meeting was held in Paris in June 2012 and the first meeting of the RHP Technical Committee and the first Assembly of Donors and RHP Steering Committee meetings took place in October and November 2012; this has allowed the

finalisation of the legal framework of the RHP Fund which is now fully operational and receiving donations.

The Terms of Reference to establish a Regional Coordination Forum between PCs and international stakeholders was agreed on 30 November 2012. This Forum marks the formal institutionalisation of the collaboration that has been established between the PCs, international stakeholders and the CEB since the RHP was launched in 2011. From March 2012 to January 2013, five coordination/progress meetings took place in the region, jointly organised by CEB and the PC in charge.

[Activities and events planned for next semester](#)

In January 2013, CEB received the first Country Housing Project applications from the four PCs. The overall amount of grants requested from all four countries is approximately EUR 7 million, and they will be presented for approval to the RHP Assembly of Donors in April 2013, to enable the implementation to start during second half of 2013 if possible.

Preparations for the second wave of projects are planned to start in the second quarter of 2013 with the PCs submitting their project proposals by June 2013. The setting up of the implementing national authorities in each partner country is due to take place. In order for the RHP legal framework to be completed, the partner countries need to sign bilateral framework agreements with CEB.

[Contact](#)

Eleni Vossou, Eleni.VOSSOU@ec.europa.eu

3 Transport and energy infrastructure, including nuclear safety sector

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.

3.1 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 279 million. These grants are used for project preparation, implementation 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 approved to date will support investments for a value of approximately EUR 13 billion for which IFIs intend to provide loans worth EUR 6.5 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 36.8 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. Given the success of the initiative to date, the challenging economic climate, the status of the accession process and the expected evolution of EC's assistance to the region under IPA II, this component is increasing in importance.

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 socio-economic priorities are accession-driven and relate to the alignment of the candidate countries and potential candidates with the EU *acquis*. WBIF activities are supported by the EC-financed IFI Coordination Office – see below for a more detailed description of its activities.

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.

- In July 2012, the call for projects round 8 was launched; 29 project applications were received. A Project Financiers Group (PFG) meeting took place in November to screen and assess the projects. This meeting was specially extended to include a dedicated session on policy and strategy issues to which the heads of NIPAC offices were invited for an inclusive debate on key issues arising where WBIF needs to evolve.
- Based on the recommendations of the PFG, the WBIF Steering Committee (SC), at its 7th meeting in Paris in December June, approved EUR 11 million in grants for 13 projects (including two re-submitted by Serbia following their non-attendance at the WBIF Steering Committee meeting in June 2012). 15 WBIF supported investments have now reached the construction phase and preparation activities have been completed for 35 projects
- Particular efforts have been made to improve communication with current and potential bilateral donors and a special briefing session on WBIF was organised by DG ELARG and the Austrian Co-Chair in November. Bilateral donors are increasingly active in WBIF structures.
- The SC has endorsed “Practical Guidelines for Applying for WBIF Support” which has been disseminated to all WBIF stakeholders, including project promoters, in advance of the 22 February 2013 deadline for the next call for proposals (round 9). These guidelines are to improve the quality of project applications from beneficiaries, to ensure that they are firmly linked to key national, sectoral and regional strategies and that financial sustainability issues have been taken into account.
- The launch event for EDIF – the Enterprise Development and Innovation Facility - financed under WBIF was held on 5 December, back-to-back with the WBIF Steering Committee meeting. Most beneficiaries have confirmed financial support for this initiative and considerable preparatory work has been undertaken by the EC and financiers (EIF, EIB and EBRD) so that the various financial facilities will be launched in early 2013. Preparatory work has also been undertaken by the EC, supported by OECD, to develop the technical assistance pillar and priority SME-related reforms have been agreed with each beneficiary.
- The 3rd annual NIPAC workshop was held in November and provided a forum for all WBIF stakeholders – beneficiaries (NIPAC offices and line ministries), EC, IFIs and bilateral donors, to review specific aspects of the environment in which WBIF operates and, via special breakout sessions, to discuss particular issues in the different sectors.
- The increasing emphasis in the WBIF on strategy and policy issues was supported by the IFI Coordination Office (CO) which organised a number of in-country policy and strategy seminars, as well as two EC/IFI workshops on specific sectors and prepared and disseminated several discussion papers on WBIF related topics.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- The deadline for the 9th call for proposals is 22 February 2013. It is hoped that the recently circulated guidelines for applications will facilitate an even more focused and targeted approach from project promoters. Applications will be screened and assessed in line with WBIF procedures and the PFG meeting scheduled for 15 May will recommend those applications to be forwarded to the WBIF Steering Committee for approval
- The 8th Steering Committee meeting will be held in mid June in Athens under the co-chairmanship of the EC and Greece.
- The 2012 WBIF annual report will be published and disseminated widely in March and a compendium, summarising progress on all WBIF supported projects, will be prepared.
- A visit by bilateral donors to WBIF supported projects will take place and 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);

Links and Contact

Links: www.wbif.eu

Contact: Olav Reinertsen: Olav.REINERTSEN@ec.europa.eu / Christos Gofas: christos.GOFAS@ec.europa.eu and elarg-wbif@ec.europa.eu

3.1.1 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 (SC) 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), and 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 7th WBIF Steering Committee in December 2012 under the direction of the Co-Chairs, EC and the Austrian Ministry of Finance
- Preparation and delivery of the special Policy and Strategy meeting of the WBIF Project Financiers Group (PFG) with participation of the heads of NIPAC offices
- Contribution to preparation and delivery of the 3rd annual NIPAC workshop
- Organisation of WBIF briefing meeting for current and potential bilateral donors
- Contribution to preparation of Practical Guidelines for Applications for WBIF Support
- 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
- Organisation of WBIF Secretariat coordination meeting

Sector-Based Activities

1 Energy

- Delivery of pilot in-country workshop to assist beneficiaries identify possible options to finance implementation of their National Energy Efficiency Action Plans (NEEAP; follow-up to EC-financed study conducted in 2011) and preparation of additional workshops to be delivered in spring/summer 2013
- Preparation of draft discussion paper on financing options for NEEAP implementation and launch of consultations with EC and IFIs
- Regular participation in meetings of the ECs' Energy Efficiency Task Force.

2 Environment

- Implementation of environment work programme as agreed with EC and IFIs
- Preparation, delivery and follow-up for the 2nd annual EC and IFI workshop on environment issues, including special sessions on climate change (CC) and river basin management plans
- Preparation of draft stocktaking paper on climate change initiatives in the Western Balkans and available tracking mechanisms for CC finance
- Development of draft proposal for introduction of a climate change window in the WBIF in line with EU policy under the forthcoming MFF 2014-2020
- Development of specific sub-page on WBIF website to provide beneficiaries with easy access to EIA and NATURA directive related information
- Participation in RENA meetings
- Participation in environment related meetings of the ECS and RCC

3 *Transport*

- Provision of technical assistance to SEETO for the implementation of the strategic work programme for SEETO
- Assistance to SEETO to apply newly approved rating system for priority transport investments and assistance with preparation of key SEETO reports, including the investment report and initial draft of the 2012 Multi-Annual Plan
- Contribution to EC, IFI and SEETO workshop on key transport issues
- Preparation of and participation in SEETO Steering Committee meetings

4 *Socio-Economic Sector*

- Country sheets and summary implications updated on a regular basis, most notably for the 7th WBIF SC meeting & for in-country WBIF Policy & Strategy Seminars in Albania and Montenegro (see below under Communications)
- Ad hoc support and guidance to RCC on implementation of SEE Investment Committee (SEE IC) work programme, including identification of suitable headline targets for SEE 2020, preparation of information and contribution to technical workshops, economic analyses and organisation of information meetings for RCC and EC on SEE 2020
- Organisation of EC and IFI workshop on social sector with particular focus on employment policy and education
- Preparation of discussion paper on employment policy issues in the Western Balkans
- Participation in RCC Social Agenda conferences and meetings
- On-going liaison with LSEE Research on South Eastern Europe Social
- Participation in EDIF meetings as requested

Database of investment flows to the Western Balkans

- Overall database of investment flows now contains records on 1,325 investments with an estimated total value of EUR 28.5 billion.
- New investments have been registered on a regular basis, particularly those that receive WBIF support.
- The analysis and reporting functions have been strengthened.
- At request of DG ELARG a subset of the overall investment flows database has been developed that records all IPA projects (including those outside of WBIF sectors) and all IPA project fiches available up to November 2012 have been recorded.
- The database of IPA investment flows contains records on 905 projects with an estimated total value of EUR 10.25 billion.

Communication Activities

- Preparation and delivery of WBIF policy and strategy seminars in Tirana and Podgorica, two seminars delivered in each country - one for the NIPAC office and line ministries, the other for the EUD. Objectives were 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 EUDs 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 IFI cooperation

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Support preparation and delivery of WBIF events including PFG meeting, WBIF SC meeting, briefing meeting for current and potential bilateral donors and WBIF promotional events
- Preparation of updated information on macro-economic environment and potential options for financing packages to support investment implementation
- Support for ELARG participation in EU Platform on Blending Mechanisms for External Cooperation
- Ad hoc support to RCC for development of SEE 2020 Strategy and Action Plan
- Sector focused activities include research and analysis and seminars/workshops on specific topics within sectors of relevance for EC, IFI cooperation in the Western Balkans including:
 - environment (introduction of climate change window in WBIF);
 - energy efficiency (financing of National Energy Efficiency Action Plans);
 - energy investments (identification of potential financing options for investments deemed of importance for implementation of the Energy Community Treaty)
 - transport (enhance SEETO capacity to provide WBIF stakeholders with relevant information on transport investments),
 - social sector (labour market and human capital /education challenges, launch of EC/RCC/WB partnership on employment generation and social inclusion)
 - ad hoc support for EDIF on request
- Organisation and/or participation in sector specific workshops/seminars,
- Development of comprehensive communications action plan for WBIF and 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)
- Enhance IPA projects database based on feedback and continue development of overall database of investment flows to provide easy and user-friendly data.

Contact

Contact: Olav Reinertsen, Olav.Reinertsen@ec.europa.eu

3.2 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 transport, environment, energy and the social infrastructure.

3.2.1 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

3.2.2 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

3.2.3 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 facilities provide technical assistance and capacity building for project preparation and implementation as well as Feasibility and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies. It reinforces cooperation between Beneficiaries and supports the preparation of regional initiatives through technical assistance and operational support.

Activities

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 152 grants or 137 projects (or sub-projects) of which 37 are completed, and 73 are either being implemented or have their ToR in preparation. The WBIF Steering Committee meeting held in Paris in December 2012 confirmed the importance of IPF as projects driver within the WBIF. The following activities have been undertaken:

- Support to Beneficiaries with the preparation of grant applications for the 8th Round of the WBIF. Of the 29 applications received in September, 13 were recommended for approval to the seventh WBIF SC on 6th of December 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 on-going projects and the implementation of IPF projects;
- New contractor (IPF3) started implementation of new projects from Round 6 and Round 7.

Activities and events planned for the next semester

- Support to beneficiaries on identification and preparation of new grant applications for Round 9 of the WBIF to be submitted by NIPACs by 22th February 2013;
- Organisation of a WBIF Visibility event in Belgrade and Pristina, in agreement with DG ELARG, partner IFIs and EU Delegations;
- Support to the preparation of the PFG meeting planned for 15th of May in Brussels and the WBIF SC meeting planned for 13th June in Athens;
- Publication of the 3th WBIF Annual Report and distribution to all key stakeholders in March;
- Continuation of IPF active sub-projects;
- Expected completion of ongoing projects.

Links and contact

Link: www.wbif-ipf.eu

Contact: Hubert Blom, Hubert.BLOM@ec.europa.eu

3.3 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 because it envisages a shift from parallel (grant-only) financing of IFI-sponsored projects to using the grant as leverage for loans on fully-fledged projects and through staggered disbursement.

3.3.1 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

The Loan and Financing Agreements for the sub-projects in Gjirokastra and Fier in Albania were signed in December 2010. Since September 2011 one consultant has been on-site to support the water utilities to improve their performance, to develop a tariff adjustment plan and 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, an implementation consultant will start his assignment by September 2012. After that the tendering of the construction works will start, depending on progress made with achieving the performance criteria.

As regards the sub-project in Pogradec, the Loan and Financing Agreement was signed in December 2010 with the Government of Albania and the Project Executing Agency. The implementation consultant started in September 2011 and submitted the final inception phase report in March 2012 and the final design and tender documents in July 2012. The original project needed to be revised during the inception phase due to the bad state of existing infrastructure and local soil conditions. Contracting and commencement of works is expected at the end of 2012/beginning 2013.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, concerning the sub-project in Banja Luka, the Loan and Financing Agreement was signed in 2009. Since then, all necessary support measures have been taken as scheduled with the assistance of a consultant. Following the signature of the work and supply contract in December 2011, the contractor started works during the reporting period. Several delays related to problems with land acquisition, weather conditions and contractual issues were reported, but most of the work is expected to be finalised by the second quarter of 2014.

In Serbia, the Loan and Financing Agreement for the project was signed in 2010. Considerable progress has been made, despite delays due to contractual issues and long tendering procedures in Serbia. Almost all of the final design works and the majority of the tender documents have been completed. In four towns (Kraljevo, Losnica, Sabac, and Smederevo) pipe rehabilitation works have started in July 2012 and in Losnica the rehabilitation of the pumping station started in May 2012.

Contact

Elodie Loppe: Elodie.LOPPE@ec.europa.eu

3.3.2 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 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 2012 / beginning of 2013.

Concerning the Serbia sub-project, the works have well advanced. Works on Boulevard Kraljica 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.

Contact

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3.3.3 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 Bijeljina wastewater system – phase II (treatment plant)

Activities

The implementation of this project has 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 documents 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.

Contact

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3.3.4 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 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 implementation has experienced 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 was signed and the consultant has taken up his assignment at the end of 2011. The inception report was completed in March 2012. Tender documents for works and supply contracts will be published in early 2013. Construction works are expected to start in the first half of 2013 and will last until the end of 2016.

Concerning the Pristina district heating sub-project, detailed studies on the component cogeneration 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 consultant responsible for overseeing implementation (focused on rehabilitation and upgrade of the existing heating network) started his assignment in April 2012 with the launching of the tender of deliveries. An evaluation of the tender for a first lot is expected to be presented in January 2013.

Contact

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3.4 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.

3.4.1 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 to assist beneficiaries promote investments in energy efficiency (EE) and renewable energy (RE) generation 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 (PB) and end-borrowers to facilitate investments.

Activities

- The EBRD credit line of EUR 60 million is 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 103, for a cumulative sub-loan portfolio of EUR 47.7 million and EUR 6.3 million in the pipeline. This is expected to bring indicative combined expected annual energy savings of 512,581 MWh per annum and abatement of 130,835 metric tons of CO₂ equivalent per annum.
- A total of 36 sub-projects were successfully verified in 2012 with EUR 2.25 million of IPA incentives.
- The WeBSEFF 2012 Excellence Award and Journalist Ceremony was successfully celebrated in Belgrade, Sarajevo and Skopje in September/beginning October 2012. The events were well attended with over 300 representatives from project sponsors, businesses, banking institutions, international donor community, governmental institutions as well as media. EU Delegation Ambassadors attended, speaking on the importance of sustainable energy.
- The EIB credit line continued to advance on its Turkey component with 16 sub-projects identified for a total grant of EUR 5.8 million. 6 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 March 2013.
- In Croatia, the EIB's Consultant screened 12 sub-projects; the assessment report was prepared for one of them. The screened sub-projects concern PV plants, a biomass plant, a biogas plant and small hydro power plants. First allocations are expected in H1 2013.
- Steering Committee of the Facility held on 23 October 2012.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Continued development of pipeline and sub-project verification;

Links and Contact

Link: www.webseclf.com

Contact: Christos Gofas; Christos.GOFAS@ec.europa.eu

3.4.2 Project information

**Management of 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 Facility.

Activities

- The GGF's total volume of investor commitments by the end of December reached EUR 191 million;
- GGF expanded to the European Neighbourhood region, namely to Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine;
- In December 2012, the Fund signed a new investment project of EUR 25 million with Privredna banka Zagreb dd (Croatia). The GGF loan is projected to generate CO₂ emission savings of approximately 44,000 tons per year. Another investment for a total value of EUR 7 million had been launched earlier in August with Banka Intesa Beograd (Serbia). The investment will support individuals and households to reduce their primary energy consumption.

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 Q2 2013.

Links and contact

Link: www.ggf.lu

Contact: Christos Gofas, Christos.GOFAS@ec.europa.eu

3.4.3 Field: Strategy and policy support

Support to the Energy Community

Purpose

The budget of the Energy Community is financed by IPA funds, transferred to a special budget line managed by DG ENER. For the 2012 budget of the Energy Community, EUR 2.7 million have been transferred to DG ENER. The EU contribution is fixed at 94.54% of the total budget.

The Energy Community Treaty¹ provides for the creation of an integrated and stable energy market in the Western Balkans, Moldova and Ukraine. As contracting parties to the Energy 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 to raise awareness on ongoing EE financing and improve the effectiveness of financial support for EE.

Activities

- The conclusions of the 16th EE Task Force meeting held in Vienna on 4 October confirmed that all tasks envisaged by the Work Programme 2012 have been largely accomplished. Regional cooperation should be continued and promoted beyond 2012;
- As part of the awareness-raising and visibility activities on available funding for EE, the IFI Coordination organised the first in-country workshop in Montenegro on possible financing options available to implement NEEAPs;

Activities and events planned for next semester

- In-country workshops on options for financing NEEAPs implementation will be held in Q3 2013 in Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as Kosovo;
- 1st meeting of the Energy Efficiency Coordination group (former Energy Efficiency Task Force) scheduled in Vienna on 21 February;

Links and contact

Link: www.energy-community.org

Contact: Christos Gofas, Christos.GOFAS@ec.europa.eu

3.5 Nuclear safety and radiation protection

Full transposition of the EU *acquis* remains an objective for most of the IPA beneficiaries in 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.

¹ 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.

3.5.1 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 – 21/03/2013
Type of contract 2:	Supply contract 2012/283-527
Contractor:	DRC International
Duration of activities:	08/03/2012 – 30/11/2012

Purpose

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

Part of the project focuses 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 consists of delivering instruments for radioactivity measurements and shielded laboratory equipment.

Activities and events planned for next semester

Both service and supply components of this project have been completed with the successful delivery of the purchased equipment to five medical establishments in Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Mostar, Zenica and Tuzla and the appropriate training of personnel.

3.5.2 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
Type of contract 2:	Supply contract 2012/298-495
Contractor:	Canberra Packard
Duration of activities:	01/02/2012-23/04/2013

Purpose

This project is to improve 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

This project is under implementation. The service component of this project was awarded in July 2012. The equipment is ready to be shipped but delivery depends on the refurbishment of the laboratory, an action undertaken by the beneficiary country.

3.5.3 Project information

Strengthening radiation protection and nuclear safety through capability upgrading of CETI, IPA 2009/021-640, EUR 0.081 million

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 an 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 doing measurements at lower energy. The supply contract will provide CETI with a new Gamma spectrometry system. Training users of this equipment is also foreseen.

Activities and events planned for next semester

This project has now been completed with the successful delivery of the purchased equipment in July 2012 and the appropriate training of personnel.

3.5.4 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 – 05/05//2013
Type of contract 2: Supply contract, CN2011/295-471
Contractor: CANBERRA EURISYS BENELUX
Duration of activities: 14/12/2012– 29/03//2013

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.

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

The first component of this project (service contract) is to assess radiation protection, occupational and medical exposures in Albania, provide advice to the beneficiary on how to perform technical control and test the 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 supply contract was awarded in December and delivery is expected at the end of March 2013.

3.5.5 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 is to upgrade and license a regional training centre on radiation protection 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 who are exposed to ionising radiation. It will be concluded by the identification of equipment (including the determination of technical specifications) that should be procured later through a supply contract.

[Activities and events planned for next semester](#)

The supply component of this project has been cancelled as the call for tender failed to attract any interest. The contractor of the service, MWH, will nonetheless provide some basic training to the relevant personnel on existing equipment.

3.5.6 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 1: Service contract, CN2011/268-888
Contractor: MWH S.A.
Duration of activities: 23/05/2011 – 16/07/2012
Type of contract 2: to be signed in 1 Q 2013

[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 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 almost completed. After delivery of the tendered equipment, the service contractor will provide training to the personnel.

The supply contract is expected to be awarded by March 31.

3.5.7 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- 14/09/2013

Purpose

This project is to improve 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, technical specifications for the equipment to be purchased under the supply component have been provided. 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 on-going. The signature of the supply contract is expected before March 31.

3.5.8 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 is to improve the dosimetry control of workers and patients exposed to ionising radiation in medical establishments in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Kosovo.

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 also provided the technical specifications for the delivery of detectors, dosimeters and readers. The call for tender was launched in December 2012.

Activities and events planned for next semester

The project is implemented according to schedule. During the reporting period the technical specifications of equipment required to strengthen occupational radiation control in BiH and Kosovo have been drafted. Depending on a successful tender a supply contract will be issued before the contracting end date of 31/03/13. Furthermore, reviews of existing legislation and regulations in the field of occupational exposure, including suggestions for necessary and realistic improvements, were done. Additionally lecturers for training courses to be held during the first half of 2013 have been selected.

Contact

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3.5.9 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 thousand 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 provides the nuclear regulatory bodies of the three Beneficiaries with regulatory assistance on radioactive waste management and practical assistance in preparing and managing the removal of sealed radioactive sources, including radioactive lightning rods, and their subsequent transport, processing and storage in licensed storage facilities.

Activities

The activities under this project were completed before the end of 2012, while the final reports remained due until official end of activities in February 2013.

These have been the main deliverables under the two service contracts: a contract to prepare the implementation of the works to retrieve and remove the radioactive sources and radioactive lightning rods and a contract to support the regulatory bodies to assess the preparation and the implementation of the works.

The works contract included three components:

- assistance to the operators of radioactive waste processing and storage facilities in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and in Montenegro
- the establishment of management plans for removal transport and storage of sealed radioactive sources including radioactive lightning rods
- the development of safety assessment reports for removal, transport, processing and storage of sealed radioactive sources (including lightning rods).

The project also included technical specifications of equipment needed for handling and processing of spent sealed radioactive sources. All of these deliverables have been completed and submitted to the EC for review.

The parallel project for regulatory assistance included a review and gap analysis of the legislative and regulatory framework governing the radioactive waste management in the Beneficiary countries, as well as support to the regulatory bodies for establishing inventories on spent sealed radioactive sources. Support for the regulatory review of safety assessment reports and implementation plans for the retrieval of spent sealed radioactive sources (including lightning rods) were also provided.

The source retrieval part of the project was concluded by the end of December 2012.

The final component, the physical removal, transport and storage of sealed radioactive sources in Montenegro will be contracted during quarter 1, 2013. Montenegro is the only Beneficiary of the works component, as it is the only Beneficiary that has a licensed facility for radioactive waste processing and storage, a pre-requisite for implementation. The project also provided assistance to Kosovo in the form of plans and safety assessments for the location and design of a facility for radioactive waste storage.

Contact

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3.5.10 Project information

Support to the Vinca Institute Nuclear Decommissioning 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

This project is the continuation of VIND part I. It includes 5 sub-projects/activities:

- 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
- 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. 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.

Activities

Currently some components of the VIND part II are being implemented: the radioactive survey of the Vinca site in order to determine the radiation and contamination levels on the site. The survey plan has been prepared and the survey itself should start shortly. Activities regarding the operation of the radioactive waste processing facility and the decommissioning of waste storage hangar No. 1 have not started yet, as some works are still needed before the waste processing facility can be operated.

3.5.11 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

This project is to enhance the technical capacity of the nuclear safety and radiation protection regulatory bodies to eventually transpose the Euratom Council Directives, as well as the international conventions to which the European Union is a signatory, into national legislation and regulations.

Activities

The national regulations and their compliance with the Euratom Council Directives have been assessed and subsequent regulation development and update are to be started shortly. Emergency Preparedness Review missions are on-going in different countries to assist them in developing emergency plans. The task to strengthen the Serbian Regulatory Body is expected to be completed by April 2013.

Contact

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4 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).

4.1 Access to finance

4.1.1 Project information

Western Balkan Enterprise Development and Innovation Facility (WB EDIF)

IPA 2011/021-964; IPA 2012/022-966 and IPA 2013/024-091

The initial capital is EUR 144.8 million of which the EU contribution is EUR 65.6 million. Total estimated financing for the SMEs in the region to be mobilised through the Facility will exceed EUR 300 million.

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: contribution agreement with OECD (preparatory phase) CN2012/295-825
 contribution agreement with EIF (coordination) CN2012/306-154
 contribution agreement with EIF (Guarantee Facility) CN2012/306-653
 delegation agreement with EIF (ENEF) CN2012/306-667
 delegation agreement with EIF (ENIF) to be signed in early 2013
 contribution agreement with EIB (TA) to be signed in early 2013

EDIF Coordinator: European Investment Fund (EIF)

Duration of activities: 05/12/2012 – 31/12/2018 (with possible extension until 31/12/2023)

Purpose

The Western Balkan Enterprise Development and Innovation Facility (WB EDIF) promotes emergence and growth of innovative and high-potential companies, as well as creating a regional Venture Capital market.

Coordinated by EIF, EDIF will be implemented in close cooperation between the governments of the Western Balkans, the European Commission, the European Investment Bank (EIB) Group and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). IFIs, international organisations and bilateral donors active in the region, such as Italy, Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft, OECD, World Bank and others are to participate in order to streamline the Western Balkan private sector development efforts.

WB EDIF will include four components aimed at:

- early-to-development stages equity financing in innovative SMEs; this will be done by a newly created Enterprise Innovation Fund (ENIF) to be managed by a private sector Fund Manager selected in an open call for expression of interest;
- provision of development and expansion capital to established high-growth potential SMEs; this will be done by a newly created Enterprise Expansion Fund (ENEF) to be implemented alongside the EBRD Local Enterprise Facility managed by EBRD;

- improvement of SME access to bank lending and lowering the cost of borrowing by providing SME loan portfolio guarantees to financial intermediaries; this will be done under a regional Guarantee Facility (GF) to be implemented by EIF;
- creation of a favourable regulatory environment for innovative and high-potential SMEs; this will be done through a Technical Assistance Facility (TA) managed by EIB and supporting beneficiary governments in implementation of priority reforms, with coordinated inputs from OECD and the World Bank.

It is the first regional initiative in the private sector development area channelled through the Western Balkan Investment Framework (WBIF).

Activities

Following the WBIF Steering Committee decision of December 2011, the EC, EIF, EIB, EBRD and the Western Balkan beneficiaries have worked together in 2012 to prepare for the launch of EDIF.

The official launch event took place on 5 December 2012 back-to-back with the WBIF 7th SC hosted by the Council of Europe Development Bank in Paris.

By the end of 2012 the following activities were completed:

The EC mandated EIF with the role of EDIF coordinator and the EDIF Platform Advisory Group (PAG) Secretariat (financed from MBP IPA 2011). As of December 2012 EIF has assumed this role and has become the main contact point for the beneficiaries and EDIF (potential) adherents. EIF is to coordinate and liaise between the EDIF pillars, assist in their launching and implementation, ensure the overall EDIF communication and reporting, organise PAG meetings and other meetings as necessary, as well as continue fund-raising.

The EC mandated EIF with the role of the Guarantee Facility manager and transmitted the first tranche of the amount of the guarantee (financed by MBP IPA 2011) to the EIF special account, thus allowing it to launch this EDIF component. EIF has in the meantime carried out additional market research and prepared for a call for expression of interest to be issued to financial intermediaries in the region, to be done in early 2013.

The EC mandated EIF with the role of a trustee for the EU funds in the Enterprise Expansion Fund (ENEF). At the same time, EBRD has prepared the necessary documentation to incorporate the Fund under the Luxembourgish law. The EBRD and EIF (in its own name and on behalf of the EC) have also signed a preliminary agreement constituting a conditional commitment of future subscriptions to ENEF. The EC is to transfer the EU funds (financed by MBP IPA 2011) for the EIF disposal in early 2013. Consequently, ENEF is to be launched in the first half of 2013.

Following discussions among the EDIF partners and interested TA contributors, such as OECD and the World Bank, it has been agreed that the EIB will take up the role of the TA component Manager. Meanwhile, OECD, with participation of all EDIF stakeholders, carried out preparatory policy context work. This led to the prioritisation of EDIF-related reforms to be implemented by the beneficiary governments alongside implementation of the EDIF financial components. The reforms are to complement the enhanced provision of financing by improving the regulatory environment for innovative and high-growth SMEs and for the venture capital operations in the region.

Activities and events planned for next semester

The following activities will be completed:

- The EC will mandate EIF with the role of a trustee for the EU funds (to be financed from MBP IPA 2013) in the Enterprise Innovation Fund (ENIF). This will allow EIF to launch a call for expression of interest to select a private sector Fund Manager for ENIF, and

subsequently prepare for ENIF incorporation. The details of the ENIF corporate structure will depend on the choice of the Fund Manager.

- The EC will mandate EIB with the role of the TA Manager. In parallel, EIB will liaise with the TA implementing organisations, such as OECD and the World Bank to make arrangements for TA delivery to the beneficiaries. Based on the OECD and beneficiaries' work in 2012, the selected priority reforms will be further defined and the appropriate TA approach and actions will be designed. The EC has so far been the only TA component financial contributor, with allocations from MBP IPA 2012 and 2013.
- The EC will also prepare for the transfer of the remaining amount of the guarantee (pending from IPA 2013) for the regional Guarantee Facility.
- Following the EDIF launch event and the first PAG meeting, the 2nd PAG meeting will take place in June 2013 in Athens. It will be organised, as agreed, back-to-back with the 8th WBIF Steering Committee.

Links and contact

<http://www.wbif.eu/Private+Sector+Development>

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4.1.2 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 31 December 2012 for IPA beneficiaries EUR 107.7 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 generates impacts at three different levels:

- Supporting micro and small enterprises as the backbone of the local economies, thereby contributing to generating income and creating employment
- Satisfying the basic need of decent shelter
- Strengthening local financial markets

Activities

- At the end of the September 2012, EFSE has reached more than 310,000 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 2.1 billion (cumulative since 2005).

- More than 110,000 active end borrowers via 64 partner lending institutions
- During Q3 2012 the Development Facility Committee approved 7 projects, with a total budget of EUR 0.5 million. In July 2012, the desk study as first part of the Feasibility Study for Branchless Banking was undertaken. Based on the analysis of relevant country characteristics, three countries were selected as being most interesting for a field assessment which will be conducted during October and November: Albania, Moldova and Turkey. At the end of Q3 2012, the total invested portfolio amounted to EUR 747.9 million, mostly senior loans and subordinated loans provided in Serbia (23%) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (15%).
- In Q3 2012 the Investment Committee (IC) met three times. While the meeting on 10 July was a conference call, the remaining two were held as physical meetings on 13 August in Frankfurt/Main, Germany and on 20 September in Pristina, Kosovo. Seven investments were presented to and approved by the IC. The total amount approved was EUR 41.6 million, with EUR 33.9 million targeted to partner lending institutions in the SEE region.
- The average maturity of investments approved in Q3 2012 was 4.7 years.
- A Board of Directors meeting took place on 21 September 2012 in Pristina, Kosovo.

Activities and events planned for next semester

The Annual Meeting 2013 of EFSE will take place from 5 to 7 June 2013 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Links and Contact

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4.1.3 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:

Targeted credit lines

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 increases 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.

Non-financial technical assistance

Includes the Small Business Support Programme (SBS)² with the Enterprise Growth Programme (EGP) and Business Advisory Services (BAS) which is to strengthen SMEs and improve their capacity for innovation, while developing 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 PFIs³ subscribed to the Turkish MSME Financing Facility which provides EUR 109.5 million of EBRD funds to on-lend to MSMEs. This funding is supplemented by EUR 119.3 of co-financing to make a total of EUR 228.8 million available for on-lending. This includes a loan of EUR 20 million to Denizbank for lending to MSMEs within the agricultural sector. 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 9.6 million have been allocated as a first loss guarantee, for the PFI on their underlying MSME portfolios up to a maximum of 10%.

EUR 7.2 million is still in active allocation; EUR 2.4 million has been decommitted from first loss but not reallocated to another purpose. 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.

EUR 0.5 million of unused first loss has been reallocated to the SBS window to support the expansion of the SBS Women in Business programme. The remaining EUR 2.7 million was reallocated to the Energy Efficiency Window. The four MSME loans have disbursed close to EUR 150 million in sub-loans; Deniz have on-lent EUR 18.3 million in 1,120 agricultural finance sub-loans.

Energy Efficiency Window

By the end of 2012, there were five PFIs⁴ participating in TurSEFF. The five PBs are committed to providing up to EUR 220.5 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.

In September 2012, EBRD approved an extension loan of EUR 20 million to Akbank as Akbank had signed sub-projects up to the total value of their original allocation (EUR 47 million). By December 2012, Vakifbank, Denizbank and Garantibank had allocated almost

² 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.

³ Denizbank, Garantibank, Vakifbank, Yapi Kredi.

⁴ Akbank, Denizbank, Garantibank, Vakifbank, Isbank.

all of their signed loans to sub-projects (EUR 125.7 million). Isbank had allocated some EUR 17 million to sub-projects with approximately EUR 10 million still to be signed. In total, TurSEFF sub-loans stand at approximately EUR 190 million.

As a result of the investments implemented, energy savings of 3,490 GWh primary equivalent per year and carbon emission reductions of 845,462 tons per year have been achieved so far, equivalent to the household electricity consumption of a city of a million people such as Eskisehir, in Turkey's north-west.

MidSEFF

Targets larger investments (EUR 10 to 50 million) in industrial energy efficiency, renewable energy and waste-to-energy projects. With the signing of Finansbank in December 2012, there are now seven banks investing under MidSEFF: Isbank, Vakifbank, Garantibank, Denizbank, Akbank YapiKreditbank and Finansbank will commit investments of up to EUR 900 million (this includes the EIB contribution) with consultants providing detailed technical, social and environmental analysis.

Twenty-one renewable energy investments and two energy efficiency projects with an investment total of EUR 584.2 million have so far been financed or are under final approval. The renewable technologies financed are hydro (9), wind (7) and geothermal (5) and have potential to generate 450 MW.

Within the framework of the SBS programme, since the beginning of the programme, EGP has started 11 projects. Out of these, 4 projects were completed, 4 projects are ongoing, and 3 projects were closed early. Out of these projects, 1 project started between July and December 2012.

BAS started 43 projects, out of which 15 are currently on-going and 28 have been completed. On average, beneficiaries contributed 47% of project costs. Out of these, 17 projects started between July and December 2012 in Kayseri, Corum, Samsun, Trabzon, Gaziantep, Malatya and Kahramanmaraş. In addition, 4 market development activities have been implemented of which 2 took place in the second half of 2012.

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. The next semester will focus on capacity building with PFIs through technical assistance and monitoring the sub-loan portfolio against the requirements of the first loss cover.
- Energy Efficiency Window: ensure complete investment of the remaining amounts currently committed with PFIs under TurSEFF. Focus on expansion of MidSEFF activity and encourage the development of sub-projects from non-mainstream renewable technologies.
- 4 EGP projects are planned to be started in 2013 (one project is approved and to be started at the beginning of the year).
- BAS plans to continue the implementation of BAS projects as well as market development activities (MDAS).
- Steering Committee Meeting in Ankara in May/June 2013.

Links and contact

Link: www.turseff.org

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4.1.4 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 EBRD⁵ CN2009/229-273

Duration of activities: 23/12/2009- 30/11/2015

Purpose

The Private Sector Support Facility (PSSF) provides 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:

- 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)
- the Business Advisory Services (BAS) Programme Window of EUR 5 million.

Activities

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.

2011: Six banks signed for a total of EUR 46 million, this includes a signing under the SEFF window of EUR 3 million.

2012: Due to the funding shortage of the grant for financial incentives to Participating Banks and sub-borrowers, a total of EUR 3 million has been made available by the EBRD Special Shareholders Fund. In addition, savings of EUR 1.06 million were made under the credit line from signed sub-projects with identified incentive level percentages. This resulted in additional commitments and signings with PBZ Croatia, Ohridska Macedonia, UniCredit Serbia and Societe Generale Serbia for a total of EUR 13 million.

This brings the cumulative total EBRD commitments for SME-CSF and SEFF to EUR 101 million. By 31 December 2012 EBRD disbursed EUR 61.5 million (EUR 42.4 million at 30.06.2012 and EUR 29.8 million at 31.12.2011).

The signed EBRD loans are supported by EUR 18.15 million of EC grant financing and EUR 3 million of SSF 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 was paid in investment incentives to sub-borrowers. In 2012 a total of 24 sub-projects were successfully verified and EUR 1.52 million disbursed, bringing the total disbursed grant amount to EUR 1.83 million. All consultancy services have been awarded for a total of EUR 2.8 million and EUR 1.28 million have been disbursed by 31.12.2012.

Since the beginning of 2012 the speed of sub-project signings has increased and it is expected that some credit lines will be fully utilised by the end of 2012. There is still

⁵ 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

demand from banks for the credit line, but due to the grant funding shortage further negotiations have been put on hold. The consultants are in frequent discussion with Participating Banks and enterprises, assisting in preparation and processing of investment plans and their implementation.

Western Balkans Sustainable Energy Direct Financing Facility (“WeBSEDFF”)

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) to be used for facilitating capacity building and project implementation under the WeBSEDFF. An additional EUR 8 million⁶ was made available to provide incentive payments to end-borrowers upon successful project completion.

In 2012, 7 additional projects were signed for a total of EUR 34.5 million, bringing the portfolio to a total of 15 signed projects for EUR 63.9 million of EBRD financing: 6 in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 4 in Albania, 1 in Serbia, 3 in Bosnia and Herzegovina and 1 in Kosovo. 12 of the projects are renewable energy projects, with the remaining 3 in the area of industrial energy efficiency. As a result in 2012, WeBSEDFF fully committed its initial allocation of EUR 50 million and began utilising the funding from the EUR 50 million capital increase approved in early 2012.

Technical assistance exists for project preparation, project verification and support to policy dialogue reform. Four more Rational Energy Utilisation Plans were prepared in 2012, increasing the total since the beginning of the operations of WeBSEDFF to 16.

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

Small Business Support

Within the SBS Programme, EGP has started 39 projects in the region and 1 sector development activity, of which 20 have been completed, 6 have been closed early and 14 are under implementation, including the sector development. Out of these, 5 projects were started (Albania, 2, Croatia 2, Serbia 1) and 3 projects were completed between July and December 2012.

BAS delivered 279 projects, out of which 21 are currently on-going, 107 are evaluated, 136 have been completed and 15 have been cancelled. On average, beneficiaries contributed 47% of project costs. 18 projects have been implemented in Albania, 45 in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 94 in Croatia and 43 in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 37 in Montenegro and 42 in Serbia. Out of these, 29 projects started in between July and December 2012 (4 in Croatia, 14 in Montenegro and 11 in Serbia). In addition, 8 market development activities have been implanted of which 3 took place in the second half of 2012.

Out of the 107 BAS projects that have already been evaluated (one year after project completion), 66% 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 20 sub-projects will be completed in the first half of 2013, resulting in improved environmental and health and safety standards.
- The increased credit line impacts on the workload of the consultancy services.

⁶ 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.

- Under WeBSEDF, there are another 3 relatively advanced projects for about EUR 9.5 million, which could be signed in 2013. Following the provision of another EUR 50 million, the business development activities will be intensified to strengthen the existing pipeline and ensure a sufficient number of projects for financing in 2013. The first half of 2013 will see the completion of several projects. This will trigger the verification process, following which incentive payments will be distributed to the eligible borrowers.
- EGP projects are planned to be started in 2013 in the following countries: Albania (1), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2), Croatia (2) and Montenegro (2). BAS plans to continue implementation of BAS projects in the region 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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4.1.5 Project information

SME Recovery Support Loan for Turkey - Crisis Response Package, IPA 2009/021-373, EUR 30.0 million

Beneficiary Country: Turkey

Type of Contract: Contribution Agreement with EIB CN2009/228-929

Contractor: The EIB and two Intermediary Banks - Akbank and Halkbank

Duration of Activities: 22/12/2009 -22/12/2016

Purpose

The overall objective of the SME Recovery Support Loan is to mitigate the crisis impact for SMEs and contribute to the development of the Turkish economy and employment sector. The main objective is to support SMEs with concrete productive investments by providing access to attractive and longer-dated debt financing.

Activities

The two facilities were fully disbursed between October 2010 and April 2011. During the reporting period, Halkbank and Akbank's activities concentrated on allocating the Facility.

- Halkbank: Their share of the Facility (EUR 74.82 million) is fully allocated to 148 SMEs since the end of 2011. The average size of allocation is EUR 0.51 million. The number of jobs created through the financed investments is 2,340.
- Akbank: Their share of the Facility (EUR 74.82 million) is fully allocated to 89 SMEs since the end of June 2012. The average size of allocation is EURO 0.8 million. The total number of jobs created through the financed investments is 1,780.

The impact of the Facility on employment is substantial, with an estimated total number of more than 4000 jobs created.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Steering Committee Meeting in Ankara in May/June 2013.

4.1.6 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 provides 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

After the initial activities on project set-up and first meetings with the beneficiaries, the project team focused on the following actions during the reporting period:

- Following the conclusions of the 10th meeting of the South East Europe Investment Committee (SEEIC), the RCC/SEEIC Team engaged in extensive consultations with the representatives of the SEE governments, ensuring understanding and commitments for their contribution in the development of headline quantifiable targets, indicators and measures with common regional goals for the SEE 2020 agenda. As a result, the Task Force on SEE 2020 was established and mandated to determine proposals for the main regional headline targets quantified within each of the priority areas, along with proposals for corresponding national targets. Two meetings of the Task Force on SEE 2020 have been held (3 July and 11 September) where proposals for regional baseline and headline targets have been agreed.
- The 11th SEEIC Meeting, held on 3 October 2012 and co-chaired by the RCC Secretariat and the Republic of Albania, brought together SEEIC Country Economic Teams, representatives of NIPAC offices, EC, international organisations and the donor and business community. The meeting was to discuss and endorse the initial set of 11 SEE 2020 headline targets and forward them for adoption by the Ministers of the SEEIC economies. The 9 targets set for integrated, smart, inclusive and sustainable growth within good governance framework in the region until 2020 have been endorsed by the members of the SEEIC, with two additional targets dealing with entrepreneurship and education being adopted in written procedure. Together with a common set of regional goals, SEEIC has finalised a draft Statement for the Ministerial Conference of the SEEIC, integrating the proposed regional targets into a coherent and ambitious document to guide the further development and implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy.
- The 11 headline targets of the SEE2020 agenda have been officially adopted by the Ministers of the Western Balkans economies at the SEEIC Ministerial Conference in Tirana, Albania, on 9 November 2012. The proposed targets for SEE 2020 include growing the region's total value of trade in goods and services by more than 130%, reducing the trade deficit, and growing intra-regional trade in goods by over 230%. The Strategy targets envisage increasing overall foreign direct investment inflows to the region by at least 120%, increasing GDP per person employed as well as exports per capita, increasing the overall employment rate from 40 to 45%, adding 300,000 highly educated people to the region's workforce and improving government effectiveness by 20% by the end of this decade.

- The first Workshop on the Integrated Growth pillar of the SEE 2020 was held in the RCC premises on 28-29 November 2012 in cooperation with the GIZ Open Regional Funds. The pilot workshop was aimed at associating regional platforms with the SEE 2020 in this pillar, identifying main dimensions for policy intervention and laying down a clear roadmap for RCC and its regional partners in this area. The outputs from this workshop will be used in rolling-out similar workshops in other four pillars of the SEE 2020 as the first step in developing the Strategy. Three main dimensions within the Integrated growth pillar were identified – trade facilitation, trade liberalisation and investment climate - with CEFTA Secretariat and SEEIC taking the lead roles in developing these dimensions further.
- Finally, a comprehensive communication strategy has been developed to help guide the efforts of the RCC and SEEIC in spreading the message of SEE 2020's importance to stakeholders and partners within and outside of the region. During December 2012, RCC also partnered with the EU Delegation in Sarajevo to hold a series of briefings to officials in Bosnia and Herzegovina on the SEE 2020 Strategy and the upcoming IPA II framework.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Further consultations and work with the SEEIC members and other regional stakeholders in formulation of the SEE 2020 Strategy.
- Implementation of 4 workshops on the other pillars of the SEE 2020 (smart, sustainable, inclusive and governance for growth) during January and February 2013 with the goal of determining roles, responsibilities and prioritising action with the regional stakeholders in development and prospective implementation and monitoring of the respective pillars of the SEE 2020.
- Formation of the Working Group on regional investment promotion and organisation of 2 meetings (during February and May 2013) to determine future activities and delegate responsibilities among the involved stakeholders (representatives of the Ministries of Economy and Investment Promotion Agencies) with a particular focus on the integrated growth pillar of the SEE 2020 Strategy.
- Holding 2 meetings of the Innovation Working Group of the SEEIC (during March and May 2013), including a Study tour to the "l'Area di Ricerca Scientifica e Tecnologica di Trieste" AREA Science Park to be organised during January 2013.
- Holding 2 meetings of the Task Force on SEE 2020 to review the first drafts for the SEE 2020 Strategy and prepare inputs for the SEEIC meetings.
- Preparation and organisation of 2 meetings of the SEEIC at the Deputy Minister/State Secretary level, focused on further considerations and development of the SEE 2020 Strategy as a main priority, and discussing the results of other activities in the areas of regional investment promotion and value chains improvement.
- Mobilising external assistance in the development of the SEE 2020 Strategy.

Links and contact

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

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4.2 Competitiveness

4.2.1 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. 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

The following highlights and milestones were achieved in the various pilot projects:

Albania

The OECD in co-operation with the Albanian Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Energy implemented a business plan competition as part of the RCI pilot project in that beneficiary. Seventeen teams submitted applications by the June 15 deadline. Following the screening of applications, teams were matched with Albanian mentors to help them prepare their final business plans. The final business plans were submitted in September with the top 8 competing in front of a panel of Albanian and international officials in November. At the final event in Tirana, the teams presented their business plans. The top three projects will receive additional technical assistance from the OECD Investment Compact.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

A paper describing the results of the Triple Helix project in Bosnia and Herzegovina was drafted and presented at the South East Europe Ministerial Conference in Tirana in November.

Croatia

This pilot project has two components: (i) support for the drafting of the National Innovation Strategy 2013-2020; and (ii) Review of the Innovation Policy. A week-long mission was conducted in July, during which over 60 stakeholders from the Croatian business and research community were interviewed in order to assess the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to the Croatian innovation system. A comprehensive background report assessing the Croatian innovation system was completed and will serve as the analytical basis for the drafting of the Strategy, as well as input to the OECD's Innovation Policy review.

Following the background report, the OECD Investment Compact developed strategic guidelines which outline five pillars for the Croatian National Innovation Strategy. The results of the Background Report and the Strategic guidelines were presented at a stakeholder workshop.

The OECD facilitated the participation of high-level international experts on innovation at the ARCA conference to share their experiences and best practices in innovation policy design and implementation with the Croatian counterparts. A drafting team was established with representatives of the Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Entrepreneurship,

Ministry of Science, Education and Sports and Ministry of Regional development and EU funds.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The OECD presented the Innovation Strategy to Prime Minister Gruevski and the Committee for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, in July 2012. The Strategy was subsequently adopted by the Macedonian government in October 2012 and implementation is under way.

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 for one month. 13 eligible SMEs applied within this period. These SMEs were linked with eligible consultants. The implementation of the 13 projects is currently under way.

Serbia

In September 2012, the OECD organised a second focus group meeting with businesses in the biomedicine sector to get their feedback on the draft needs assessment and feasibility study for a Competence Technology Centre in Serbia and receive suggestions on the types of seminars, trainings and events which could be organised in the first 18 months of operation of the Centre.

On 30 November 2012, the OECD presented the final results of the needs assessment and feasibility study as well as an action plan to establish a Centre in the Serbian biomedicine sector. This was the closing event for Serbia's RCI pilot project and over 30 participants from government, business and research attended.

RCI Working Group

The OECD organised the third meeting of the RCI Working Group on Human Capital on 11 October at OECD headquarters. Participants from the seven Western Balkan beneficiaries included representatives from government institutions and academia, as well as international organisations. The Working Group discussed the feasibility of a regional skills gap analysis in one specific sector across the Western Balkan economies. Specifically, the participants discussed: (i) potential sectors of interest for a regional skills gap analysis and; (ii) limitations that exist in the Western Balkans in the implementation a skills gap analysis. The OECD Investment Compact will prepare a paper summarising the deliberations of the working group on human capital. The paper will contain recommendations on how regional skills gap analysis could be performed in the Western Balkans.

Kosovo

This project is to assist in the development of an innovation strategy for the period 2013 to 2020. Since the last reporting period, the OECD Investment Compact prepared a comprehensive background report that reviews the performance of Kosovo's innovation system and serves as a basis for elaborating Kosovo's Innovation Strategy 2013-2020. The report was produced using a variety of sources including desk research, surveys including 153 businesses and 14 universities and research institutions, stakeholders including other international organisations present in Kosovo.

The main findings of the report and key priorities of the future Innovation Strategy of Kosovo were discussed at an Innovation Forum on 25 September 2012, organised by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. The OECD drafted a number of strategic guidelines and measures, which were discussed in detail with stakeholders during four Innovation Workshops between 4 and 5 December 2012. These guidelines will be used by the local project team to develop the first draft of the Innovation Strategy and Action Plan.

Activities and events planned for next semester

During the next reporting period key actions will include:

- The winners of the Albania business plan competition will receive additional analytical support from the OECD to improve their business plans.
- The Croatian Innovation Strategy draft will be finalised by the Drafting team, and a workshop will be organised in February to draft the Action Plan. The Innovation Policy Review will also be completed. The Innovation Strategy of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is going to be implemented by the government.
- The impact of the Montenegro voucher scheme will be evaluated through focus groups with beneficiary SMEs.
- The OECD will deliver a final version of the needs assessment and feasibility study of a competence technology centre to the Serbian Ministry of Finance and Economy.
- The draft Innovation Strategy and Action Plan will be finalised, with the assistance of the OECD and presented during a closing event in March 2013.
- The final RCI Steering Committee will meet in the first quarter of 2013.

Contact

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4.2.2 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 – 1/5/2013 (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 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 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

- SEECEL has continued to support the piloting process in each of 8 SEECEL member states. It has provided its expertise and guidance to foster the capacity of representatives of pilot institutions in usage of learning package and EU funded projects.
- The network of 31 schools was established (originally 31 were planned but one school from Kosovo has withdrawn from the pilot due to very low capacities), including 256 teachers and 800 students, as well as a network of 16 faculties, including 64 professors and 320 students.
- In cooperation with SEECEL Steering Committee members and with SEECEL expertise, the pilot institutions (7 per country, 55 institutions in total) submitted the agreed task outputs as follows:

- Successfully finalised the ISCED 2 pilot phase in which an estimated 800 students and 256 teachers took part. 160 lesson plans delivered, 150 hours of basic training conducted and 800 hours of advanced training realised.
- Successfully moving towards finalisation the ISCED 5 & 6 pilot phase where an estimated 320 students and 64 professors took part, 4 modules have been developed, staff training conducted, 150 hours of basic training conducted and 800 hours of the advanced training realised.
- Training Needs Assessment: Successfully finalised the TNA pilot phase with active participation of eight of the most representative business associations. A total of 63,036 SMEs were contacted and 3,202 individual responses were gathered. A single database of all regional responses was developed and preparations for publication are under way.

SEECEL is further using its developed platform Community of Practice as the platform for exchange of good practice examples; information dissemination; a place for discussions by experts, stakeholders and beneficiaries; a place for archiving different documents and photos. Essentially it is an interactive peer learning tool. CoP participation: throughout the overall pilot phase, pilot institutions accessed the CoP over 12,444 times, commented 1,938 times on over 220 topics and posted over 1,750 documents and pictures related to the piloting process and promotion of entrepreneurship on national levels.

- In May 2012 SEECEL submitted a request for a contract addendum related to no-cost extension of the current contract, as well as modified budget breakdown with proposed reallocations. The request with proposed budget reallocations was approved by the European Commission and the Addendum was signed in October 2012. With this Addendum the project activities are extended for seven months and the project will end on 1 May 2013.
- SEECEL and Croatia organised and hosted the "Entrepreneurship - Education Regional Summit" on the 23 October 2013. Eight (8) SEECEL member states attended the summit at which the respective ministers or their appointed envoys from the field of economy and education signed "A Charter for Entrepreneurial Learning: the Keystone for Growth and Jobs." The summit was jointly organised by the Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Crafts of the Republic of Croatia and SEECEL with support of the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia and the European Commission. The Regional summit also brought together presidents of business communities (e.g. chambers, employers' associations, etc.) from the respective SEECEL member states.
- One day before, on 22 October 2012, SEECEL organised its 7th Steering Committee meeting and presented the progress report, as well as the progress of the technical assistance team in preparing the second part of the feasibility study (architectural part) for the future SEECEL building.
- SEECEL has received a "no objection" from the European Investment Bank for the first part of the feasibility study for building the future SEECEL premises in Croatia.
- SEECEL is continuing engagement with the EU Danube Strategy – Priority Area 8, Entrepreneurial Learning work group.
- Related to other activities of SEECEL, complementary to this project, SEECEL organised the kick-off for the "Women Entrepreneurship – a Job Creation Engine for South East Europe" project, financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) on 21 September 2012.
- SEECEL participated at the Ministerial Conference of the South East Europe Investment Committee, jointly organised by the RCC and the Government of Albania, held on 9 November 2012 in Tirana, Albania. The Charter for Entrepreneurial Learning: the Keystone for Growth and Jobs, which is signed by eight SEECEL member states, was

recognised as a mechanism for further development of different activities which will help the region to better meet the requirements in achieving the SEE 2020 targets.

- SEECEL, being regionally recognised as an expert institution in the field of entrepreneurial learning, was invited to participate at the Entrepreneurial Learning workshop held on 6-7 December 2012 in Skopje, to contribute to the development of Life Long Entrepreneurial Learning to be incorporated into the national strategy of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The workshop has been organised by the Ministry of Education and Science with the support of the European Training Foundation (ETF).

Activities and events planned for next semester

- SEECEL will continue to monitor and support strategic pilot institutions and final task outputs and concrete results are expected to be finalised, designed for publishing and published in the next period.
- All three final publications for ISCED 2, ISCED 5/6 and TNA will be published by the end of the project; TNA is expected to be published in February 2013, while ISCED 2 and ISCED 5&6 will be finalised by the end of March 2013.
- In the upcoming 4 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 be finalised in February 2013 in order to feed the final publications.
- SEECEL will support the peer-review visits of pilot institutions at ISCED 2 level; each pilot school will receive funds for organising a visit to another school (from the same country or from other SEECEL member state) to reflect on the piloting process in that school. The peer-review visit has to be conducted by the end of February 2013 or mid-March 2013 at the latest. Each pilot school which has conducted the peer-review visit will have to submit a short report on their findings.
- By the end of March/beginning of April 2013 SEECEL will organise the entrepreneurial camp which will be held in Croatia, tentatively in Dubrovnik. Up to 200 participants from 8 SEECEL member states from different pilot institutions, as well as national experts and stakeholders, will gather to celebrate the successful piloting and to present the results. The entrepreneurial camp will be documented in a film.
- SEECEL will also continue to work on complementary activities under the SIDA-funded project (participating/organising different meetings and/or events together with representatives of Embassy of Sweden, RCC, 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.

Links and contact

Link: www.seecel.hr

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4.2.3 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 SME Policy Index was published and launched in Zagreb in October 2012 at a high-level conference.
- The publication was widely disseminated across partner organisations and partner countries.
- The report shows that economies have converged closer to EU SME policy practices and standards over the last three years. The Western Balkan economies have recorded marked progress in skills development and export promotion. They have made 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. On the other hand, on average, their performance on the provision of SME support services slightly deteriorated, while women's entrepreneurship represents a new policy challenge.

Activities and events planned for next semester

This project has been completed.

Contact

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4.3 Trade

4.3.1 Project information

CEFTA Project Facility (Central European Free Trade Agreement), IPA 2011/22-964, EUR 200 000

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans (and Moldova)

Type of contract: Contribution Agreement with CEFTA Secretariat, CN 288-791

Duration of activities: 01/05/2012 – 31/10/2014

Purpose

Support to the CEFTA Secretariat in providing training on acquis related issues (developing human resources of relevant bodies for the adoption and implementation of the EU acquis).

Activities

Within the framework of the CEFTA Project Facility, two tenders have been launched on 27 July 2012. The first tender was on "Trade Policy Capacity Development in CEFTA Parties", and the second on "Establishment of the CEFTA SPS Database". No valid response was received for the "Trade Policy Capacity Development in CEFTA Parties" tender. The CEFTA Secretariat, as the Contracting Authority, had to cancel the tender procedure.

The other tender was successful and the Contracting Authority signed the contract with the consultant on 14 November 2012 for the "Establishment of the CEFTA SPS Database". The kick-off meeting with the consultant was held on 3 December 2012. The implementation of the contract has started on the date of signature and the period of implementation of the contract is 10 months. The launching of the pilot database is expected in June while with full

operation in September 2013. A professional training on how to update and use the database is planned in September 2013.

The consultant will perform the compilation and systemisation of a set of relevant SPS measures and key laws and bylaws in the three relevant areas (sanitary, phyto-sanitary (SPS) and veterinary) in order to create the database. The beneficiaries of this Project are the members of the CEFTA Subcommittee on Agriculture and SPS, the CEFTA ministries and administrations responsible for the SPS issues in intraregional trade.

Activities and events planned for next semester

Related to the project on Establishment of the CEFTA SPS Database, the engagement of the IT expert is planned in March 2013 in order to support the uploading of compiled data and creation of the sustainable information system for the database project.

Links and contact

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

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4.3.2 Project information

Support to the CEFTA Secretariat (Central European Free Trade Agreement) 2011 – 2014, IPA 2011/022-964, EUR 0.68 million

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 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 facilitates 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;
- A number of meetings have been held with the representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina to identify the priorities of the Chairmanship.
- At the Deputy Ministers Meeting on 21 June, the members took stock of the implementation of CEFTA for the first 6 months of 2012 and endorsed the proposed priorities of the Chairmanship of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2013.
- In the area of eliminating the unnecessary technical barriers to trade (TBT), the members of the working group on TBT at their meeting (19 September 2012) agreed to undertake efforts to mutually recognise the test reports of the conformity assessment body of a Party that is signatory to the European Accreditation multilateral agreement. The Joint Committee subsequently adopted the recommendation on the recognition of the test report by the Conformity Assessment Bodies.
- At the Subcommittee on Customs and Rules of Origin held on 27 September, the members drafted the Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Customs Risk Management whose establishment was endorsed by the Joint Committee in November. The main functions of this body are cooperation in customs risk management and

exploring possibilities for creating and applying joint risk profiles. The SC members nominated new coordinators for the Western Balkans in the Pan-Euro-Mediterranean cumulation.

- At the two meetings held in October and November, members of the Working Group on Trade in Services discussed the approach and methodology to apply in the forthcoming negotiations on trade in services liberalisation. The Services Trade Restrictive Indices based on the OECD methodology were calculated for the eight CEFTA Parties in the four professional services, including legal, accounting, architecture and engineering. The regulatory database was established for internal purposes and will serve as a basis for future negotiations.
- The fifth Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) held on 8 November in Tirana (Albania) recognised the readiness for mutual opening of services markets and reiterated its expectation to initiate the negotiations on liberalisation of trade in services in the beginning of 2013 as one of the key results expected from the Albanian Chairmanship. At the same meeting, the JCM adopted a decision on CEFTA Depositary, appointing the Republic of Albania as the new Depositary of the Agreement. Under the framework of promotion of the Agreement, the “CEFTA Week 2012” was organised on 7 and 8 November. With a number of workshops and debates held, this event provided an opportunity to highlight the benefits of the Agreement in terms of stimulating trade and investment and to gain a better understanding of the perceptions and opinions of CEFTA among different groups.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- The potential agreements amongst the CEFTA Parties on conformity assessment issues that can facilitate the trade in pre-selected products are expected to be discussed at the first session of the WG on TBT meeting scheduled for 1 February 2013.
- The launch of the second cycle on the assessment of the administrative barriers to trade under the Mutual Framework on the Elimination of the Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) is planned for February 2013. This is expected to point at the major sources of the NTBs in customs related fields and provide answers on how best to address them.
- Opening of negotiations on trade and services liberalisation is expected in the first quarter of 2013. The methodology and approaches are to be endorsed at the first session of the WG on Trade in Services scheduled for 8 February.
- The Steering Committee of the CEFTA Secretariat is scheduled for end of February to endorse the activities of the CEFTA Secretariat and discuss future planning.
- The Subcommittee on Customs and Rules of Origin considers promoting the use of risk management as one of the main tools for facilitating regional trade. This will be carried out through technical preparatory work to be done by the Working Group on Customs Risk Management. Success in risk management-related activities is thus expected to trigger the simplification of customs and other trade procedures. The first meeting of the Working Group is planned for the first half of 2013.
- Granting the use of simplified procedure to those private operators who are meeting a number of pre-defined customs security related standards is considered an important tool for trade facilitation. A workshop is planned to promote the technical features of Authorised Economic Operator programme to the CEFTA Private Sector and discuss their readiness to implement the programme properly.
- The third CEFTA Origin network meeting is to be organised to thoroughly discuss the implementation track record of the CEFTA diagonal cumulation, and the current state of play in the revision exercise of the Pan-EuroMed Convention in the first half of next year.

- The SC on Agriculture and SPS will hold its first session in April focussing on the cooperation among the SPS institutions in the region, potential launch of the next round of liberalisation of trade in agriculture and pilot launch of the CEFTA SPS database.
- The Subcommittee on NTBs and TBT will hold its second session at the end of May where the presentation of the preliminary results and recommendations of the NTBs assessment is to be made by the OECD.

Links and contact

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

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4.3.3 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

The final report on the 1st cycle of NTBs elimination in CEFTA was presented at the CEFTA Meeting in Tirana on 19-20 June 2012. The report provides policy guidance and recommendations to CEFTA Parties for coordinated actions for 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 also be used by the Parties as a basis for further negotiations in the area of NTBs.

Activities and events planned for next semester

This project has been completed.

Contact

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4.3.4 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. The assessment will cover all areas of NTBs

under 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 final report on the 1st cycle of NTBs elimination in CEFTA was presented at the CEFTA Meeting 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.

Activities and events planned for next semester

This project has been completed.

Contact

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4.3.5 Project information

Monitoring and implementation of the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA)

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans (and Moldova).

Type of contract: Contribution Agreement with OECD, IPA 2012/288-783

Duration of activities: March 2012 – September 2014

Purpose

The overall objective is to assist the CEFTA 2006 Parties in implementing the free trade agreement negotiated in 2006 by the beneficiary economies and thereafter denominated as CEFTA 2006. The Action builds on the results of three previous projects implemented by the OECD Investment Compact. It will focus on the reduction and elimination of NTBs, the progressive liberalisation of trade in services and the identification of policy measures leading to optimising the benefits of regional trade and investment liberalisation on the framework of increasing European integration.

Activities

Monitoring Progress in the Reduction and Elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers in CEFTA 2006

For the 2nd assessment cycle on elimination of NTBs, the OECD IC conducted a statistical analysis on CEFTA trade in final goods. Given the complexity and large number of EU standards associated with one product, the outcome of the analysis focused on a maximum of 8 products. The selection of these final products has been approved by CEFTA Parties. In parallel, questionnaires on TBTs and SPS measures have been prepared by OECD and circulated to CEFTA parties. The indicators of the Multilateral Monitoring framework (MMF) have been revised by the OECD Secretariat, based on the experience of the 1st assessment cycle and endorsed by the CEFTA Parties in February 2012.

The second assessment cycle on elimination of NTBs has been launched in September 2012. The MMF assessment on NTBs has been conducted in all CEFTA Parties, between October and end November 2012. The assessment has been performed by OECD and independent international experts.

Supporting the Implementation of CEFTA 2006 in the area of Trade in Services

The OECD IC engaged in assessing the restriction in services trade in the CEFTA region, starting with four professional services (legal, accounting and auditing, architecture, and engineering). The OECD IC employed the Services Trade Restrictiveness Index, developed by the Organisation's Trade and Agriculture Division, and completed the index Regulatory Database and calculated the indices for each CEFTA Party. These preliminary findings were presented at the Trade in Services Working Group (11 October 2012) and at the CEFTA Week (7-8 November 2012), both in Tirana, Albania. Following feedback from the CEFTA Parties, the OECD IC started a review process to finalise the results and provide recommendations for the start of the negotiations process.

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

The work under this activity has not started yet.

Activities and events planned for next semester

The results of the second MMF assessment cycle on elimination of NTBs and the final results on Trade in Services will be presented at the 4th Round-Table on NTBs reduction that will be organised by the OECD, in cooperation with the CEFTA Secretariat and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary, planned for 7-8 February 2013 in Budapest. The assessment of administrative barriers to trade will be conducted between April and May 2013. Subject to input from the CEFTA Parties, further work on trade in services will be conducted, either by analysing in more depth the professional services trade, or by analysing the barriers to services trade in other sectors. The trade and investment component work will begin with an analysis of selected supply chains, in line with CEFTA's priority sectors and products.

Contact

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4.3.6 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:

- The 4th meeting of the project steering committee was held in Tivat in September and was followed by submission of the 2nd project progress report in October;
- A close working relationship with the Commission, EFTA, RCC and with the Secretariat and structures of CEFTA (see IPA 2011/022-964 above) was maintained to ensure close coordination between project activities;
- A close working relationship with OECD was maintained, with regular meetings in Paris and Belgrade and the continued short-term involvement of the Project Director and Team Leader in the monitoring of TBT in the Western Balkans being done by OECD (see IPA 2009/021-373 above);
- A close working relationship with IFC (World Bank) was maintained, with regular meetings in Belgrade and Brussels (including participation in the Trade Logistics outreach event in December) ensuring close coordination between project activities;
- Progress Report Summaries in the six main fields covered by the project were updated in September and posted on the project's website;
- One hands-on training (HOT) course was delivered on Personal Protective Equipment in London in December ;
- One networking activity was delivered in Tivat (September, participation in the international conference on quality management (ICQME 2012. One meeting of the CEFTA Working Group on TBT was held in September in Tivat.
- The proficiency testing activity was in full-scale activity with more than 70 laboratories participating in 11 different schemes. National accreditation bodies and national metrology institutes remain deeply involved in the activity;
- The project participated in the 5th meeting of the EURAMET/WELMEC Focus Group on Facilitating National Metrology Infrastructure Development, which took place in Belgrade in September;

Activities and events planned for next semester

- 5th SC meeting to take place in Brussels on 31 January with third set of progress reports to deliver; the topics for the next set of HOTs will be decided;
- Meeting of CEFTA Working Group on TBT will take place in Brussels on 1 February;
- HOT on Metrology, including preparation of laboratories for accreditation will be held in London on 14-18 January;
- HOT on Standardisation will be held in Brussels on 30 January;
- HOT on Technical Requirements and Market Surveillance for Household appliances will be held in Frankfurt on 12-14 February;
- HOT on Standardisation: Eurocodes National Annexes will be held in Berlin on 18-20 February;
- Networking activity will be held on Ethical Behaviour in Conformity Assessment to follow up on May workshop in Istanbul);
- The Proficiency Testing component will be in full implementation mode with testing and calibration activities in more than 70 laboratories throughout the Western Balkans and Turkey;
- The project will participate in the CEFTA Roundtable on Eliminating Non-Tariff Barriers in Budapest on 7-8 February, presenting TBT monitoring results;

- The 3rd project progress report will be issued by 30 April.

Links and contact

Link: www.cen.eu

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

4.3.7 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, EUR 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, so 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 harmonised practices among border control agencies, a wider use of risk based controls and electronic processing and payment systems.

Activities

The following activities were undertaken:

Agricultural Supply Chain Mapping Findings and Recommendations

Over a six-month period, the Project conducted detailed research of clearance procedures at border crossing points along major trading routes in the region. It focussed on processed agricultural products to identify bottlenecks and areas of improvement. The Project presented its findings in Sarajevo in September to the CEFTA Strategic Administrative Cooperation Meeting and the CEFTA Subcommittee on Customs and Rules of Origin, and in November at the high-level CEFTA Week event in Tirana. A summary report was disseminated at the Tirana event. Findings and recommendations which will guide the project's future work focus on improvements for exchange of information on cargo, synchronisation of working hours, simplified customs procedures, payment procedures, bank guarantee requirements, sampling and testing, joint risk profiles and controls, the use of the green channel, and mutual recognition of certificates.

Novi Sad Survey on Trade Logistics Barriers in the Agriculture Sector

A survey of 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. The report was completed and shared with stakeholders in October. Its findings track with those of the supply chain mapping report.

Risk Management Advisory

A reduction of the amount of cargo inspections conducted at regional border crossing points and inland terminals would speed up clearance procedures. One major reason for the relatively high percentage of such inspections is insufficient knowledge and application of risk management techniques. The Project is therefore offering advice in this area.

The Project formally agreed on a joint action plan with Montenegro Customs in November 2012 and initiatives to update risk criteria and improving the operations of the risk management unit of Customs are under way. The Project has also engaged with the Customs Administrations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, and Albania, and will finalise activity plans with them in the coming months. Given that the non-customs border agencies are usually less advanced than customs in risk analysis, the Project has expanded its advice to these agencies, primarily food, veterinary and phyto-sanitary. The Project is also working with the EU-funded SEED Project, which established IT connections between all regional customs agencies for the exchange and analysis of pre-arrival data, to investigate whether it is possible, and if so, how best to connect technical agencies to this system. CEFTA has established a working group on risk management and has invited the Project to participate in the group's sessions and to provide expert advice.

Procedure Simplification

This term broadly encompasses the Project's other initiatives designed towards reducing administrative procedures at regional borders. The Project successfully engaged with the Federal Inspectorate of Bosnia and Herzegovina to expand its working hours at the three most frequented border crossing points on weekdays and Saturdays. In Montenegro, the Project assisted the Sanitary Inspection Agency to limit the time allowed for sampling and testing. The Project has also been moderating transit facilitation talks between the Albanian and Kosovo border agencies to discuss simplified transit procedures for goods entering the Port of Durrës destined for Kosovo. Two meetings were held, in Tirana in November and in Pristina in December to discuss technical details. The objective is to draft a bilateral framework agreement.

Private Sector Engagement

The Project has established good working relationships with the Chambers of Commerce of Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro. The Chamber of Commerce of Serbia and the Project organised a round table on trade logistics in July 2012 with over 20 private sector participants. The Project is now following up on issues raised, including the option of communicating laboratory testing results to border inspectorates electronically. A trade logistics working group was established by the Chamber of Commerce in Macedonia in October. Short working hours at inland terminals was raised as one issue of concern, which forces traders to travel to a border crossing point to finish clearance procedures. In Montenegro, the Project assisted with a code of conduct and ethics for freight forwarders and helped establish a Trade Logistics Council under the auspices of the Chamber, which will discuss and make recommendations for improvements to trade-logistics related procedures.

Engagement with Other Regional Projects/Organisations

In addition to CEFTA, the Project also supports the initiatives of the RCC, which is in charge of developing an action plan for the region to reach its economic goals (SEE2020). In October and November, the Project participated in the SEEIC's deliberations about an action plan for the economic targets of the 2020 agenda, highlighting the importance of trade logistics facilitation to trade growth in the region. The Project also works closely with the SEED project, as mentioned above and liaises with the Southeast Europe Transport Observatory SEETO and the Regional Quality Infrastructure Project.

Signing of Cooperation Agreements:

Cooperation Agreements were signed with the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and with the Chamber of Commerce of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Based on supply chain mapping work, develop findings into concrete recommendations and actions; organise at least one regional technical meeting on procedural simplifications;
- Further analysis on air cargo and Danube cargo and development of recommendations; consultations with governments and private sector; selected workshops/meetings to be determined; organise a conference on Danube cargo procedures;
- Continued advice in risk management for customs agencies and inclusion of technical border agencies into the advice, given that these agencies use no, or much less sophisticated, risk analysis;
- Continue advice to the Customs Services and Food and Veterinary Agencies of Kosovo and Albania on transit facilitation procedures for goods entering the Port of Durres and destined for Kosovo;
- Continue outreach and engagement of private sector organisations (such as Chambers, trade logistics councils) into the reform efforts; foster closer consultations between government and private sector;
- Sign additional cooperation agreements.

Contact

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

5 Environment and climate change sector

Environmental protection 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.

5.1 Environmental Protection

5.1.1 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 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

Links and contact

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

Contact: Balázs Horváth (DG ENV), Balazs.HORVATH2@ec.europa.eu

5.1.2 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 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 3rd RENA Ministerial Meeting took place on 25th September 2012 in Brussels, Belgium.

The activities carried out under the 4 Working Groups were:

Working Group 1 – Strategic Planning and Investments

- Regional workshop on Development of Environmental Financing Plans, 20-21/11/2012, Budva, Montenegro
- Final Progress Monitoring Reports 2012, 9/2012
- Completion of Gap Assessment Reports on the draft legislation at the request of the beneficiaries

Working Group 2 – Climate Change

- ReCAP seminar Kosovo, 2-3/10/2012, Pristina, Kosovo combined with the National EU ETS awareness raising event Kosovo
- 4th regional workshop on GHG inventory reporting combined with ETS registries 25-26/10/2012, Dubrovnik, Croatia
- MMD Progress Meeting 13/9/2012, Zagreb, Croatia
- 4th regional workshop on GHG inventory reporting combined with ETS registries 25-26/10/2012, Dubrovnik, Croatia

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

- Module 5 - Workshop. Developing sound nature cross border projects (project development), NP Tara, 16-19/10/2012, Serbia
- Regional workshop - WFD derogations and public participation, as well as stakeholder involvement 15 – 17/10/ 2012, Istanbul, Turkey
- Regional workshop - SEA cross-border procedures, including consultation and interpretation of cross-border impacts 25-27/9/2012, Budva, Montenegro
- Regional workshop - EIA cross-border procedures, including consultation and interpretation of cross-border impacts 12-14/12/ 2012, Tirana, Albania

Working Group 4 – ECENA

- 7th national training workshop on selected subjects Cluster I for Montenegro with common inspections (Cluster II) 3-7/9/2012, Kolasin, Montenegro
- 8th national training workshop on selected subjects Cluster I Croatia with common inspections (Cluster II) 02-05/10/2012, Pula, Croatia
- Regional Workshop no 1 on Inspection and enforcement in cross border nature protection areas 23-25/10/2012, Lake Ohrid, FYR of Macedonia
- Regional Workshop no 2 on Inspection and enforcement in cross border nature protection areas, 13-15/11/2012, Skadar Lake, Albania

Activities and events planned for next semester

The 5th Steering Committee Meeting will take place on 5 March 2013 in Skopje.

Working Group 1 – Strategic Planning and Investments

- 3rd Annual WG1/RISP meeting, 11/2/2013, Vienna, Austria
- Final Update of Implementation Handbook, 3/2013
- EU Accession Negotiation Handbook, 3/2013
- 3rd Annual Sub-group Investment Planning meeting 19/2/2013, Zagreb, Croatia
- Start-up of the Progress Monitoring Reports 2013, 3/2013
- Completion of Gap Assessment Reports on the draft legislation, as requested by the beneficiaries
- Evaluation and follow-up of Activity 1.6 – Public participation, 3/2013

Working Group 2 – Climate Change

- 3rd Annual WG2 meeting, 27/2/2013, Brussels, Belgium

- ReCAP seminar Bosnia and Herzegovina, 20-21/2/2013, Banja Luka, combined with National EU ETS awareness raising event
- Hands on support to prepare GHG emission inventories, 2/2013

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

- 3rd Nature Sub-group Annual meeting, 30/1/2013, Vienna, Austria
- Module 6 Workshop: Monitoring Nature Protection Areas combined with the meeting with NP Managers on funding opportunities, 29-30/1/2013, Vienna, Austria
- 3rd Water Management Sub-group Annual meeting, 20/2/2013, Zagreb, Croatia
- 3rd EIA/SEA Sub-group Annual meeting, 21/2/2013, Zagreb, Croatia

Working Group 4 – ECENA

- 3rd ECENA WG Annual meeting 24/1/2013, Zagreb, Croatia

Links and contact

Link: www.renanetwork.org

Contact: Madalina Ivanica DG (ENV): Madalina.IVANICA@ec.europa.eu

5.2 Disaster risk reduction

5.2.1 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 increases the IPA Beneficiaries' capability of working with the Community Civil Protection Mechanism and contributes to the development of their civil protection capacities through training, workshops and exchange of experts.

Activities

3rd Steering Committee Meeting for all the lots of the IPA Programme, 21-22 November, Slovenia

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

- 2 Basic Training Courses: 1-8 September, 22-28 September, Montenegro
- 1 Operational Management Training Course: 10-16 November, Montenegro
- 1 Advance Training course: 21-26 October, Montenegro
- Exchanges of experts (3 to 6 participants per exchange):
 - Monitoring and Information Centre of the European Commission, July-August 2012, Brussels
 - Volunteer organisation within civil protection, 13-17 August 2012, Germany
 - Organising Mechanism training courses, 3-7 September 2012, Denmark
 - Preparatory Action and other EU programmes, 10-14 September 2012, Sweden
 - CBRN protection of first responders and civil protection forces, 26-30 November 2012, Austria

Lot 1 has received an extension of 6 months (until 31 May 2013) in order to complete all the activities foreseen in the Terms of Reference.

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

- 2nd Regional Field Exercise IPA CRO-Floods 2012 – scenario: floods, cross border activity, 20-25 May, Croatia
- Production of video and picture story about the field exercise:
 - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O5tu-govddQ&list=PLF9BA7F2400004399&index=49&feature=plpp_video
 - http://ec.europa.eu/echo/media/photos/picture_stories/croatia01_en.htm
- Participation of observers in the EU "BALEX DELTA" field exercise, 28-29 August, Finland
- The activities of Lot 2 have been accomplished according to the Terms of Reference and the contract ended on 30 November 2012.

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

- 2 Workshops on Host Nation Support, 26-27 and 28-29 November 2012, Albania
- Management of the IPA programme web page: <http://www.ipacivilprotection.eu/>

Lot 3 has received an extension of 6 months (until 31 May 2013) in order to complete all the activities foreseen in the Terms of Reference.

Activities and events planned for 1 January - 31 May 2013

- Civil Protection Directorates General meeting and participation in the 4th EU Civil Protection Forum, 14-16 May 2013, Brussels
- 1 Operational Management Training Courses: 17-22 February 2013, Montenegro
- 1 Advanced Training, 10-15 March, Montenegro
- Exchange of experts (3 to 6 participants per exchange):
 - National Flood Response – 22-26 April 2013, Austria
 - National Flood Response - 12-17 May 2013, Poland

- Early Warning Systems – TBD, the Netherlands
- 2 Workshops on Early Warning Systems – 28-30 Jan, 7-8 March 2013, Montenegro
- 2 Workshops on the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance, March 2013
- 2 Workshops on Forest Fires – 23-24 April, 25-26 April, Brussels

Link and contact

Link: www.ipacivilprotection.eu

Contact: Gerry Renders, Gerry.RENDERS@ec.europa.eu

5.2.2 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 disaster risk reduction,
- strengthening cross-border cooperation in disaster risk management,
- enhancing the regional capacity to supply/share/exchange data/information about disaster risk reduction (DRR).

Activities

- Project kick-off meeting and 1st Steering Committee Meeting on 30-31 August 2012 in Zagreb
- Development of a project website (<http://www.preventionweb.net/ipadrr/>)
- Task 1 "Enhance the regional institutional capacity and coordination with respect to DRR and adaptation to climate change": recruitment of an expert in Disaster Risk Management and capacity building
- Task 2 "Strengthen the regional capacity and cooperation towards data and knowledge sharing on risks": technical specifications for a regional Disaster Risk Reduction Knowledge Management System finalised
- Task 3 "Enhance the regional risk assessment and mapping capacities through improved capacity of beneficiaries in hazard analysis and mapping": assessment of Beneficiaries needs for Data Rescue (DARE) and Climate Data Management Systems (CDMS) and development of 1st draft technical development plan for each beneficiary

- Task 4 "Enhance IPA Beneficiaries' capacity to forecast hazardous meteorological and hydrological phenomena and deliver timely warnings to support DRR": (i) 1st on-the-job training on use of state-of-the-art technology for severe weather forecasting and warnings held; (ii) application of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the Cooperating Membership in the EUMETNET Programme EMMA approved
- Task 5 "Develop the capacity needed to support climate risk management and climate change adaptation into national and regional DRR agenda": 8th session of the South East Europe Climate Outlook Forum (SEECOF) conducted
- Task 7 "Insurance and reinsurance products for disaster risk transfer are promoted among the IPA Beneficiaries in collaboration with the private sector, the World Bank, Europa Re and the South Eastern Europe and Caucasus Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (SEE CRIF)": Statement of Work for the recruitment of a specialised international consulting firm developed in consultation with the World Bank and finalisation of the recruitment process through UNOPS

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Task 1 "Enhance the regional institutional capacity and coordination with respect to DRR and adaptation to climate change": complete a plan of action and expenditure forecast for the exchange programme, including identification of the EU hosting countries and identification of participants from the Beneficiary Countries
- Task 2 "Strengthen the regional capacity and cooperation towards data and knowledge sharing on risks": recruitment of an expert for the design of the Knowledge Management System, need assessment and system architecture in place
- Task 3 "Enhance the regional risk assessment and mapping capacities through improved capacity of beneficiaries in hazard analysis and mapping":
 - purchase/upgrade of the Climate Data Management System (CDMS) software;
 - organisation of a regional workshop on historic hydro-meteorological data management;
 - training needs assessment in relation to drought hazard analysis and mapping;
 - recruitment of a hydrology and data exchange consultant in relation to the cooperation with the Sava River Commission
- Task 4 "Enhance IPA Beneficiaries' capacity to forecast hazardous meteorological and hydrological phenomena and deliver timely warnings to support DRR":
 - organisation of 2nd and 3rd on-the-job training for forecasters on severe weather forecasting and warnings in the Romanian Meteorological Administration;
 - coordination of the upgrade of the EUMETCast stations between WMO and EUMETSAT;
 - organisation of a regional training workshop on integrated flood management and flood forecasting;
 - payment of fees related to the integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Meteoalarm and initiation of the test period for the integration into the Meteoalarm web service;
 - purchase of calibration equipment

- Task 5 "Develop the capacity needed to support climate risk management and climate change adaptation into national and regional DRR agenda": organisation of secondment of experts from two beneficiaries to the Drought Management Centre South East Europe (DMC SEE)
- Task 6 "Design a regional Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS) composed of harmonised national Early Warning Systems (EWS) within a regional cooperation framework":
 - recruitment of a consultant for the EWS;
 - organisation of the ICSEED in April 2013 in Bulgaria
- Task 7 "Insurance and reinsurance products for disaster risk transfer are promoted among the IPA Beneficiaries in collaboration with the private sector, the World Bank, Europa Re and the South Eastern Europe and Caucasus Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (SEE CRIF)":
 - specialised consulting company recruited;
 - training package for governmental insurance regulators and agents advanced and road map for training developed
- Task 8 "Increase public awareness in relation to DRR":
 - mayors from IPA Beneficiary Countries identified;
 - development of visibility material in local languages completed;
 - organisation of an event/press conference at the Global Platform for DRR in Geneva in May 2013

Links and contact

Link: www.ipacivilprotection.eu

Contact: Gerry Renders, Gerry.Renders@ec.europa.eu

5.3 Food safety, veterinary and phyto-sanitary policy

5.3.1 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 (DG SANCO)
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 improves regional and cross-border cooperation in the Western Balkans and ensures that the control and eradication of important animal diseases is harmonised and coordinated at regional level.

Activities

- First Interim Report (July 2012)

- Second regional workshop, Belgrade (October 2012)
- Website remodelling (October 2012)
- Experts' missions – rabies eradication, Albania (September and November 2012)
- Rabies vaccination – model technical specifications and guidance (December 2012)

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Laboratory networking workshop (February 2013)
- Meeting of Chief Veterinary Officers, Brussels (March 2013)
- Southern rabies group (Albania, Bulgaria, Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) meeting (March 2013)
- Experts' missions – rabies vaccination (March – April 2013)
- Classical Swine Fever in Wild Boar – Hotspot management (April – May 2013)
- 3rd regional workshop, Sarajevo (envisaged for June 2013, but date to be confirmed pending a possible no-cost project extension)

Links and contact

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

Contact: Gerry Renders, Gerry.Renders@ec.europa.eu

6 Support to civil society sector

The overall objective of this support is to strengthen civil society organisations and their role in the political as well as the 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 seen as important in this context.

6.1 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 a variety of organisations in the ELARG region into contact with EU institutions and European-level counterparts. These include CSO representatives, human rights and minority defence activists, NGOs dealing with acquis-related subjects, journalists, young politicians, trades union leaders, etc.;
- (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.

6.1.1 Project information (1 of 4)

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

IPA 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. TACSO gives 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, grouped in an inception report;

- 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 at both national and regional level
- Facilitation of dialogue and cooperation between 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 for the implementation of grants

Activities

The TACSO offices provide support to Civil Society organisations on a number of issues and on a number of occasions, guiding them in the management of their projects. Some highlights include:

The TACSO office in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been providing technical assistance (TA) to both CSOs implementing projects under national IPA (IPA 2009) and CSOs implementing multi-beneficiary projects. At the moment 8 applicant CSOs and their 45 partners (the number of partners per project range from 4 to 9) implementing projects under IPA 2009 call "Support to issue-based NGO networks" have been completing on-line two comprehensive assessment questionnaire (one designed for applicant organisations, one designed for partners organisations) .

Based on the (clusters) of findings the tailor-made workshops should be held in the beginning of February for all of them in relation to their needs. The purpose of the TA is for CSOs to make a bigger impact for the activities conducted and to reach a wider community and public outreach. Daily support has been provided to all CSOs who have been posing individual questions (apart from the group of CSOs for whom assistance was agreed with EU Delegation to BiH- Support to issue-based NGO networks).

TACSO Kosovo assistance related to project mentoring and guidance is linked with other types of assistance in the project preparation phase such as assistance in finding partners, clarification of guidelines and application package and registration in the PADOR database. During 2012 TACSO Kosovo has continuously delivered assistance/ trainings and consultancy to Kosovo CSOs in preparing their projects responding to EU regional and national call for proposals.

A total of 23 CSOs were helped to do PADOR registration. Assistance related to application package/ guidelines of the CSF regional and national call was provided to roughly 22 CSOs. Assistance related to financial management and EU Visibility rules was provided to all Kosovo CSOs implementing grants from CSF regional grant scheme "Women Empowerment" (mentoring visits).

In addition three days of training was organised on "Financial management and EU visibility rules" for all Kosovo CSOs implementing grants from CSF regional grant scheme "Women

Empowerment” and beneficiaries of the CSF national grant scheme. Generally, more than 80% of the assistance was delivered to less experienced organisations.

TACSO Montenegro implemented the training “EU project implementation” for 24 CSOs which had just signed a contract with the EU Delegation and which implement projects under the EIDHR, IPA and Growing Together call for proposals. The training provided support to the implementation of projects. The TACSO Montenegro office provided support to 16 CSOs implementing EU projects, including help with financial procedures, exemption from VAT, preparation of reports etc.

In Croatia, out of 51 requests for technical assistance during 2012 there were 21 in relation to IPA CSF funded projects. They included requests for assistance during project preparation (e.g. clarifications of guidelines, partnership search) and project implementation (e.g. financial reporting, VAT exemptions, legal issues arising from partnerships).

Requests have been submitted by 18 organisations (13 from Croatia, 3 from other IPA countries and 2 from the EU). Most of the responses have been provided via e-mail, some involved also communication in person. Responses ranged from simply directing the request to the appropriate institution, to more demanding clarifications of financial issues or attempts at mediation among the partners. A series of four training sessions on financial management was held for CSOs implementing EU funded projects. One session specifically targeted CSOs implementing multi-beneficiary projects.

TACSO Turkey organised 2 information meetings in Ankara and Istanbul with support from EUD Turkey with participation of 30 CSO representatives on “Civil Society Facility: Support to Regional Thematic Networks and Associated Implementation Grants” Call for Proposal (EuropeAid/132438/C/ACT/ Multi). In addition TACSO provided an individual briefing session in April 2012 on CSF Partnership Call and supported Helsinki Citizens Assembly (HcA) on preparing budget revisions and for their efforts for fundraising during September-October 2012. During 2012, TACSO provided face-to-face project development support specifically for EU Calls (from CFCU and EUD) 4 CSO/CSO partnerships. It supports the EU Delegation with dissemination of information on P2P when requested and developed a Funder Guideline for CSOs in Turkish <http://www.tacso.org/documents/otherdoc/?id=7409>.

During 2012 the TACSO Office in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia received 12 requests from CSOs implementing EU funded multi beneficiary projects. Support was provided at individual sessions and on-line. Issues covered include the procedure for project registration, the procedure for VAT exemption, EU visibility guidelines, possible financial sources for co-financing, the procedure for changing project staff and other administrative and financial management matters.

Beneficiary CSOs were: Association of blind people of Macedonia, CSO Alka; CSO Taksirat; Women network Antiko; Textile Trade Association of Macedonia – Textile cluster; Centre for Common Ground and Regional Roma Educational Youth Association.

Activities planned for next semester

- Feasibility study of TACSO's exit strategy
- International Conference: Civil Society Transformations on the Way to the EU (Zagreb, April)

Links and contact

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

6.1.2 Project information (2 of 4)

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

Civil Society Facility: IPA 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 “People 2 People” Programme below; (3) partnership actions via Calls for Proposals: see 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 2.3.1 below.

Activities

IPA 2009 Civil Society Facility

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

- 1 *Socio-economic partners, EUR 5.0 million; Minorities and vulnerable group organisations, EUR 2.5 million*

The twelve grant contracts to develop strong regional partnerships between CSOs concerned with socio-economic issues, all concluded their activities. The ten 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, ended.

A final conference grouping the projects under both calls was organised in Zagreb as a follow-up to the Western Balkan Forum of the European Economic and Social Committee at the same location. The participants commented that the selected approach for a longer-term partnership between the CSOs and the European Commission seems the right way forward. However, the limited financial support available makes it very difficult to target all the priorities. Nevertheless, the CSOs acknowledged that other ways of engagement could be explored, notably within the framework of the People 2 People (P2P) actions.

The participants discussed each other's project results and shared views on how to continue their work without EU funding. The three projects dealing with energy efficiency identified opportunities to continue by working with each other to build on each other's experiences and results. The Commission will see whether it can support this synergy either by using P2P or with the help of one of the Framework Partners granted on environment and energy.

For more information consult the Google websites: <http://sites.google.com/site/129637>; <http://sites.google.com/site/129897>

- 2 *Cultural organisations, EUR 2.5 million*

These ten 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) came to an end. Their final conference was organised in conjunction with the Taksirat

event in Skopje allowing the participants to share results and future prospects. See Google website: <http://sites.google.com/site/ipa129799> for more information.

IPA 2010 Civil Society Facility

Activities focus on the following:

3 Technical Assistance (EUR 6.7m)

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

4 "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 implemented through the provision of TA/EX-type technical assistance. Participants are identified after consultation with EUDs and other European and international organisations. The contract with GTZ/GIZ finished in June 2012. The new contract was started in August 2012 and continues until July 2014 with IBF International as contractor.

5 Partnership Actions, IPA 2010, EUR 3.3 million

5.1 Empowerment of women, EUR 1.85 million

The interim reports of the eleven projects focussed around gender equality have been received, assessed and approved. All the projects have contributed to the Google website for this call, allowing for sharing of outputs and mid-term results. The final phase will be used to see to what extent synergies can be obtained looking at the potential results of the projects and how this could be used by one of the recently granted Framework Partnerships.

For more information on activities, see: <http://sites.google.com/site/ipa131114/>

5.2 Children's rights, EUR 1.65 million

Violence against children is still an everyday reality in the countries of South Eastern Europe, where social service professionals are the first ones to come into contact with children who are victims of violence. However they are still not necessarily properly identifying, reporting or referring cases to ensure an appropriate response to the issue. Neither are national systems within this region capable of protecting children from various forms of violence. Reflecting the commitment of UNICEF and the European Union to protecting children from all forms of violence and to increase the visibility of the issue of violence against children, UNICEF and EU launched a project in July 2011 that covers four countries in South Eastern Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Turkey). This project works at three levels:

- a) to reinforce the capacities of civil society partners in independent monitoring of child rights violations, in particular violence against children;
- b) to reinforce partnerships between civil society organisations (CSOs) and State decision-makers and
- c) to strengthen the system of public services to identify, monitor and address violence against children (VAC).

The project is embedded in reform agendas of existing child protection systems. The four participating countries are all in different stages of pre-accession to EU and the policy environment and reforms of services which are currently taking place in these countries are influenced by the larger European agendas. Therefore, as participating countries in

this project, they will also be linked through regional activities with experience-sharing initiatives at the wider European level.

In order to understand the current level of each of these 4 country's national systems of response to VAC cases, a regional study on VAC was carried out with the participation of almost 600 professionals from a variety of sectors involved with children. Along with a number of challenges and strengths in child protection systems, the study also formulated conclusions and recommendations for the countries to further improve the approaches to prevention and response to VAC.

In order to take the study recommendations further and turn them into an action plan, a workshop was organised on September 18-19, 2012 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. This workshop gathered 40 participants representing government departments, Ombuds system and civil society from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Turkey. This workshop was attended by several international speakers to share their experiences in regards to the following: the current research evidence on the impact of the regional child protection system functionality; dominant models of successful child protection systems; elements of policy reform and social changes; and foundations of policy formation based on evidence and prevention of violence from a healthcare system perspective. The workshop was also attended by representatives of the EU in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Brussels together with UNICEF representatives from the four involved countries, CEECIS regional office and Innocenti Research Centre.

The experts' panel shared their reflections on drafted action plans and made final recommendations for countries to consider for further advancement of their plans. To ensure that action plans are successfully implemented and more likely to achieve their results, it is fundamental to bear in mind the basics when strategizing these plans further.

- Firstly, these plans need to be **clear**: *priorities* should be strategic, results should be *achievable*, and actions to implement should be at the same time *simple*.
- Secondly, **data and information** issues should be given proper attention: *current data* should be *effectively used*; *investing in data* at the same time should not be less important; and *evaluation* of existing practices should never be forgotten.
- Thirdly, action plans should look at the issue of **coordination**: how to ensure that the *various (many) levels* of child protection system are linked to each other; how to '*make it happen*' at *different levels*; and *political leadership and demand* are essential to establish sustainable technical coordination.
- Action plans must be integrated in child protection **system reforms**: *prevention* should be considered as a *priority* (currently it is less visible in action plans); response strategies should be strengthened; and public awareness should be improved to ensure behavioural change.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Empowerment of women: Approval of interim and receipt of some final reports. Continuation implementation of the project activities
- Continued implementation and monitoring of the partnership actions
- Further implementation of the work programme presented in the inception phase, including among other research activities and stakeholder workshops.
- UNICEF: 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. All structured around the main findings/recommendations of the regional assessment on the system's responsiveness to violence against children as mentioned above.

6.1.3 Project information (3 of 4)

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

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

Civil Society Facility: IPA 2013/024-081, EUR 14.8 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans and Turkey

Type of contract: Grants, service contracts, Taiex-type technical assistance

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. This will improve the efficiency, effectiveness, coherence and ultimately the achievement of sustainable results in support of 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 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 18 thematic networks of CSOs organised at regional level. Outputs include tools put into practice on advocacy, awareness-raising and constituency building. The Partnership Programmes have been 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) and EUR 0.5 million (IPA 2013)

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

- A Contribution Agreement under joint management with UNESCO for the project 'Alignment to international Standards in the Media Sector' was approved by the end of November 2011 with a total budget of EUR 500,000 (IPA 2011). The project brings together a broad range of partners in the media sector to improve ethical and professional standards in journalism and the use of voluntary self-regulation.
- In the last quarter of 2012, D3 a launched a fact-finding and scoping consultancy to investigate results of prior media support and to identify the most suitable options and design for future multi-beneficiary media support. The Framework Contractor, Particip, will deliver their report and recommendations by mid-January 2013, after which detailed design will follow. The following two themes will be supported:
 - 1) Prizes for excellence in investigative journalism will be awarded annually to 2-3 journalists in each IPA beneficiary with EUR 165,000 (IPA 2012) and EUR 165,000 (IPA 2013).
 - 2) Calls for Proposals or direct awards to support improved media sector standards and media accountability: EUR 835,000 (IPA 2012) and EUR 335,000 (IPA 2013). The final decision on the implementation method and

schedule will be made following a mapping of actors which has been carried out through a service contract financed from ATA funds in Q3-Q4 2012.

Strengthening civil society contribution to EU integration, EUR 0.3 million (IPA 2011) and EUR 0.5 million (IPA 2013)

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 through:

- a direct award to Comunità di Sant Egidio for up to EUR 300,000 for the project "Living together in the Balkans 2012" (IPA 2011) which was approved in Q3 2012. The EU funding enabled the preparation and implementation of an International Peace Conference in Sarajevo, "Living Together in The Balkans". The conference brought together politicians from all over Europe, civil society organisations and leaders from all the religious communities in the region.
- The activity/activities to be addressed by the IPA 2013 will be identified by Q4 2013 and a Call for Proposals will be launched in Q1 2014.

"People 2 People" Programme, EUR 1.0 million (IPA 2012) and EUR 1.6 million (2013)

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Service contract (for logistics)

Contractor: IBF

This is a continuation of the programme financed from IPA 2008 and IPA 2010. As of November 2012 the responsibility for the management of the P2P programme passed from Unit D2 to D3, which is now directly responsible for the organisation of the events. The definition of the Agenda, selection of the participants and speakers, supervision of the logistic arrangements, dissemination and evaluation of the events is conducted in close collaboration with the relevant geographical Units, EUDs and TACSO offices. From mid-2013, planning, implementation and logistics it will be brought under the new Technical Assistance contract mentioned below, to ensure greater synergies between the two programmes.

Technical Assistance, EUR 6.5 million (IPA 2012) and EUR 1.7 million (IPA 2013)

Technical Assistance will be implemented through:

- A service contract for the continuation of TACSO 1 and 2: see 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

- Adoption of Amendment to Decisions of 2011 and 2012 to add budget and activities for 2013 (August).
- Completion of evaluation of the Call for Proposals for Partnership Programmes for CSOs and signature of contracts (November).
- Preparation and signature of grant to Comunità di Sant Egidio (CSE)
- Preparation and signature of grant to UNESCO
- Media landscape mapping study launched (September)
- Preparation of restricted tender for Technical Assistance ('TACSO 3')
- Contribution to the organisation of the following events (through P2P):

- ECAS Conference, Zadar - 26/28 September 2012
- IV WB Civil Society Forum – 26/27 November 2012 (Event co-organized with the EESC);
- Consultations with EUDs, geographical Units and TACSO Offices for the definition of the P2P 2013 calendar of events and guide of procedures.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Kick-off event for Partnership programmes for CSOs (January);
- Launch of restricted tender for Technical Assistance ('TACSO 3')
- 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;
- Preparation of call for prizes for investigative journalism and media action grants based on findings and recommendations in media landscape mapping study.
- Organisation of approximately 10 P2P events, 6 multi-beneficiary and 4 single-beneficiary to be held in Brussels or in the region;
- Drafting of the P2P ToRs to be included in the new Technical Assistance tender.

6.1.4 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 “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 established a regional expert group to review the current state of affairs, the legal situation and priorities to be made.

The White Paper on “Citizens’ Status and Property Issues in Countries Signatory of the Dayton Agreement that Resulted as a Consequence of Disintegration of former Yugoslavia – With Recommendations for Solutions Included” was published in April. The White Paper was evaluated by the representatives of the International Community,

government institutions and CSOs as a valuable document with concrete and feasible solutions to numerous problems related to the citizens' status and property. This included: dual citizenship, naturalisation of refugees, tenancy rights, return of property, disbursement for damages, disability insurance, old foreign currency savings, etc.

The publishing of the White Paper was followed by a lobbying campaign in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro. The Co-presidents of the Igman Initiative met with the representatives of relevant ministries, parliamentary committees as well as the Delegations of the European Union, handed out the White Paper and lobbied for the adoption of the Expert Team recommendations. The lobbying campaign in Serbia was conducted at the beginning of September, shortly after the new Government was established.

During the meetings with the EU officials the idea of jointly organising round tables, to which all stakeholders will be invited to coordinate their engagement, was conceived. The round tables were organised in Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia towards the end of September / beginning of October. In Croatia it was substituted with the session of the Presidential Council for Social Justice that was held on October 5th 2012 in Zagreb. The Co-president of the Igman Initiative for Croatia handed the White Paper to the President of Croatia and presented the Expert Team recommendations to the Presidential Council.

The project planned an extensive regional public and media campaign including production and broadcast of a long and short documentary; TV debates; public discussion; distribution of newsletters; publishing special issues in newspapers; putting web banners on internet portals with the highest circulation in all four countries; creating a separate page on the websites of the Igman Initiative and Centre for Regionalism dedicated strictly to providing the information related to the project implementation, results, outputs, etc. . There was also on-going reporting via social media – all of which has been accomplished during the implementation period.

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 balanced, impartial, fact-based reporting on war crimes, their causes and consequences. The project builds on 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 builds 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.

The BIRN Hub has successfully implemented the first year of “Regional Reporting on Transitional Justice Issues”. The content has been broadcast on 96 local radio stations and the on-line production has been in line with targets and the ratings have been good (almost 11,000 followers on social media). The documentaries are under preparation and will be broadcast on television in 2013.

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

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

This 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 relevance to project 2.5 below. The report will be delivered by mid-January 2013.

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 establishes 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 the national political institutions to review the draft statutes and finally establish the regional Truth Commission. Despite proactive advocacy from the project, the process has not yet moved forward.

The change of government in Serbia in June 2012 resulted in a breakdown of official communication between Croatia and Serbia and within the Coalition for RECOM, a reconsideration of the strategy for advocating the establishment of RECOM. Believing that the political barriers could be overcome by intensified public support, during September and October 2012 the Coalition launched public campaigns entitled “RECOM for the Future”, during which members of the public signed a petition supporting the establishment of RECOM. They also sent postcards to their presidents bearing the message that the time for a political decision was ripe. However, except for the President of Macedonia, who requested further information from the public advocates of the RECOM Initiative, the presidents failed to respond. In December 2012, the public advocates called on the state presidents to respond to the demand of the Coalition and the 545,000 petition signatories to establish RECOM.

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 help the beneficiaries in the Western Balkans and Turkey to establish public service media that comply with proper standards of independence, effectiveness, accountability and sustainability. The final project document was prepared in Q4 2012 following the signing of the MoU and the EU in July.

Activities

- Igman Initiative: public activities based on findings of the “*White Paper on citizens’ property and status issues*” published in April, followed by active debates and advocacy.
- BIRN: regular production of articles on transitional justice issues distributed and published through a broad range of media
- EBU: preparation and signature of Memorandum of Understanding with EC (August); preparation of grant

Activities and events planned for next semester

- RECOM: international conference on transitional justice in Belgrade and donor coordination meeting (March)
- EBU: final negotiation, signature of grant (Jan 2013) and start of implementation
- IGMAN Initiative: Completion of “Issues of Citizen’s Status and Property”. Discuss follow-up.
- MEDIA: Assessment of recommendations in fact-finding study (Jan) and start of design of award scheme for investigative journalists. Prepare call for proposals for full utilisation of media funds.
- BIRN: Mid-term review in Belgrade (Feb)

Links and contacts

Links:

www.ebu.ch
www.birn.eu.com
www.igman-initiative.org
www.hlc-rdc.org
www.unicef.be

Contacts:

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7 Social development sector

The MB MIPD 2011 – 2013 identifies as one of the priorities for IPA assistance the continued fostering of 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, is key in developing a stable, peaceful and democratic society. Together with MB assistance in the area of cultural heritage they can promote regional cooperation, thus fostering reconciliation and mutual understanding.

7.1 Tempus

7.1.1 Project information

Tempus, IPA 2007/019-333, EUR 19.55 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

Tempus IPA 2011/SI2.596555, EUR 15.3 million

Tempus IPA 2012/SI2.615827, EUR 14.9 million

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

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans (except Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

Purpose

The Tempus programme facilitates 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 government 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 108 projects selected in the fifth call for proposals (EACEA 25/2011, deadline 23 February 2012) started their activities on 15 October. These included 24 projects targeting the Western Balkans (including 20 Joint Projects and 4 Structural Measures; 11 are national projects, 13 are multi-country projects; 12 are coordinated by WB universities).
- A meeting of new project coordinators was organised in Brussels on 26-27 November 2012. The meeting briefed new grant holders on contractual requirements and provided them with a networking opportunity. Best practice and advice on how to manage a project were exchanged. The meeting was attended by almost 300 participants, including National Tempus Offices from the Partner Countries and National Contact Points from the EU Member States. The grant holder meeting was followed by a one-day

coordination meeting of National Tempus Offices and National Contact Points. The feedback on both events was highly positive and participants valued the opportunity for exchange on the various topics.

- The sixth Tempus IV call for proposals was published on 5 December 2012, with a deadline on 26 March 2013. Information days to publicise the call have been organised in all Partner Countries. The budget for this call is higher than usual, as it combines funding from two budget years (For the Western Balkans, it will consist of EUR 14.15 million from 2012 funds and EUR 11.11 million from 2013 - pending approval of the relevant Commission decision).
- The National Tempus Offices and EACEA staff carried out field monitoring activities of ongoing Tempus projects and concluded that projects in the Western Balkans are progressing well and achieving good results.
- The mid-term evaluation of the Tempus IV programme was completed in November 2012. The conclusions were very positive and highlighted in particular the relevance of the programme for the modernisation of higher education in the Partner Countries, the improvement of the management of the programme since the transfer to the Executive Agency and the importance of the network of National Tempus Offices and National Contact Points.
- Two seminars targeted at the HEREs (including WB representatives) were organised within the framework of the service contract signed with the UNICA network (and were highly appreciated by the participants):
 - Thematic seminar on "Research Based Education" (Armenia, 9-10 July 2012)
 - Study visit on "University – Business cooperation" (Brussels, 2-3 October 2012)
- Updated descriptions of national higher education systems in the Partner Countries ("country fiches") were published in the autumn 2012. They are available individually for each country and also as regional publications covering each Tempus region, including the Western Balkans.

Activities and events planned for next semester

The following events will be organised for the benefit of the Tempus HEREs (including those from the WB):

- Study visit on "Student Support services" (London, 28-29 January 2013)
- Thematic seminar on "Organisation and Profile of Doctoral studies" (Lebanon, 11-12 March 2013)
- International conference on "Cross-Border Education" (Madrid, 22-24 April 2013), common event for Bologna experts and HEREs
- Study visit "Developing Academic Programmes in English: the Key to Internationalisation" (Berlin, 27-28 May 2013)

Links and contact

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

Contact: Gerry Renders, Gerry.RENDERS@ec.europa.eu

7.2 Erasmus Mundus

7.2.1 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, EUR 20.0 million:
Action 1 EUR 8.0 million and Action 2 EUR 12.0 million

Erasmus Mundus, IPA 2010/022-028, EUR 20.0 million:
Action 1 EUR 8.0 million and Action 2 EUR 12.0 million

Erasmus Mundus, IPA 2011/022-964, EUR 20.0 million:
Action 1 EUR 8.0 million and Action 2 EUR 12.0 million

Erasmus Mundus, IPA 2012/022-966, EUR 20.0 million:
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 Erasmus Mundus programme enables 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 government organisations and 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 Macedonia	0	2	0	2
Kosovo	0	0	0	0
Montenegro	1	1	0	2
Serbia	2	8	0	10

Under Erasmus Mundus Action 2, the main 2013 Call for Proposals EACEA 38/12, published at the end of December 2012, 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 of the Call for Proposals EACEA 42/11 were issued in mid-July and representatives of the 3 selected partnerships joined to the Erasmus Mundus coordinators' Conference on 20-21 September 2012. During the Conference, a specific session on regional cooperation in the Western Balkans was organised to strengthen networking and to share best practices and experiences among the partnerships.

In September, the partnerships selected in 2011 submitted the first progress report focusing on the selection of students under the 1st Cohort (Deadline for start of mobility: 31 December 2012). The table below gives an overview:

Country	Under-Grad.	Master	Doc.	Post-Grad.	Staff	Total per country
Albania	23	10	4	1	5	43
Bosnia and Herzegovina	20	23	4	3	13	63
Croatia	-	-	-	-	-	-
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	29	20	1	-	3	53
Kosovo	18	6	1	-	1	26
Montenegro	22	7	1	2	3	35
Serbia	55	30	14	2	14	115
Total per type of mobility	167	96	25	8	39	335

These partnerships will organise students' selection under two more cohorts until the end of eligibility period (mid-July 2015) in order to reach the planned mobility numbers (around 540).

Activities and events planned for next semester

The activities will concentrate on the promotion of the newly published Call for proposals and the selection of the partnerships. The deadline for submission of proposals is 15 April 2013. It is planned to announce the award decision by July 2013.

The partnerships selected under the 2012 Call for Proposals EACEA/42/11 will organise their Selection Committee meetings and the selected students will have started to mobilise by December 2013. The table below gives an overview:

Country	Under-Grad.	Master	Doc.	Post-Grad.	Staff	Total per country
Albania	21	25	11	4	10	71
Bosnia and Herzegovina	36	40	17	5	17	115
Croatia	-	-	-	-	-	-
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	29	33	14	5	14	95
Kosovo	25	29	11	5	12	82
Montenegro	23	27	11	5	11	77
Serbia	58	64	27	9	26	184
Total per type of mobility	192	218	91	33	90	624

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: Gerry Renders, Gerry.RENDERS@ec.europa.eu

7.3 Youth in action

7.3.1 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 2011/022-964, EUR 1.5 million

Youth in Action, IPA 2012/022-966, EUR 3 million

Purpose

This promotes 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.

Round 2	€1,051,875.10
Round 3	€877,070.30
TOTAL 2012 commitment	€ 3,149,134.70

Full details of all selected projects may be found in compendia published by the EACEA Youth Unit on its web-site:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/results_compendia/results_en.php

[Activities and events planned for next semester](#)

The 2013 Programme Guide was published in mid-December 2012. There were no major changes introduced.

2013 Round 1 - Deadline for applications on 1st of February, for projects starting from 1st of August 2013.

2013 Round 2 - Deadline for applications on 3rd of June, for projects starting from 1st of December 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: Gerry Renders, Gerry.RENDERS@ec.europa.eu

7.4 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 rehabilitate cultural heritage sites affected by war-related actions; foster inter-cultural dialogue, reconciliation and return; raise 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:

7.4.1 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 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. Some of the aspects being considered are:

- Establishment of a new operational framework to continue the “Ljubljana Process”
- Awareness-raising of the importance of culture and its values for society
- Strengthening 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

- The National Task Force, consisting of the Steering Committee, the Project Board and Technical Teams has been established in all participating countries. The groups are mostly operational.
- Fourth Working Meeting of the TFCS, Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – November
- Third Coordination Meeting of Project Coordinators, Dubrovnik, Croatia – September
- Fourth Coordination Meeting of Project Coordinators, Budva, Montenegro – December
- Workshop on methodology for Serbian National Task Force, Belgrade, Serbia - October
- Workshop on Ljubljana Process management for Montenegrin and Kosovar project teams, Cetinje, Montenegro – November
- Publication and distribution of promotion brochure on Ljubljana Process objectives, achievements and benefits
- Procurement and distribution of IT equipment for beneficiaries

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Fifth Meeting of the TFCS, March (*venue to be confirmed*)
- Fifth Coordination Meeting of Project Coordinators, March (*venue to be confirmed*)
- Consultations for selection of flagship projects
- Assisting drafting national action plans based on the outcomes of Heritage Assessment Reports
- Regional event to promote the Ljubljana Process and encourage network of heritage professionals
- Training in methodology, assisting in business planning and fundraising
- Launch impact assessment of rehabilitation projects (selection of appropriate monuments/sites) for proof of continued political support

7.4.2 Project information (2/6)

Support to the Ljubljana Process II – Rehabilitating our Common Heritage, IPA 2010/22-057, 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 and National Task Forces 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

- Inter-secretariat working meeting and/or Experts Pool working meetings in July, September & October
- Three workshops in October & November comprising both regional and international experts to develop a political, legal, and fundraising road map and action plan by each beneficiary country.
- Three workshops in October, November & December to develop the Heritage Assessment Reports and recommend priority actions (coordination/cooperation, legislation, management/strategies, promotion/awareness raising, education/training)

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Six workshops to develop the Heritage Assessment Reports and recommending priority actions: coordination/cooperation; legislation; management/ strategies; promotion/ awareness raising; education/ training.
- Inter-secretariat and experts pool meetings
- Project evaluation (recommendation for EU granting);
- Case studies (business planning and fundraising)
- Impact assessment (elaboration of the methodology and data collection)
- Heritage Assessment monitoring (regular reporting)
- Assistance to TFCS / National Task Forces and training for regional experts (training of trainers)

7.4.3 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

The project is to reform the educational system in Southeast Europe by promoting new teaching methods to encourage reconciliation and democratic values, thereby empowering citizens to defend and promote such values.

The activities 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 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 Second Bosnian Edition – 28 September
- Teacher Training Workshops in Bosnia: 28-30 September in Sarajevo and 17-19 November in Tuzla
- Second shared teacher training event for Albanian and Serbian communities on 9-11 November in Bujanovac. Despite the tense situation in South Serbia and the sensitive topic of the workshop, we received very encouraging responses from teachers of both communities, e.g. the group discussed at length national identities and heroes and came to conclusion: “We should re-think who our heroes are, those who destroy or those who create.”
- Consultations with Serbian Communities in Northern Kosovo – organisations were identified and communications have started
- Focus Group testing of Teaching Methodology Manual “Dynamic teaching knowledge and tools” in all countries – started in 22 September and will be completed in January 2013
- Second meeting of the regional teaching methodology expert group "Dynamic teaching: knowledge and tools", Sarajevo – 21-23 September
- Three teacher-training workshops in Montenegro: 9-10 June in Podgorica; 8-10 September in Przno and 2-4 November in Podgorica. Teachers were enthusiastic about the materials and the workshops.
- Advocacy meeting with Croatian Ministry of Education, 1 October, meeting with Deputy Minister. Official certification of workshops was granted in December 2012

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Meeting Serbian communities in Northern Kosovo – February
- Meeting with potential partners in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - February
- Launch of Second Albanian Edition in Tirana and Pristina – March
- Two teacher training workshops in Albania – March – April
- School presentations in Albania – April – May
- Two workshops in Kosovo – April – May
- Two teacher training workshops in Croatia – February to April

- One teacher training workshop in Serbia – March

Links and contact

Links:

<http://www.cdrsee.org>

Contact: Alexander Troppmann, Alexander.TROPPMANN@ec.europa.eu

7.4.4 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

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

Purpose

The actions 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. As all actions came into operation late 2011, interim reports for all of the projects are expected in the coming months.
- Further implementation of the work programme presented in the inception phase, including stakeholder workshops.

7.4.5 Project information (5/6)

Preparatory Actions for preserving and restoring cultural heritage in conflict areas in the Western Balkans for the year 2011, “PHARE” 2012/295-647, EUR 0.50 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans
Type of contract: Grant contract, CN 2012/295-647
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 assist national authorities overcome procedural problems and ensure that the most mature projects are funded.

Activities

- Signature of the grant contract
- Preparation of Information Packages for the Activities to be covered by the Project
- Preparation and dissemination of the Application Form

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Start allocating grants to successful applicants
- Carry out tendering procedures for service/work contracts

7.4.6 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 3.0 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Single works contracts; Evaluation: Service Framework contract

Contractor: Successful tenderers; Framework contract

Duration of activities: up to 24 months

Purpose

Rehabilitation of cultural heritage sites affected by war-related actions, contribution to a sustainable development of sites of valuable cultural objects, fostering inter-cultural dialogue, reconciliation, raising the awareness of cultural diversity in the Western Balkans among the population and eventually support to economic development

The task force for implementation of the Ljubljana Process (TFCS, Task Force for Culture and Society) and experts mobilised by the Council of Europe will identify one to two projects per Beneficiary belonging to the Ljubljana Process list that still lack funding (14 projects out of 20). On the basis of the short-list of projects and the experts' opinion, the Commission will indicatively select 3 projects.

Activities

- Launch of the Commission Decision, adoption end of December 2012.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Selection of tentatively 3 projects located in different countries.
- After selection of projects, preparation of Financing Agreements
- The Beneficiaries of the selected projects will prepare preliminary designs for the projects (if not yet available), so that the tenders for the complete design and works can be launched immediately after the conclusion of the financing agreements.

Links and contact

Links:

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

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

Contact Alexander Troppmann, Alexander.TROPPMANN@ec.europa.eu

8 Other

8.1 Preparatory measures for the participation of the candidate countries and potential candidates in EU agencies

8.1.1 Project information

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	European Food Safety Authority	16/09/2011 - 16/09/2013	EUR 1.0 million
272-515	European Maritime Safety Agency	26/10/2011- 26/04/2014	EUR 0.3 million
273-995	European Agency for Safety and Health at Work	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	Community Plant Variety Office	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	European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions,	01/01/2012 - 31/12/2013	EUR 0.7 million
279-348	European Aviation Safety Agency	01/01/2012 – 31/12/2013	EUR 0.7 million
280-057	European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction	01/01/2012 – 30/11/2014	EUR 0.9 million
282-291	European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control	01/01/2012-30/06/2014	EUR 0.4 million
291-934	European Chemicals Agency	01/04/2012-30/9/2012	EUR 0.3 million
304-223	European Institute for Gender Equality	01/01/2013-31/12/2013	EUR 0.1 million

Purpose

The programme supports EU Agencies carry out preparatory measures with Beneficiaries and stakeholders to ensure that Beneficiaries are able to participate effectively in the activities of EU Agencies as they implement important parts of the *acquis communautaire*.

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, staff training and participation in stakeholder meetings.

Activities

Each Agency carried out preparatory measures such as training activities, study visits, workshops and conferences. Activities also cover the preparation and translation of documents and the implementation of surveys. Given the large number of contracts, a thorough presentation of each would go beyond the scope of this report. Therefore only some examples are presented which do not indicate an order of priority.

European Agency for Food Safety (EFSA)

EFSA organised a study tour to the Dutch Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority, 24/25 October in Utrecht, Netherlands. 11 experts from the 3 Candidate Countries (Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey) participated. The study tour provided the participants with an overall knowledge on the role of the Dutch Food Safety Authorities in risk assessment, risk communication and risk management.

European Railway Agency (ERA)

ERA organised a Conference on signalling and telecommunication systems of railways (ERTMS) in Lille (France)-13 and 14 November 2012. A training session on Interoperability of railways was organised in Podgorica (Montenegro) in November 2012.

European Agency for Disease Control and Prevention (ECDC)

The ECDC organised a Coordination meeting of National Correspondents in EU enlargement countries on 26-27 November 2012. It gathered five national correspondents and eight senior experts in the area of communicable diseases. The meeting discussed cooperation between the countries and the ECDC by reflecting on methods and work used by ECDC for preparation of stakeholders to participate in ECDC activities. It also introduced ECDC plans to assess enlargement countries' ability to meet necessary EU requirements for surveillance and prevention of communicable diseases (EU acquis, standards, procedures, assessment toolbox).

European Chemicals Agency (ECHA):

On 17-19 December 2012, a three-day study visit was organised for the Croatian Authorities to ECHA's Helpdesk and to the Finnish REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemical substances) and CLP (Classification, Labelling and Packaging) Helpdesk. The participants who will be responsible for REACH, CLP and biocide regulations were given detailed information on the operation of ECHA Helpdesk and the Finnish helpdesk to prepare them to be fully operational on accession to the European Union.

It is expected that the Croatian companies will register 300–400 substances on accession in the framework of the REACH Directive.

Activities and events planned for next semester

All Agencies will continue to implement their working programme along the lines stated above.

Contact

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8.2 Regional strategy for research and development for innovation for the Western Balkans

8.2.1 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 two-year project will 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 the 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 launch 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, 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 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. On the issue of building Regional Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation, the participants examined in which sectors/industries and science areas the Western Balkans show potential, and how the strategy can support this.

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 capitalises 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 exchanged views on promoting a Regional Approach to Innovation financing, including possible models for creating a regional business support and financing entity that can leverage pre-existing national efforts.

Activities and events planned for next semester

Continuation of drafting 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

8.3 Support to the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)

8.3.1 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 (SWP) 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 as generally positive. A major success was achieved in November with the Ministerial declaration in Tirana that the SEE 2020 strategy provided specific targets for the region on integrated, smart, sustainable and inclusive growth within a governance framework. The RCC is preparing its new Strategy and Work Programme for 2014 – 2016.

Links and contact

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

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8.3.2 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 strengthens the operational capacity and capabilities of the RCC Secretariat. It assists it 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

Links: <http://www.rcc.int/>

<http://www.ceinet.org/>

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

8.4 Cross-border cooperation

8.4.1 Project information

Cross-border Institution Building (CBIB+), IPA 2011/022-964, EUR 2.4 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Service contract, CN 309-846

Contractor: GIZ International Services (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, GmbH)

Duration of activities: 21/12/2012- 30/11/2014

Purpose

The CBIB+ project strengthens the capacity of Beneficiaries, implements and manages 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. This is 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 programme 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

- The first CBIB+ tender was cancelled in February 2012 and a new tender was published in May 2012.
- Shortlisting of candidates was concluded in July 2012 with 8 candidates out of 9 shortlisted
- Evaluation of proposals took place during the second half of September 2012 and the evaluation report was submitted on the 4th of October 2012.
- After legal checks it was recommended to cancel the tender because of the impossibility to reach a positive outcome.
- A negotiation procedure was initiated with the candidate whose organisation and methodology had received the best score by the Evaluation Committee.
- The contract was finally signed on the 21st of December 2012.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Inception period
- Kick-off meeting
- Start of the activities

Contacts

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8.5 Monitoring

8.5.1 Project information

Results-Oriented Monitoring (ROM) in the Western Balkans and Turkey, IPA 2010/255-269, 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 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 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 through 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 overall annual targets of: 210 ROM National reports divided between 190 "ongoing" projects and 20 completed projects "ex-post"; and 20 regional (multi-beneficiary) ROM reports.

Activities

The project is completed. The full activity for 2012 is shown below in terms of the number and value (EU allocation) of projects:

2012	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	208	62%	730.4	467.8	64 %
Regional	22	22	100%	89.4	87.1	97 %
Overall	358	230	64%	819.8	254.2	68 %

The National ROM programme is implemented through a minimum of 4 missions per country (5 in Serbia) conducted evenly throughout the year. The ROM regional assessments are conducted in consultation with the Task Managers. In 2012, several large financing facilities (EFSE; EEFF) were monitored for the first time. The contractor follows the ROM methodology which is maintained by DevCo and submits a ROM workbook every half year.

The number of reports produced in the second half of 2012 and for the year is shown below.

Country	Performance June to Dec 2012					Performance for 2012				
	>€1m	<€1m	Ex-post	Total	M€ EU Alloc	>€1m	<€1m	Ex-post	Total	M€ EU Alloc
Albania	11	3	2	16	41.0	21	5	2	28	63.6

Country	Performance June to Dec 2012					Performance for 2012				
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	18	1	3	22	64.9	27	6	4	37
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	7	7	2	16	24.3	8	10	3	21	28.3
Kosovo	19	0	3	22	56.9	35	6	3	44	128.5
Montenegro	4	5	1	10	11.5	9	9	4	22	24.9
Serbia	17	1	6	24	72.5	36	9	11	56	131.0
National total	76	17	17	110	271.1	136	45	27	208	467.7
Regional	8	2	1	11	42.7	15	5	2	22	87.1
Total	84	19	18	121	313.8	151	50	29	230	554.8

The ratings emerging from the ROM work reflect growing concerns about impact and sustainability in the IPA programmes. The implementation issues in Bosnia and to a smaller extent in Kosovo, are seen in the ROM reports. In this period, the overall national scores for on-going projects ranged from 3.02 for former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to 2.72 for Bosnia and Herzegovina (on a scale of 1 to 4). The grades awarded in the ROM Regional reports were generally good with 2 exceptions for the Ex post ROM of ReSPA (D grade) and the Best Practices for Roma Integration (C grade).

Activities and events planned to 30 June 2013

Delivery of end of project reports is due in January 2013

A new contract is in place for ROM services in 2013-2014. The contractual target is 220 reports per year with an increased focus on ex post ROM and on the consideration of project impact.

The 2013 workplan will be approved in January when the ROM missions will start.

Links and contact

Link: www.particip.de

Contacts: Nicola Bertolini, Nicola.BERTOLINI@ec.europa.eu and Petra Schlüter, Petra.SCHLUETER@ec.europa.eu

8.6 Participation of the Western Balkans and Turkey in the Union for the Mediterranean

8.6.1 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 inter-regional cooperation and dialogue whilst taking part in a pro-active and constructive relationship with their Mediterranean neighbours. Moreover, the project increases the presence of IPA beneficiaries in the Partnership and also supports capacity building thus contributing to improved governance and public administration.

Activities

The representatives of the Western Balkans and Turkey participated in the following meetings:

- Meeting of the Working Group on Euro-Mediterranean Industrial Cooperation (Brussels, 10-10 July 2012)
- Euromed Summit of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (Jordan, 17-19 October 2012)
- Euro-Med Training and Information Seminar for Diplomats (Malta, 9th – 12th November, 2012)
- "First SME Assembly" The Small Business Act for Europe & European Enterprise Awards 2012, (Cyprus 15-16 November 2012)
- Working Group on Integrated Maritime Policy in the Mediterranean (Belgium on 14-15 November 2012)
- 11th meeting of the Euromed Working Group on Standards, Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment and explanatory session on the Agreements on Conformity Assessment and Acceptance of Industrial Products (Brussels, 11 December 2012)

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Euromed Transport Meetings (Brussels, 21-23 January 2013)
- European Maritime Day 2013, session on Mediterranean sea-basin cooperation (Malta, 21-22 May)

Participation of the Western Balkans and Turkey in other conferences and seminars, during the first semester of 2013, to be confirmed.

Links and contact

EEA/Euromed: <http://eeas.europa.eu/euromed/>

Contact: Roxana Toran-Villarroya, Roxana.TORAN-VILLARROYA@ec.europa.eu

8.6.2 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

Duration of activities: 24/02/2010 – 29/10/2012

Purpose

The "Environment – Horizon 2020" measure promotes environmental mainstreaming in the Beneficiaries via targeted support within the framework of the H2020 Initiative. The project promotes sustainable use of the Mediterranean Sea and the coastal areas of the Beneficiaries; an integrated approach to environmental protection by fostering the inclusion of environmental issues in other sector policies; and contributes to the establishment of the Mediterranean Environmental Information System.

Activities

The following H2020 activities have taken place in the Western Balkans and Turkey:

- Improving the Environmental Governance in the Banking Sector in Turkey: Introduction to Green Banking: 5-6 July 2012, Istanbul, Turkey (national)
- Hazardous Industrial Waste Clean-up and Management: 10-12 July 2012 Podgorica, Montenegro (sub-regional)
- Waste water treatment and re-use of sludge in agriculture: 5-7 September 2012, Istanbul, Turkey (national)
- Integrated modeling of Urban Water Systems: 10-12 September 2012, Istanbul, Turkey (regional)
- Operation and maintenance of wastewater treatment plants: 12-14 September 2012, Istanbul, Turkey (sub-regional)

Representatives of the Western Balkans and Turkey participated in the following regional H2020 Capacity Building training course:

- How Members of Parliament can better contribute to the effective de-pollution of the Mediterranean: 22-23 October 2012, Athens, Greece

Activities planned for next semester

None (project activities in West Balkans and Turkey ended in November 2012).

Links and contact

Horizon 2020: <http://www.h2020.net/>

Contact: Stephane.HALGAND@ec.europa.eu

8.6.3 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 –02/04/2013 (extended in November 2012 via a contract addendum)

Purpose

This project improves coordination of actions in 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

- Technical assistance for Turkey only on “EU & UN experiences and tools for risk assessment and mapping” from 10-12 July 2012 (Rome and Milan)
- Workshop (with the participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina & Croatia 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)
- 7th National Correspondents Network meeting 20-21 September 2012 (Rome) with the participation of representatives from Albania, Croatia, Montenegro & Turkey
- High level Conference on Civil Protection and Steering Committee Meeting on 8 November 2012 (Brussels) with the representatives from all IPA countries

Activities and events planned for next semester

Representatives of the Western Balkans and Turkey will participate in the following activities:

- A workshop on better preparedness for environmental emergencies (to be confirmed)
- The last meeting of the National Correspondents Network

Links and contact

Link: PPRD South: <http://www.euromedcp.eu/index.php>

Contact: Caroline Maion, Caroline.MAION@ec.europa.eu

8.6.4 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

The SafeMed II Project activities which included the participation of the IPA countries during the period July-December 2012 were the following:

- 5 Day National VTS Operators Underpinning Knowledge Training Course, Albania, 30 July – 3 August 2012; 10 Albanian participants;
- 5 Day VTS Operators Simulator Training Course (IALA V103/1), Malta, 1-5 October 2012; 1 Albanian and 4 Montenegrin participants;
- 10 Day VTS Supervisors Training Course (IALA V103/2), Malta, 29 October – 9 November 2012; 1 Albanian and 2 Montenegrin participants;
- 3 Day On-The-Job Instructor Training Course (IALA V103/4), Malta, 28 November – 30 November 2012; 1 Albanian and 1 Montenegrin participants;
- Regional Training Course on the HNS Protocol 2010, Malta, 12-13 December, 2012; 2 Albanian, 2 Montenegrin and 2 Turkish participants; Bosnia & Herzegovina withdrew their participation whilst Croatia did not nominate any participants.

Links and contact

- Link: Safemed II: <http://www.safemedproject.org/>
- Contact: Bruno Macedo, [Bruno.MACEDO@ec.europa.eu](mailto: Bruno.MACEDO@ec.europa.eu)

8.6.5 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: TYPESA - Tecnica y Proyectos SA

Duration of activities: 01/01/2010 – 31/12/2012

Purpose

The transport policy measure of this programme ensures the presence and active participation of the Beneficiaries in the project, improves the coordination of transport policies between Beneficiaries and other Mediterranean partners while complementing and ensuring added value to activities already supported by IPA.

Activities

- 11th Working Group Infrastructure & Regulatory Issues meeting - Brussels, October. Representatives from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Turkey attended.

Contact

Contact: Bruno Macedo, [Bruno.MACEDO@ec.europa.eu](mailto: Bruno.MACEDO@ec.europa.eu)

8.7 Project preparation facility (PPF) and strengthening European integration (SEI)

The Project Preparation Facility or 'Strengthening European Integration' project forms part 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 strengthens the ability of the Beneficiaries to effectively design and develop programmes and projects to be submitted for financing under IPA. It also enables the implementation of a number of accession-related actions by various public/private actors to meet specific and urgent needs in the Beneficiaries. Furthermore, it supports the Beneficiaries' participation in exchange of information, networking, participation in workshops, conferences, study visits and similar activities and assists in smaller-scale projects supporting European integration.

For a complete overview of all contracts signed under the PPF or SEI, please refer to Annexes 1 and 2. An overview of selected projects/contracts follows.

8.7.1 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 discussed ways in which coordination of approaches at regional level in the Western Balkans could be improved in the area of rural development, more specifically social and economic innovation and local integrated development. It was agreed to provide support to the South East Europe Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SEE SWG) which is the only existing regional organisation in the Western Balkans in the field of rural development. 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 had been carried out in 2010/2011.

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 and consolidation of the structures for local participation, including Stakeholder Groups in all 3 target regions
- 4th meetings of the Project Steering Group (September 2012, Croatia)
- Stakeholder meetings in the selected target cross-border regions "Drina-Sava", "Prespa" and "Sharra" for discussion of the strategic priorities and preparation of a baseline study and strategic plan for the implementation of an Area Based Development Approach (ABD) in each of these regions
- Preparation of a Project Fiche for the implementation of the Area Based Development Approach in the Western Balkans 2014-2020
- Final Report

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Review and approval of the Final Narrative and Financial Report
- Execution of final payment
- Project administrative and technical closure

Links and contact

Link: SEE SWG Website: <http://www.seerural.org/>

Contact: Gerry Renders, Gerry.RENDERS@ec.europa.eu

8.7.2 Project information

Strengthening European Integration - Support to the South East Europe Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group, IPA 2012/022-964, EUR 0.44 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Grant Contract, CN2013/307-939

Contractor: Regional Rural Development (RRD) Standing Working Group (SWG)

Duration of activities: 01/01/2013–31/10/2013

Purpose

This follow-up project to CN 2011/271-250 is to continue work on building capacities and structures within SWG and selected regions to be able to implement the forthcoming programmes related to territorial and regional cooperation.

The specific objectives are twofold:

- (i) contribute to sustainable economic growth of a particular region by facilitating the preparatory activities for the implementation of identified economic development actions
- (ii) strengthen the cooperation of public administrations and other public bodies, private sector and non-governmental organisations in the field of local development and regional cooperation, by building up local and regional cross-border capacities

Activities

- Review and analysis of the proposal submitted by SWG (September – October 2012)
- Meeting between representatives of D3 with representatives of SWG on 19 November 2012 in DG Enlargement on the activities to be carried out under this project, as well as the potential role of SWG in the period 2014-2020 under the policy area of Regional and Territorial Cooperation of IPA II.
- Contract preparation and contract signature (November – December 2012)

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Preparatory activities for the establishment of a Project Implementation Unit (PIU) in the SWG headquarters
- Preparation of the above-mentioned PIU for four pillar assessment
- Capacity building of the PIU staff with a special focus on financial management
- Establishment of regional SWG offices in the regions of "Drina-Tara", "Sharra", "Prespa" and "Drina-Sava"

- Capacity building of the staff of the members of the Stakeholder Groups (SHG) and PIU staff
- Preparation of Terms of Reference (ToR) for international and local consultants
- Explore the regulatory and administrative framework for the implementation of the project in particular target regions
- First Steering Group Meeting, Budapest (March – April 2013)
- Meeting of the SWG Assembly during which the programming documents and projects will be reviewed

Links and contact

Link: SEE SWG Website: <http://www.seerural.org/>

Contact: Gerry Renders, Gerry.RENDERS@ec.europa.eu

8.7.3 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

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Specific Contract under Framework Contract CN2012/300-161

Contractor: Danish Management A/S

Duration of activities: 11/2012–05/2013

Purpose

The global objective is to increase the overall visibility of the IPA MB Programme by working out a communication strategy for the IPA MB programmes, including:

- identifying target audiences and partners, messages and expected outcomes in the EU and the enlargement countries, production of communication material, including drafting of Project Factsheets, thematic presentations and success stories.
- Support and advice to ELARG D.3 staff on visibility policy and events.

Activities

The kick-off meeting was undertaken over two days (19 & 20 November 2012) and activities included the following:

- Meetings with Head of Regional Cooperation and Programmes Unit (D3), Heads of Sections, TM and 11 members of sections
- Meeting with member of the Communication and Information Unit (A2)
- One-to-one training sessions

The mission concentrated on briefing the Expert and on fact-finding. An initial overview of the range of documents produced by D3 was performed, copies of these documents obtained, and recommendations made to make them more readable and interesting for their intended audiences.

The second mission was from 3-7 December 2012 and covered:

- A search of material relating to the MB programme available to the public online using the usual search engines (Google, Yahoo etc)
- Discussions with Unit A2 information & communication

- Training amongst D3 staff using individual meetings and workshops

The combination of individual mentoring sessions plus small group workshops allied to informal discussions and desk-based research will be continued.

The over-arching aim is to produce more success stories; better web material; a user-friendly guide to the whole range of MB projects; and generally documents that are more readable, understandable and standardised.

One of the outputs of the individual coaching efforts is the IPA Multi-beneficiary project's success story placed on DG ELARG intranet webpage on 14/12/2012. The document was improved in terms of visibility and readability and can be found under the following link:

http://www.elarg.cec.eu.int/intra/news_archives_2012.htm

Activities and events planned for next semester

Several missions – approximately one per month - until end of May.

The expert will continue his work in the form of individual coaching sessions and workshops and will concentrate on developing success stories.

Continuous cooperation with A2 DG Enlargement "Information and Communication" will be assured.

Contact

Contact: Agnieszka Iwanowska-Biel, Agnieszka.IWANOWSKA-BIEL@ec.europa.eu

8.7.4 Project information

Strengthening European Integration – Support to the development of the SEEMIC forum, IPA 2012/022-966, EUR 0.1 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans
Type of contract: Grant Contract CN 2012/299-621
Contractor: Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)
Duration of activities: 18/12/2012–17/12/2014

Purpose

Overall objectives:

- 5) Strengthen the exchange of high quality intelligence through SEEMIC for fostering regional cooperation among the military intelligence members of the RCC's SEEMIC Forum, thus contributing to the overall progress of the accession process;
- 6) Support the implementation of the RCC Strategy and Work programme in security cooperation related to the development of the SEEMIC, which will have a broader impact on confidence building, security, rule of law, and overall economic and social development of the SEE countries;

Specific objective:

Assist the process of further developing SEEMIC through implementing a number of activities, based on decisions taken within the SEEMIC annual meetings, such as: acquiring the necessary equipment and software, conducting trainings and working group meetings, developing regional common military intelligence assessments, organising annual meetings of the SEEMIC Members, conducting consultations with the RCC Members of SEEMIC and EU specialised structures.

Activities

Signature of the contract 17 December 2012

Activities and events planned for next semester

Meeting with RCC planned in January 2013

Contact

Contact: Agnieszka Iwanowska-Biel, Agnieszka.IWANOWSKA-BIEL@ec.europa.eu

8.7.5 Project information

Strengthening European Integration – Provision of Technical Assistance on IT Interconnectivity issues to candidates and potential candidates, IPA 2012/022-964, EUR 0.5 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans; Iceland; Turkey
 Type of contract: Service Contract, CN 2012/298-664
 Contractor: Lambard Management Consultants Ltd
 Duration of activities: 18 months

Purpose

The project provides specialised IT and management assistance to the customs and taxation administrations of the candidate countries and potential candidates, to prepare them for 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 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

July – October	The Inception Report has been drafted and submitted. The Project Quality Plan was drafted; the first Project Plan was drafted and amended following the DG TAXUD comments. The team of consultants has been organised; The Quality Assurance rules have been put in place
13 September	Technical assistance for Serbia (Project Fiche)
November	A field mission to assess the issues linked to the delivery of the National computerized transit system (NCTS) application and to propose corrective actions
November – December	A first round of field missions (and workshops) have been forecast and some of them executed (Albania)

Activities and events planned for next semester

January – June	Continuation of the first round of field missions (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Kosovo); Draft analysis study on ASYCUDA World compatibility with EU systems; Maintenance of the (Communication & Information Resource Centre Administrator) CIRCA documents;
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Organisation of workshops (on demand)

Contacts

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

8.8 Administrative and technical assistance facility (ATA)

8.8.1 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 ATA provides 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.

Addendum N°1 to Commission Decision 2012/023-743 was signed on 13 July 2013 to increase the available amount by EUR 402,900 to EUR 2,273,700.

A Decision amending the ATA (Decision 023-743 of 23 March 2012, Decision 2012/024-420 of 24 October 2012) was signed on 24 October 2012 to (i) reallocate unspent funds and (ii) increase the available amount by EUR 680,800 to EUR 2,954,500.

Contact

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

8.9 Travel, accommodation and conference facility (TAC)

8.9.1 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 organisation of the meetings apart from interpreting services.

Contact

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

8.10 Iceland

Purpose

Following Iceland's application for EU membership in July 2009, IPA was amended to benefit the country. Due to the it's level of economic and social development and its extended degree of alignment with the EU legislation (it is already a member of the European Economic Area (EEA) and Schengen), IPA financial support is to be exclusively implemented under IPA Component I "Transition Assistance and Institution Building".

It pursues two strategic objectives:

- 7) 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
- 8) to reinforce Iceland's institutional capacity while preparing for participation in and implementation of Structural Funds⁷ and other EU funds⁸.

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, in 2012 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, on 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 implement the project on Sustainable Economic Development of the Sudurnes region⁹ and the Western Balkans Investment Framework / Infrastructure Project Facility was made available to support the Gardarsholmur Sustainability Centre project in Northern Iceland¹⁰. Both projects were completed in the first half of 2012 and were highly regarded by both local and national authorities and generated interest and spill-over effects beyond the two regions where the assistance was provided.

Based on this experience and on request by the Icelandic NIPAC, D3 assists in evaluation of project proposals from Iceland's regions, submitted under the call for proposals launched from the National IPA 2012 by the Iceland Unit. These should typically be the type of Structural-Funds-like projects, as supported by D3 in the past. The final selection of regional projects is to be made by April 2013. It was further agreed that additional project development support from Multi-beneficiary IPA will be extended to a small number of projects which will not be selected in the main call (e.g. due to funding limitations), but will nevertheless constitute valuable proposals.

In 2012, D3 also facilitated contacts between Iceland and EIB with a view to expanding the bank's activities in Iceland.

Contact

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

⁷ European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF)

⁸ European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), European Fisheries Fund (EFF)

⁹ Framework Contract No 2011/270-282

¹⁰ Contract No 2011/229-833

9 Annexes

9.1 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	149,886.14
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
Workshops on National Energy Efficiency Action Plan Study (NEEAPS)	295514	5/09/2012	148,627.00
Strengthening and supporting the Regional Committee for Truth and Reconciliation RECOM Process	292650	26/06/2012	458,403.30
Balkan Investigative Reporting Network 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
Triple A for Citizens	306166	30/11/2012	500,000.00
Balkans ACT (Against Crime of Trafficking)	306193	30/11/2012	500,000.00
Support to preparation of the 3rd South-Eastern Europe (SEE) Ministers of Health Forum – "Health in all polices 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	15/10/2012	500,000.00
CEFTA Secretariat	288791	30/04/2012	200,000.00
IT Interconnectivity	298664	21/08/2012	492,500.00
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	5/10/2012	63,600.00
Media fact finding study	288659	27/08/2012	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)	307939	31/12/2012	440,000.00

9.2 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	28/09/2012	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	17/12/2012	100,000.00
Start-up Action: making a difference - 2013-2014, European Broadcasting Union	312411	6/03/2013	500,000.00
Support for organisation of 2013 multi beneficiary IPA programme coordination meetings	309121	4/03/2013	94,795.00

9.3 Unit D3, regional cooperation and programmes: organisation chart as of 1st March 2013

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 and Operational Verifier	87414
Pauline JANNES	Support Unit Secretariat Secretary to the Section for Regional Cooperation and Political Criteria	63743
Roberta CORTESE	Rule of Law, Justice Freedom and Security including Integrated Border Management. Reporting on ICTY (SENSE)	87794
Liane ADLER	Fundamental rights, Minorities, Social inclusion, Refugees, Parliamentary Cooperation	54310
Patricia PEREZ-GOMEZ	Sigma and Strategy framework, Public Procurement, RESPA, Training in Public Procurement, Participation of the Western Balkans and Turkey in the Union for the Mediterranean	93391
Gerry RENDERS	Cross Border Cooperation, Education/Youth, Disaster Preparedness/Civil Protection, Veterinary	62546
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9.4 Acronyms

AEI	Agency for European Integration
ATA	Administrative and Technical Assistance Facility
BAS	Business Advisory Services
BIRN	Balkan Investigative Reporting Network
BKA	Bundeskriminalamt/Federal Criminal Police Office Germany
CAB	Conformity Assessment Bodies
CAN	Capacity Needs Assessment
CBC	Cross-Border Cooperation
CBIB	Cross-border Institution Building
CC	Climate Change
CEB	Council of Europe Development Bank
CEECIS	Central and Eastern Europe and Commonwealth of Independent states
CEFTA	Central European Free Trade Agreement
CEN	Comité Européen de Normalisation
CFR	Country Feasibility Report
CHP	Country Housing Projects
CHU	Central Harmonisation Unit
CIRCA	Communication & Information Resource Centre Administrator
CO	Coordination Office
CoE	Council of Europe
CoP	Community of Practice
CSF	Civil Society Facility
CSF	Classical Swine Fever
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officers
DG	Directorate General
DRR	disaster risk reduction
EACEA	Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency
EAMLA	European Accreditation multilateral agreement
EBU	European Broadcasting Union
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EC	European Commission
ECAS	European Citizen Action Service
ECENA	Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network for Accession
ECS	Energy Community Secretariat
ECT(S)	European credit transfer (System)

EDIF	Enterprise Development and Innovation Facility
EEA	European Economic Area
EE(FF)	Energy Efficiency Finance Facility
EESC	European Economic and Social Committee
EETF	Energy Efficiency Task Force
EFSE	European Fund for Southeast Europe
EGP	Enterprise Growth Programme
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIB	European Investment Bank
EIDHR	European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights
EIF	European Investment Fund
EJN	European Judicial Network
ELARG	Directorate General Enlargement
EMMA	European Multi-services Meteorological Awareness
ENIF	Enterprise Innovation Fund
ETF	European training Foundation
EU	European Union
EUD	European Union Delegation
EUI	European University Institute
EUMETNET	European National Meteorological network
EURAMET	European Association of National Metrology Institutes
FPA	Framework Partnership Agreements
GB	Governing board
GF	Guarantee Facility
GGF	Green for Growth Fund
GHG	greenhouse gases
GIS	Geo Information System
HEI	Higher Education Institution
HEREs	Higher Education Reform Experts
HFA	Hyogo Framework for Action
HLC	Humanitarian Law Centre
HOT	Hands-on training
HRM	Human resource Management
IACS	Integrated Administration and Control System
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IBM	Integrated Border Management
IC	Investment Committee

ICJ	International Court of Justice
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
ICTY	International Criminal Tribunal of the former Yugoslavia
IFC	International Finance Cooperation
IFI	International Financial Institution
IFICO	International Financial Institution Coordination Office
ILECU	International Law Enforcement Coordination Units
IMO	International Maritime Organisation
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
IPA	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
IPF	Infrastructure Projects Facility
ISCED	International standard classification of education
IT	Information technology
ITC-ILO	International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization
JCM	Joint committee meetings
JIT	Joint Investigation Teams
KfW	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau – banking group
KLA	Kosovo Liberation Army
LLEL	Life Long Entrepreneurial Learning
LLL	Life Long Learning
LPIS	Land Parcel Identification System
LSEE	Research unit established within the London School of Economics and Political Science's European Institute
MB	Multi-beneficiary
MDAS	market development activities
MFF	Multi-annual financial framework
MIDWEB	Migration for Development in the Western Balkans
MIPD	Multi-Annual Indicative Planning Document
MMF	Multilateral Monitoring framework
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MSC	Migrant Service Centres
MSME	Micro and small enterprise
MWh	Megawatt hours
NATURA	EU nature & biodiversity policy
NCTS	National computerized transit system
NEEAP	National Energy Efficiency Action Plan
NICO	Northern Ireland Cooperation Overseas
NIPAC	National IPA Coordinator

NSI	National Statistics Institute
NTB	Non-Tariff Barriers
NTOs	National Tempus Offices
ODIHR	Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
OTP	Office of the Prosecutor
PAR	Public Administration Reform
PADOR	Potential Applicant Data Online Registration
PAG	Platform Advisory Group
PB	Partner bank
PC	Partner country
PEFA	Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability
PEM	Pan-Euro-Mediterranean
PEMPAL	Public Expenditure Management Peer Assisted Learning
PFG	Project Financiers Group
PFI	Participating Financial Institution
PFM	Public Financial Management
PGSC	Policy Group for Statistical Cooperation
PIFC	Public Internal Financial Control
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PMU	Project Management Unit
PoW	Programme of Work
PP	Public Procurement
PPA	Public Procurement Authority
PPF	Project Preparation Facility
PPP	Public-private partnership
PSSF	Private Sector Support Facility
PV	Photovoltaic
P2P	People 2 People
QA	Qualitative Assurance
RCC	Regional Cooperation Council
RCI	Regional Competitiveness Initiative
R&D	Research and Development
RE	Renewable energy
RECOM	Regional Committee for Truth and Reconciliation
RENA	Regional Environmental Network for Accession

RESI	special operations groups responsible for close protection of VIPs and witnesses
ReSPA	Regional school of public administration
RHP	Regional Housing Programme
RIPA	Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act
SAA	Stabilisation and Association Agreement
SAI	Supreme Audit Institution
SBA	Small Business Act
SBS	Small Business Support Programme
SC	Steering Committee
SEE	South East Europe
SEECCEL	South East European Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning
SEED	Systematic Electronic Exchange of Data
SEETO	South East Europe Transport Observatory
SEEIC	Southeast Europe Investment Committee
SEI	Strengthening European Integration
SELEC	Southeast European Law Enforcement Centre
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SIGMA	Support for Improvement in Governance and Management
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprise
SMECSF	SME Competitiveness Support Window
SPS	Sanitary and phyto-sanitary issues
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats
SWP	Strategic work programme
TA	Technical Assistance
TAC	Travel, accommodation and conference facility
TACSO	Technical Assistance to Civil Society Organisations
TAXUD	Directorate General Taxation and Customs Union
TBC	To be confirmed
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
T-CY	Cybercrime Convention Committee
TFCS	Task Force for Culture and Society
TGNA	Turkish Grand National Assembly
TNA	Training needs assessment
TOR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of trainers
TVR	Temporary and Virtual Return
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

- UNISDR United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction
- UNMIK United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
- UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- UNOPS United Nations Office for Project Services
- UNPROFOR United Nations Protection Force
- UNSCR United Nations Security Council Resolution
- VAC Violence Against Children
- VAT Value Added Tax
- VIND Vinca Institute Nuclear Decommissioning
- WB Western Balkan
- WBIF Western Balkans Investment Framework
- WeBSEDF Western Balkans Sustainable Energy Direct Financing Facility
- WELMEC European cooperation in the field of legal metrology
- WG Working group
- WINPRO Witness Protection in the Fight against Serious Crime and Terrorism
- WMO World Meteorological Organization
