



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations DG NEAR

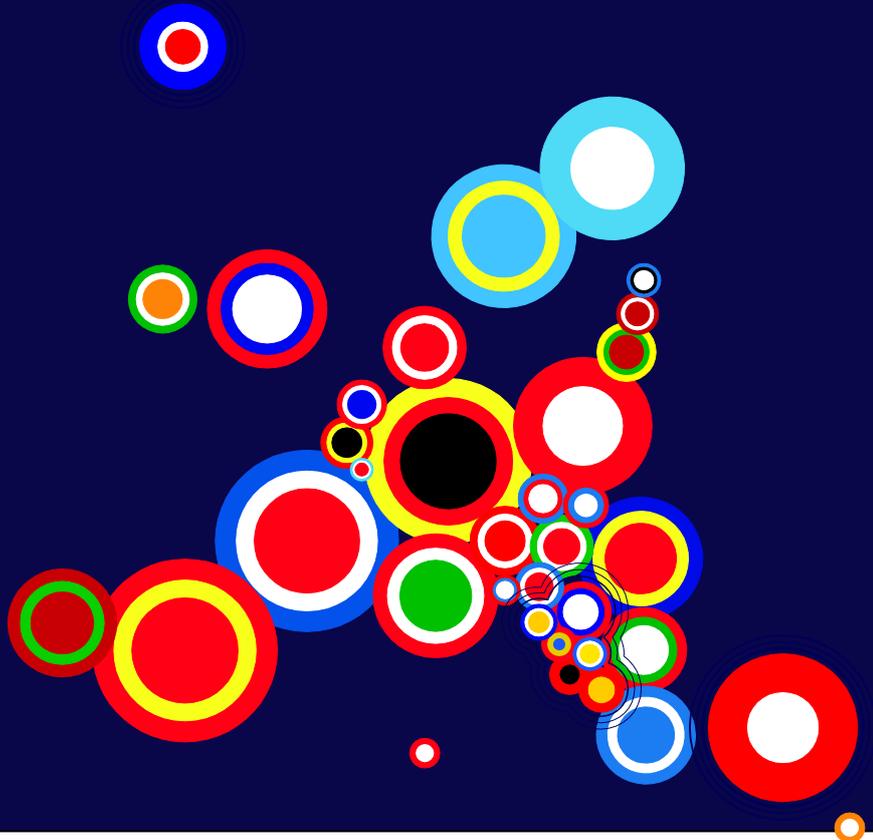
D – WESTERN BALKANS

D.5 – WESTERN BALKANS REGIONAL COOPERATION AND PROGRAMMES

IPA

MULTI-COUNTRY PROGRAMMES

ACTIVITY REPORT: JANUARY – JUNE 2016



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CONTACT

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For any additional information on specific projects, contact us via the same address and your e-mail will be forwarded to the relevant Task Manager in DG NEAR unit D.5 – Western Balkans Regional Cooperation and Programmes.

LINK

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/instruments/multi-beneficiary-programme/index_en.htm

CHAPTER 1: PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REFORM (PAR)

1.1 SUPPORT FOR IMPROVEMENT IN GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (SIGMA)

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Programme reference: | Multi-beneficiary Programme under IPA Transition Assistance and Institution Building Component for the year 2015 IPA 2014/031-603 |
| Project title: | Support for Improvement in Governance and Management (SIGMA) in the Western Balkans and Turkey |
| EU contribution: | EUR 18 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans and Turkey |
| Type of contract: | Contribution agreement with OECD |
| Contract reference: | CN 2015/360-644 |
| Duration of activities: | 01/07/2015 – 30/06/2018 |
| Links: | http://www.sigmaweb.org |
| Contact : | Alberto Costa, alberto.costa@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

SIGMA supports public administration reform (PAR) in the Western Balkans and Turkey, providing the beneficiaries with assistance to strengthen their legal frameworks, administrative capacities and processes for sound implementation of the EU acquis. Areas of intervention are: 1) strategic framework of public administration reform, 2) policy development and co-ordination, 3) public service and human resource management, 4) accountability, 5) service delivery, 6) public financial management (PFM) including external audit and public procurement.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

SIGMA provided analysis, advice and on-the-job assistance to strengthen the functioning of public administration in all the beneficiary countries. SIGMA has notably provided support on: (a) review and drafting of the commentary to the Code of Administrative Procedures (CAP) and the development of a sector strategy monitoring framework in Albania; (b) the new draft laws amending the current civil service (CS) legislative framework and legislative changes of the PP Law and Strategy in Bosnia and Herzegovina; (c) quality reviews of financial management control systems in Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; (d) the draft Law on Public–Private Partnerships (PPP) in Montenegro; (e) the draft Law on Administrative Procedures and functional review of the Supreme Audit Institution in Serbia; (f) the Public-Private Partnerships and Concessions Strategy and development of amendments to the PP Law in Turkey.

SIGMA continued to assist partner countries in improving a number of national strategies and action plans, including: (a) implementation and monitoring of the PAR Strategy and Action Plan in Albania; (b) the initial preparation of a new PAR strategy in Bosnia and Herzegovina; (c) finalisation of the PAR Strategy 2016-2020 in Montenegro; (d) development and implementation of the monitoring framework of PAR in Kosovo^{*}; and (e) preparation of the PAR Strategy 2016-2020 in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

SIGMA has also continued to work with partner country administrations to finalise the PFM reform programmes in Kosovo, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and started the support for the PFM Strategy preparation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

SIGMA has conducted an annual assessment in all the partner countries and provided the monitoring reports to the European Commission. In addition, SIGMA continued its work on the improvement of data availability and quality in the partner countries and on the review of the indicators for measuring progress against the Principles of Public Administration. Finally, SIGMA participated in and contributed to the PAR Special Groups in Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia, providing technical support to the policy discussion.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

- A regional conference for PP Review Bodies in the partner countries, jointly organised with the State Appeals Commission in Skopje in June in Ohrid.
- Training and dedicated workshops for civil servants and members of PP bodies on Regulatory Impact Analysis, audit, competency frameworks and PP in the partner countries.
- Dedicated dissemination events for SIGMA Baseline Measurement Reports in Kosovo, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia.
- Detailed specifications for the indicators (“indicator passports”) used in PAR Strategies were prepared and disseminated in Serbia.
- Review and commentary of the draft Law on the Delivery of Public Services on the Front Office in Albania.
- Comments to the CS legislative framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Comments to the PP legislation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Turkey.
- Comments to the draft PAR strategy in Montenegro.
- Review of the PP system in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
- Comments to the draft PFM Reform Strategy and initial analysis of the Administrative Justice System in Kosovo.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

SIGMA will draft Papers on framework agreements, selection of economic operators and relations between Supreme Audit institutions (SAIs) and parliamentary committees.

- The 4th Regional Conference on Public Internal Financial Control for Enlargement Countries will take place in Montenegro in September.

^{*} 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.

- A regional roundtable on the independence of SAIs will take place in Bosnia and Herzegovina in September.

1.2 REGIONAL SCHOOL OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (RESPA)

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|--------------------------------|--|
| Programme reference: | Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA II 2015/031-609 |
| Project title: | Support to the Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA) in its efforts to contribute to the Public Administration Reform under the EU integration process in the Western Balkans |
| EU contribution: | EUR 3.5 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans and Turkey |
| Type of contract: | Grant contract |
| Contract reference: | CN 2016/373-854 |
| Duration of activities: | 01/07/2016 – 01/07/2018 |
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| Contact : | Maria Inmaculada Perez-Rocha, perez-rocha.maria-inmaculada@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The principal aim of ReSPA is to help improve regional cooperation in public administration among the Western Balkans; to strengthen administrative capacities as required by the European integration process; and to develop human resource capacities.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

Contract was signed in June.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

N/A

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- Comparative Study on Optimization of Public Administration in Western Balkans;
- Working Paper on Management of Implementation of PAR Strategies;
- Promotion of activities in the area of Ethics and Integrity ;
- Impact assessment of ReSPA and needs assessment for 2017;
- Launching Event – "E to Open Government" / External Conference participation;
- Public Procurement - Working Group meeting;
- Regional Comparative Study on Novelities in Legislation in the Area of Administrative Dispute;
- Regional Comparative Study on Better Regulation and Competitiveness.

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Programme reference: | Multi-country Programme, IPA 2014/032-064 |
| Project title: | Statistical cooperation for the Western Balkans and Turkey |
| EU contribution: | EUR 8 million (of which 7.8 million contracted) |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans and Turkey |
| Type of contract: | Service contract and grants to 4 national statistical offices |
| Contract reference: | Service contract with GOPA Consultants, EUR 5.3 m Grant to MONSTAT, Montenegro, EUR 0.54 m Grant to State Statistical Office of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, EUR 0.64 m Grant to Statistical Office of Serbia, EUR 0.75 m Grant to Turkish Statistical Institute, EUR 0.56 m |
| Duration of activities: | Service contract 01/11/2015 – 30/09/2017 Grants 01/10/2015 – 31/08/2017 |
| Links: | http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/about/our-partners/cooperation |
| Contact: | Torbioern Carlquist, Torbioern.Carlquist@ec.europa.eu Bernd Wild, bernd.wild@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The overall objective is to prepare the statistical authorities in the beneficiaries for future EU membership by aligning their present methodologies and practices with the EU acquis in statistics and integrating them into the European Statistical System.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

The last technical pilot project kick-off meetings under the service contract took place in January 2016. Given the unclear situation with regard to the exact scope of certain activities within several projects and the necessity for the contractor to carry out further checks with the beneficiaries of the National Statistics Institutes it was decided to extend the inception phase and postpone the delivery of the inception report. The inception phase of the IPA 2014 service contract was therefore extended by three months and the inception report, was delivered beginning of April 2016. The inception meeting took place on 22 April 2016. As a consequence the first progress report, initially due in May 2016, was postponed to July 2016.

Statisticians from all the enlargement countries attended Eurostat working groups and training courses in a wide number of statistical fields. International experts provided advice to statisticians in the beneficiaries, either in workshops common for the whole region, or directly in the premises of each statistical office through 50 different expert missions. A total of 18 statisticians from all beneficiaries were on IPA traineeships in Eurostat and in statistical offices in selected EU Member States from January to June 2016. Beneficiaries of the grants continue the work in the pilot projects.

A coordination workshop took place in May 2016 at Eurostat together with the beneficiaries covered by the IPA programme. The workshop was a valuable opportunity to inform beneficiaries, to share experiences and to learn from each other.

Ten workshops were organised for statisticians from the enlargement countries, such as workshops on macro-economic statistics, business statistics, transport statistics and agricultural statistics. A workshop on indicators for the South East Europe 2020 strategy as well as another workshop on “Developing a metadata system” were also organised.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

Mission reports of experts show that statisticians in the region continue to learn more about the EU standards in statistics. Activity reports from around 341 participants from the 3 countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo) under the service contract who participated in working group meetings at Eurostat, in pilot project workshops, training courses and study visits organised by the contractor. The participants from the countries (Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey), which are benefitting from a grant, also took part in these activities and described their experiences in the mission reports.

Documentation of statistical sources and methods continued.

Data delivery compatible with common standards has increased over the reporting period.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Under the service contract the draft version of the first progress report is due mid July 2016 and the first progress meeting is planned before the end of July 2016.

Many types of activities will take place: participation in Eurostat working groups and workshops, training events, expert missions to the national statistical offices, study visits, beneficiaries' work in different areas of statistics under 24 different pilot projects.

A total of 23 statisticians from beneficiaries are planned to be on traineeships in Eurostat and in statistical offices in selected EU Member States from September to December 2016.

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Programme reference : | Multi-beneficiary Programme IPA 2013/024-091 |
| Project title: | Maintenance of the SEED (Systematic Electronic Exchange of Data) system in the Western Balkans II |
| EU contribution: | EUR 0.77 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans |
| Type of contract: | Service contract - Agenzia delle Dogane e dei Monopoli - Italy |
| Contract reference: | CN 2014/345-232 |
| Duration of activities: | 15/07/2014 – 14/07/2016 |
| Links: | http://www.eu-seed.net |
| Contact: | Petra Schlueter, petra.schlueter@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

Support the Customs Administrations of the Beneficiaries to continue to use the SEED platform and INES+ software, by providing regional coordination, maintenance and improvement of the existing SEED/INES infrastructure and functionalities. Support the Customs Administrations of Serbia and Kosovo to maintain electronic data exchange via middle server located at the premises of Italian Customs Agency in Rome.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

SEED presentation to the EULEX at the Kosovo Customs HQ in Pristina.

Two bilateral meetings for the operational use of the SEED organised for Customs Officers at:

- Border Crossing Point Hani Hotit - Bozaj (Albania – Montenegro)
- Border Crossing Point Tabanovce - Presevo (Serbia – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia).

Two days INES+ training for the Montenegrin Customs in Podgorica;

Presentation of the e-IPR software (electronic filing of Applications for Actions by the legal representatives of the Right Holders) and training for using of the e-IPR software for relevant Customs Officers of the Kosovo Customs.

Two days Pilot Action on Trade Facilitation organised in Podgorica and Bar, Montenegro on 12-13 April, 2016. This activity involved management and operational staff of several governmental institutions in Montenegro (Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Finance, Customs Authority, Technical Inspections and Agencies involved in goods clearance procedures, etc.), as well as, representatives of the private sector (Chamber of Commerce, Customs Agents, Freight Forwarders, etc.). Practical action showed how SEED could be used as a tool for implementation of the trade facilitation framework, by involving much wider scope of participants / potential system users.

The Second Steering Committee Meeting (The Final Conference) of the SEED Maintenance II Project was organised in Trieste, Italy on June 22, 2016. During this meeting Results and outcomes of the project were approved by the Beneficiary Administrations. Also the negotiations of the Trade Facilitation Agreement in the context of CEFTA (Additional Protocol 5) and its connection with SEED were discussed.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

New Border Crossing Point (Qafe Prush) between Albania and Kosovo added to the SEED data exchange.

Serbia joined the Common Transit Convention and started to use National computerised transit system (NCTS) in common domain as of February 1, 2016. This required establishment of the NCTS to SEED interconnectivity.

The new SEED software release (V 5.7.0) with a number of newly developed functionalities was deployed at all 6 SEED servers in the Region (April – May 2016). In addition, new SEED infrastructure installed and virtualised in Serbia.

Interconnectivity between the SEED and the new Customs Declaration Processing System (CDPS) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Asycuda World) has been established in June 2016.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

No other activities planned for next semester. The project ends on July 15, 2016. It will be continued in the next semester under a new contract (no. 2016/374-941).

1.5 ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Programme reference: | Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2010/022-028 and IPA 2015/031-609 |
| Project title: | Strengthening Accountability and the Fiduciary Environment (SAFE), EU Single-Donor Trust Fund |
| EU contribution: | EUR 1.00 million + EUR 3.00 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans |
| Type of contract: | Administration Agreement with the World Bank |
| Contract reference: | CN 2011/258-142 and CN 2016/369-168 |
| Duration of activities: | 21/12/2010 – 20/04/2019 |
| Links : | www.worldbank.org/ |
| Contact : | Rodolfo Lazarich – Gener, rodolfo.lazarich-gener@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The overall objective of this Trust Fund is to improve the status of Public Financial Management (PFM) in participating beneficiary countries in a systematic way through: a) improving understanding of PFM status in target beneficiaries; b) supporting design, implementation and management of PFM, taking account of government and donor PFM objectives and the intended mid- to long-term impact; and c) developing knowledge and experience on PFM reform to strengthen reform effectiveness and focus development partner support.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

The EU and the World Bank signed a new Administration Agreement. The Commission will provide €3 million to the SAFE TF in addition to the €1 million initial contribution. A call for proposals was launched at the end of January to support projects with this new funding. It resulted in 17 applications. The following 7 projects (totalling €1.6 million) were approved for funding:

1. Albania - PEFA 2016;
2. Enhancing the Implementation of Public Procurement in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;
3. CEF - Strengthening Financial Management Functions of Line Ministries;
4. Sub Regional - Internal Audit Training of Trainers Program (IA ToT);
5. Sub Regional - Strengthening Legislative Scrutiny in Western Balkans Countries;
6. Turkey - Deepening the Implementation of Public Sector Internal Audit Reforms;
7. Kosovo - Strengthening Office of the Auditor General's capacities in carrying out Value for Money audits on procurement, compliance audit and procurement post reviews for MDBs.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- Signing the agreement with the implementing organisations and starting the execution of the selected projects.

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Programme reference: | Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2014 / 031-603 |
| Project title: | Strengthening Economic Governance and Public Financial Management |
| EU contribution: | EUR 8,000,000 |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans |
| Type of contract: | PAGODA with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) |
| Contract reference: | CN 2015/358-797 |
| Duration of activities: | 09/06/2015 – 08/06/2018 |
| Contact : | Rodolfo Lazrich – Gener, rodolfo.Lazarich-gener@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The purpose of this IMF-led project is to support the implementation of the relevant parts of the partners' Economic Reform Programmes and the preparation and implementation of their national PFM reform programmes.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

Public Financial Management

Albania: The regional expert (LTX) supported the development of the PFM reform program and amendment of the organic budget law. A Public Investment Management Assessment (PIMA) mission in April 12, 2016 conducted an assessment and advised the Ministry of Finance on public investment management institutions and practices.

BiH: The planned TA program was disrupted by political events but still some activities were initiated like advising on the development of PFM reform plans (1 LTX).

Kosovo: The PIMA mission of December 2015 was followed up by and short term expert (STX) visit to advice on implementation of key recommendations which would also impact on strengthening the medium-term budget framework and to advice on a strategy to prevent new arrears accumulation.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: Engagement with national authorities was limited. Missions were postponed due to the political situation.

Montenegro: A visit by the LTX in March 2016 focused on integration of the debt management strategy with the budget planning process. This was followed up by a STX mission to develop a debt management strategy. A STX prepared a gap analysis of the existing accounting framework.

Serbia: Two missions took place, one reviewed the budget system law and a subsequent mission carried out a PIMA. In addition, the LTX carried out visits to establish a roadmap for accounting reforms. Furthermore, STX visits took place to implement the road map on accounting reform and transition to accrual accounting in the Treasury and to review the functionality of the financial management information system (FMIS).

Regional: Two multi-country seminars were planned and delivered, both of which were held in the CEF in Ljubljana, one on Fiscal transparency and fiscal risks and the other on spending reviews.

Revenue Administration

Albania: TA mainly focused on facilitating the tax administration in implementing a modern compliance risk management (CRM) methodology; designing modern organization structures and improving collection enforcement.

BiH: TA to the Indirect Taxation Authority (ITA) focused on compliance risk management, improving the VAT and excise system, electronic audit. TA to the FBiH tax administration focused on the way forward in moving towards a strategic approach in compliance risk management. No TA was provided to the RS and BD tax administrations.

Kosovo: TA efforts focused on improving tax returns filing, enforced collection, and VAT refund processes, while towards the end of the period the authorities were seeking input to their strategy for merging the tax and customs administration.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: TA efforts focused on strategic planning and governance, large taxpayer administration, compliance risk management, and tax audit.

Montenegro: TA efforts focused mainly on identifying data sources for risk analysis, improving taxpayer registration and filing and helping a new management team to prioritize reform efforts following the TADAT assessment.

Serbia: TA efforts focused on assisting the tax administration in developing a transformation strategy, in particular its internal reorganization and the need to phase in modern compliance risk management methodology. IMF has also provided advice in context of the authorities' design of a broad concessional arrangement for the clearance of tax arrears.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

Public Financial Management

- Albania: Public Investment Management Assessment.
- Bosnia and Herzegovina: Improving Macro-Fiscal Forecasting.
- Kosovo: Public Investment Management Assessment.
- Montenegro: Accounting and Reporting – Gap Analysis Against Cash-Basis IPSAS.
- Serbia: Accounting and Reporting – Road Map to Accrual Accounting, Assessing the Fiscal Management of Public Investment and Public-Private Partnerships.

Revenue Administration

- Albania: Initiating Operational Implementation of Industry-Based Compliance Projects, Strengthening Risk Analysis to Improve Taxpayer Compliance, Compliance Risk Management Informality Campaign Management.
- The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: Large Taxpayer Office, Next Steps.
- Kosovo: Implementing Tax Write Off Procedures and Strengthening Collection Enforcement, Strengthening Collections Enforcement, Operational Performance Measures.
- Montenegro: Improving Registration and Filing Procedures, Assisting the MTA Management in Identifying Relevant Internal and External Data for Operational, Planning, and Risk Assessment Purposes.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Indicative Action Plan June 2016 – April 2017

Public Financial Management

| Regional | Public Investment Management and PPPs Frameworks workshop |
|---|--|
| Albania | Advice and follow up of recommendations related to the implementation of the PFM reform strategy; fiscal transparency evaluation; strengthening the medium-term budget framework; credibility of budget forecasting, and fiscal risk monitoring; and analysis and public investment management. |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | Review of medium-term frameworks and budget preparation practices at State and entity levels, and provide guidance on changes needed to support the reduction of fiscal deficits and initiating fiscal consolidation. Assist the authorities at State and entity levels to prepare appropriate PFM reform programs and develop consensus over the content of the Bosnia-wide PFM strategy. Provide support to further strengthen fiscal reporting and fiscal risk management and analysis. |
| Kosovo | Follow up on public investment management assessment recommendations. Provide advice on strengthening the credibility of the budget and the medium-term expenditure framework. |
| the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | Provide advice on the analysis and management of fiscal risks, strengthening expenditure controls, particularly those related to the management of multi-year contracts linked to public investment projects. |
| Montenegro | Provide advice on establishing spending reviews and other budgetary techniques to help identify sustainable consolidation measures to support debt reduction. Follow up support in developing the debt reduction strategy for 2017-2019. Provide a gap analysis against IPSAS accrual. |
| Serbia | Provide support to the review and follow up of PFM reforms, notably the establishment of the reform monitoring framework and donor consultation mechanisms. Provide strategic support to the implementation of the road map towards accrual accounting. Support in improving the coverage and content of general government fiscal reporting using FMIS. Strengthening the framework and procedures for managing multi-year commitments. |

Revenue Administration

| | |
|---|---|
| Albania | Performance assessment of tax administration using the TADAT methodology; and VAT gap analysis. Assist with implementing the new organization structures. Tax arrears management and compliance risk management. |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | Performance assessment of the RS and the FBiH tax administrations using the TADAT methodology. Supporting the implementation of modern compliance risk management. Strengthen the analytical and strategic capacity in the area of risk management. Implementation of a new VAT and excise IT system. |
| Kosovo | Provide guidance on the Tax and Customs administration merger. |
| the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | Performance assessment of tax administration using the TADAT methodology. Assisting with designing and implementing a tax administration reform strategy. Improving disputes resolution, strengthening audit, and supporting other priorities. Improving compliance risk management. |
| Montenegro | Undertaking diagnostic review of certain tax administration components and providing advice on the way forward in reform efforts, taking into account the findings of the TADAT. Strategic management and governance, core business processes, and compliance management. VAT filing and payment compliance; register cleansing and maintenance; arrears management; large taxpayer administration. |
| Serbia | Providing advice on the way forward in reforming the tax administration, following the TADAT. Supporting the implementation of new organization structures and modern compliance methodology. Supporting the new risk management unit. Supporting efforts to strengthen tax arrears management. Supporting other relevant tax administration efforts to improve compliance risk management. |

CHAPTER 2: RULE OF LAW AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

In the area Rule of Law, the beneficiaries need in particular to join forces and cooperate to fight organised crime. This involves strengthening cooperation with international law enforcement organisations operating in criminal justice, police investigations and witness protection. IPA assistance in this area also encompasses transitional justice. 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, e.g. the Regional Housing Programme.

2.1 FIGHT AGAINST ORGANISED CRIME AND CORRUPTION

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|---------------------------------|--|
| Programme reference: | Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2013/024-091 |
| Project title: | International Cooperation in Criminal Justice: the Prosecutors' Network of the Western Balkans |
| EU contribution: | EUR 5.0 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans |
| Type of contract: | Grant Contract with GIZ GmbH, in partnership with Center for International Legal Cooperation (CILC) and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) |
| Contract reference: | CN 2014/350-650 |
| Duration of activities : | 19/11/2014 – 18/10/2017 |
| Contact : | Henk Visser, henk.visser@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

To strengthen the operational capacity and capabilities of the Public/State Prosecutors' Offices in the beneficiaries, to prosecute and investigate serious and trans-border organised crime, including linked cases of illicit trafficking destined to the EU, in particular trafficking in firearms, drugs and human beings.

To prepare the beneficiaries for gradually applying the main provisions of the European Arrest Warrant.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

In the reporting period, the project continued to support the beneficiaries in running cross-border cases. In a number of cases, this support was rendered jointly with the IPA 2013 police project. For example, as a follow up to the regional meeting held in Zagreb in 2015 together with IPA 2013 project, several ‘multilateral’ cross-border coordination meetings in different compositions between prosecutors and police investigators from Albania, Kosovo, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Switzerland and Italy on the cases ‘PORTA’ and “Balkani” took place. In Albania two seminars on data protection together with EUROJUST were held to facilitate the conclusion of a cooperation agreement. In April a seminar on Mutual Legal Assistance was implemented, supported by European Judicial Network focal points from Germany/Bavaria, Austria and Slovenia and police experts and prosecutors from Bavaria. The seminar concluded with the final discussion and adoption of the Mutual Legal Assistance assessment reports, which were prepared at the beginning of the year. In April and June, the first internships for Montenegrin prosecutors were organized in Croatia and Slovenia. Finally, the first EJM Tools Correspondents meeting took place in Belgrade in June 2016.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

- 37 prosecutors and judicial police officers were trained on data protection in Albania;
- 14 prosecutors were trained on international judicial cooperation in criminal matters in BiH;
- Six country reports on MLA were finalized and adopted by the beneficiaries;
- 14 people arrested within the operations of the BALKANI case. Police seized money, guns/weapons, cars and 26.6 kg heroine, 1.8 kg cocaine and 183.3 kg marihuana;
- Focal points were nominated from all six (including Kosovo) beneficiaries and they officially participated for the first time at the EJM plenary meeting in Amsterdam in June;
- Adoption of the cooperation agreement between EUROJUST and Montenegro;
- 2 Internships organized for in total 4 Montenegrin prosecutors in Croatia and Slovenia.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- Internships for prosecutors in Germany and Netherlands;
- Tool Correspondents’ meeting in The Hague;
- National Correspondents’ meeting, The Hague, September 2016;
- Conference WBPN, Regional meeting of Prosecutors General and chief of SP’s to exchange best practices and strengthen cooperation, Budva, October 2016;
- EUROJUST meeting for EUROJUST and EJM Contact Points from Western Balkans, Croatia and Slovenia, Ljubljana, October 2016;

- Regional Cybercrime training, Zagreb, November 2016;
- Different national trainings on confiscation, money laundering, JIT and language courses;
- Various operational meetings in the different regional cases;
- Ongoing other support to cases (translation, advice, etc.).

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| Programme reference: | Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2013/024-091 |
| Project title: | Fight against organised crime and corruption: international cooperation in criminal justice in the Western Balkans |
| EU contribution: | EUR 5.0 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans |
| Type of contract: | Delegation Agreement with the Italian Ministry of the Interior, Public Security Department |
| Contract reference: | CN 2014/341-116 |
| Duration of activities: | 12/07/2014 – 11/07/2017 |
| Contact : | Henk Visser, henk.visser@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

To improve international law enforcement strategic and operational cooperation among beneficiaries as well as between beneficiaries, EU Member States and EU/regional/international law enforcement organisations, through the support of international investigations and prosecutions, the promotion of secured exchange of information and intelligence, the use of modern communication technology and data protection mechanisms aligned to EU standards.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

In the reporting period, the project continued to support the beneficiaries in running cross-border cases. In a number of cases, this support was rendered jointly with the IPA 2014 prosecutors' project. In March, 2 investigations conducted by the Serbian Service for the Fight Against Organized Crime, among those financed by the project, were awarded as the best investigations carried out in the second half of 2015 on the Southeast European Law Enforcement Centre platform. The investigations led to the arrest of 123 persons, the seizure of more than 400,000 euros, drugs, weapons and technology.

An assessment was done in the fields of exchange of information (Montenegro). Cooperation with EULEX, INTERPOL and OSCE was established. Also:

- Steering Committee in Tarvisio;
- Addendum to the Contract;

- 28 trans national investigations proposed by Beneficiaries to be supported;
- 2 joint investigation teams supported;
- 2 Crossborder coordination meetings in Skopje and Horid;
- 1 workshop in Sarajevo and 1 in Cesena for providing support in the drafting, printing and implementation of a Manual, aimed at the operational prevention of smuggling of and trafficking in stolen vehicles;
- 1 workshop in Tarvisio - Thori Maglern to support a sustainable, efficient and effective police cooperation network at a regional level in the Western Balkans by contributing to enhanced functionality of the Joint Center for Police Cooperation in Plav (Albania - Kosovo - Montenegro) by training the future trainers for the police and customs officers to be deployed in the Joint Centre;
- Resident Expert placed in Albania;
- New Resident Experts replaced the previous ones in Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;
- Consortium agreements with Croatia and France drafted and agreed.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY– JUNE 2016)

- Several investigative meetings between Beneficiaries Law Enforcement Agencies and between Beneficiaries and MS Law Enforcement Agencies;
- Addendum to the Contract approved;
- Manual aimed at the operational prevention of smuggling of and trafficking in stolen vehicles drafted;
- 6 police and customs officers trained;
- SIDDA-SIDNA case management and analysis system funded in Serbia;
- New Project Offices opened in Tirana and Pristina;
- 123 persons arrested, weapons, drugs, technology seized as result of supporting the investigations.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- Assessments of the IT for exchanging of information in Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Assessments of DNA and fingerprinting structures of the Beneficiaries;
- Workshops on Joint Investigation Teams;
- Follow-up on the selected investigations;
- Identification of regional criminal threats;
- Exercise on special investigative techniques;
- Continuation of support to bilateral and regional cases.

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| Programme reference: | Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2015/031-609.07 |
| Project title: | Cooperation in Criminal Justice: Strengthening Witness Protection in the Fight against Organised Crime, Terrorism and Corruption (WINPRO III) |
| EU contribution: | EUR 5,00 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans |
| Type of contract: | Delegation agreement with Northern Ireland Co-operation Overseas (NI-CO) |
| Contract reference: | CN 2015/370-989 |
| Duration of activities: | 24/12/2015 – 23/12/2018 |
| Links: | http://www.nico.org.uk |
| Contact : | Henk Visser, henk.visser@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The purpose of the project is to increase the number of witnesses of crime coming forward to denounce and report criminal acts and to collaborate with justice to get the perpetrators convicted. These witnesses (and also victims) need to be assured that their lives and livelihood are duly protected and secured throughout the region and abroad.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

This is the first completed semester since the project started on 24 December 2015.

In this reporting period, the following key activities were carried out:

- The Inception report was submitted and approved (March-April 2016).
- Balkan Network Meeting took place in Bosnia and Herzegovina (19-20 April 2016).
- Europol Annual Conference took place in Romania (10-11 May 2016) and was attended by the beneficiary delegates and members of the WINPRO III team.
- A contact was made with a representative of the EU Special Investigative Task Force (SITF) in order to determine whether the new Specialist Court for Kosovo based in The Hague would impact on the Witness Protection Unit in Pristina and to make provisions for any future needs for this co-operation (May 2016).
- Several meetings with the Director of Operations of SELEC took place in May and June 2016 to explore possible options of co-operation. Additionally, a WINPRO representative promoted the project and a wider co-operation with beneficiary countries within the region at the Southeast European Law Enforcement Centre seminar on 14-15 June 2016.
- Significant efforts were made in terms of co-ordination of activities with other relevant regional projects.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

The project team focused primarily on reviewing the needs of beneficiaries, especially the wider stakeholders group, and putting appropriate planning together.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- Next meeting of the Balkan Network (September 2016)
- Support to the beneficiary delegates attending international events organised by Europol and ICC in The Hague (September 2016),
- Joint WP awareness seminar with EUROL project in Montenegro (September 2016),
- First meeting of the Project Steering Committee (w/c 3rd October 2016),
- First Regional Meeting (w/c 3rd October 2016),
- Stakeholders awareness seminars in Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia (October 2016),
- Regional seminar on IT security and data protection (November 2016),
- Media awareness seminar in Serbia (November 2016),
- Desktop exercise in Albania and Montenegro (December 2016).

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| Programme reference: | Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2013/024-091 |
| Project title: | Strengthening National Integrity Systems in the Western Balkans and Turkey, and tracking developments of anti-corruption efforts |
| EU contribution: | EUR 1.71 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans and Turkey |
| Type of contract: | Grant Agreement with Transparency International |
| Contract reference: | CN 2014/339-583 |
| Duration of activities: | 01/05/2014 – 30/04/2017 |
| Contact : | Henk Visser, henk.visser@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The implementing partner will carry out an institutional ‘health check’ in the Western Balkans and Turkey on the readiness of the countries to address corruption threats. This will be undertaken in form of the so-called National Integrity Systems (NIS) assessments, a methodology already tested in around 100 countries worldwide. In addition, a monitoring mechanism will be developed to track developments in each country in their fight against corruption.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

- Three NIS reports were completed during this period and launched in Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia in April, May and June 2016, respectively. All events gathered a wide range of participants including public officials, academia, media, and international and civil society organisations.
- On 4 February 2016, Kosova Democratic Institute organized a regional workshop in Pristina on Institutional Mechanisms of Fighting Corruption in Kosovo with the aim of developing a more practical understanding of policy issues in the field of anti-corruption and how they differ from country to country in Western Balkans and Turkey. The event gathered participants from relevant institutions, CSOs, media and representatives of public institutions from across the region.
- On 27 May 2016, Transparency International Bosnia and Herzegovina organized a regional workshop in Sarajevo on “Asset declarations of holders of justice functions”. The event brought together key actors in the justice sector, representatives of civil society, media and relevant institutions from the Western Balkans and Turkey in order to share knowledge and experiences regarding asset declarations, with the larger aim to understand what has worked and what has not in preventing conflicts of interest as well as collect and disseminate best practices.
- All partners reviewed the relevant legislation in their countries, scoped the availability of data on investigation, prosecution and adjudication of corruption offences, developed indicators, and recorded baselines for between 10 to 20 key recommendations from their NIS reports to track anti-corruption progress.
- Advocacy efforts at the national level were carried out by all partners throughout the reporting period.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

- Understanding of corruption risks by relevant stakeholders has improved;
 - Comprehensive anti-corruption assessments published and launched in Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia;
 - Ten policy papers focussing on particular areas where reform is most needed or achievable produced;
- Regional cooperation and exchange of anti-corruption experience among stakeholders across countries is enhanced.
- Two regional workshops on thematic anti-corruption areas organized in Kosovo and BiH.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- NIS reports to be finalized and launch events to be conducted in Serbia, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey.
- Regional exchange of good practice workshops held on the following topics:
 - Inter-institutional cooperation in the fight against corruption to be led by TI-Kosovo, first week of February 2016;

- Strengthening the justice sector, in particular, conflict of interest and property cards to be organised by TI-Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Increasing transparency in political party financing to be led by TI- Serbia:
 - Targeted national advocacy activities in all partner countries in line with the NIS assessments conducted.
- Data collection for the anti-corruption tracking mechanism in all beneficiary countries.

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| Programme reference: | Multi-country Programme, IPA 2014/031-603 |
| Project title: | Joint EU and ICTY Training project for National Prosecutors and Young Professionals from the Former Yugoslavia |
| EU contribution: | EUR 0.5 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans and Turkey |
| Type of contract: | Grant Agreement with United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) |
| Contract reference: | CN 2015/ 357-561 |
| Duration of activities: | 01/04/2015 – 31/12/2016 |
| Contact : | Henk Visser, henk.visser@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The objective is to strengthen the capacity of countries of the former Yugoslavia to effectively investigate and prosecute war crimes. Beneficiaries are the national prosecutors for domestic war crime cases and young professionals with a legal or other relevant background participate in the Action.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

- Final narrative report for the previous Action submitted to the European Commission.
- Prosecutor submitted a request for continuation of the Action for the period 2017-2018.

Visiting National Prosecutors component

- Visiting National Prosecutors from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia continue their work in the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP).
- The OTP supported the Visiting National Prosecutors during searches for investigative material which will be used in the investigation and prosecution of war crimes in their respective countries.

Visiting Young Professionals component

- The last group of 6 young legal professionals finished their internship in the OTP in January 2016. This is the last group of Visiting Young Professionals which participated in the Action.

- The feedback on their work from the respective teams and supervisors was positive.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

Visiting National Prosecutors component: 97 Requests for Assistance received.

Visiting Young Professionals component: Visiting Young Professionals actively participated in the preparation of the ICTY trials and appeals.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- Liaison Prosecutors will continue their participation in the Action.
- Activities regarding the Action for 2015-2016 will continue.
- Activities regarding the continuation of Action for the period 2017-2018 will continue.

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| Programme reference: | Multi-country Programme, IPA 2014/031-603 |
| Project title: | Project iPROCEEDS - Cooperation on Cybercrime under the Instrument of Pre-accession (IPA): Project on targeting crime proceeds on the Internet in South-eastern Europe and Turkey |
| EU contribution: | EUR 5 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans and Turkey |
| Type of contract: | Grant agreement for a pillar assessed organisation with the Council of Europe |
| Contract reference: | CN 2015/367-971 |
| Duration of activities: | 01/01/2016 – 30/06/2019 |
| Links: | ww.coe.int/cybercrime |
| Contact : | Henk Visser, henk.visser@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The Action aims to assure that the Enlargement countries will comply with relevant standards regarding cybercrime and crime proceeds including the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime (CETS 185)^{*} and the Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism (CETS 198)[†] of the Council of Europe (CoE). Both treaties and the related assessment or monitoring mechanisms are most

^{*} Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are Parties. Turkey has not yet ratified it. The Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY) assesses implementation of this treaty (www.coe.int/tcy).

[†] Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are Parties. These States are monitored by MONEYVAL (www.coe.int/moneyval). Turkey has signed it.

relevant for countries covered by this Action. In fact, the beneficiaries are expected to comply with the *EU acquis* and relevant Council of Europe conventions and standards.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

During January-June 2016 the inception phase of the iPROCEEDS was successfully concluded and included the following activities:

- All seven iPROCEEDS countries/areas had established national project teams, composed of representatives of the state institutions with the requisite profiles.
- Project partners from Luxembourg and Romania have been identified.
- Questionnaire to obtain the information for the preparation of the Initial Situation Report was drafted and sent to the project team members.
- A delegation of the Council of Europe, which included members of the project team and international consultants responsible for drafting the initial situation report, visited each of the seven project country/areas.
- Based on the country responses to the questionnaire and the information gathered during the seven initial country visits, the Council of Europe consultants drafted the initial situation report, consisting of the main findings and corresponding recommendations.
- The iPROCEEDS Launching Conference, 1st meeting of the Project Steering Committee and two workshops on public-private partnership and international cooperation were held in Ohrid, from 13 to 14 June 2016.

The results of these activities confirmed the validity of the project strategy as well as the readiness of the national authorities and other stakeholders to cooperate in its implementation.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

- Country/area multi-agency project teams in place and are interacting with the project.
- Seven initial visits to all project countries/areas, which allowed introducing the project to national stakeholders, including the private sector, as well as collecting information regarding the country's exposure to cybercrime, money laundering on the Internet, legislative and practical capabilities to respond to the threats and trends regarding criminal money flows on the Internet.
- Draft initial situation report has been prepared and fed into the project workplan and will serve as a baseline report to determine progress made.
- Participation in IPA Western Balkans Security Governance Programming Meeting organised by the the European Commission, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), Western Balkans Regional Cooperation and Programmes on 10-12 May 2016 in Tirana, Albania.
- Participation in Cloud Evidence Group (T-CY) Exchange of views with data protection organisations and the 15th Plenary Meeting of the Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY) of the Council of Europe on 23-25 May 2016 in Strasbourg, France.
- Launching Conference and 1st meeting of the Project Steering Committee held in Ohrid, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, from 13 to 14 June 2016.

- One regional workshop on private/public information sharing and intelligence exchange mechanisms between financial sector institutions, cybercrime units and other stakeholders (14 June 2016).
- One regional workshop on international cooperation between cybercrime units, financial investigations units, Financial Intelligence Units, prosecution and competent authorities for judicial cooperation (14 June 2016).
- Project workplan has been prepared and adopted at the first meeting of the Project Steering Committee.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- Four advisory missions and regional workshop for setting up or improvement of reporting mechanisms.
- Regional workshop to review the current state of judicial training curricular on cybercrime, electronic evidence and online crime proceeds.
- Participation of cybercrime units in the Regional Internet Security Event (RISE) - Finland 2016.
- Regional meeting to discuss existing private/public initiatives or establish such mechanisms at domestic and regional levels.
- Participation of 24/7 POC in the 4th INTERPOL-Europol Cybercrime Conference "Solutions for attribution".
- Three workshops on the preparation of interagency cooperation protocols.
- Three workshops on domestic protocols for international sharing of intelligence and evidence.
- Workshop for cybercrime units, economic crime units, financial investigators, FIUs and specialised prosecutors on financial fraud and credit card fraud online.
- Regional workshop on compliance of relevant domestic legislation with EU, FATF and Council of Europe (MONEYVAL) standards and 2nd Steering Committee.

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| Programme reference: | Multi-country Programme, IPA 2014/031-603 |
| Project title: | Measuring and assessing organised crime in the Western Balkans: supporting evidence-based policy making |
| EU contribution: | EUR 2 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans |
| Type of contract: | Grant agreement for a pillar assessed organisation United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Research and Trends Analysis Branch, Statistics and Surveys Section (UNODC/RAB/SASS) |
| Contract reference: | CN 2015/358-127 |
| Duration of activities: | 01/04/2016 – 31/03/2019 |
| Contact : | Henk Visser, henk.visser@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The project will contribute to the strengthening of the rule of law through the fight against organised crime in the beneficiary jurisdictions by addressing the challenges with respect to enhancing the understanding of the nature and evolution of organised crime. Specifically, the project will develop and implement a statistical framework for quantifying and analysing organised crime in the Western Balkans and to establish mechanisms to monitor it and produce an evidence-based analytical report.

ACTIVITIES

During the reporting period, most of the activities were focused on setting the ground for the implementation of the project for the next three years.

On 5 May, 2016 UNODC officially launched the project. Representatives of Permanent Missions in Vienna of the jurisdictions involved in the project and participating in the launch event included Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

Since the launch, the following activities have taken place:

- UNODC management team recruited.
- Process started for the recruitment of a statistical assistant to join the UNODC project management team
- Initial process in place with procurement to recruit the research partner to assist in the development of a statistical and analytical framework and to produce the evidence-based analytical report.
- Presentation of the project in Tirana, Albania as part of the Western Balkans Counter Organised Crime Initiative.
- All countries have nominated focal points to be part of the advisory committee. The advisory committee will guide the project and provide technical expertise for the development of the statistical framework and report.

- Initial contact established with countries that surround the Western Balkan region and which have been identified as critical in the transnational nature of organised crime for data collection participation.

OUTPUTS

- All countries fully on board with the project.
- Focal points contacted and briefed on the nature of the project as well as their key participation in data collection and establishment of the national technical groups (NTG).
- Focal points to nominate national technical group members. The NTG will support the project by identifying, collecting and providing national data on organised crime.
- Neighbouring countries briefed and willing to participate in the project.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- Recruitment of local consultants for support in the project.
- First advisory committee meeting to be held in Vienna by the end of the year.
- National technical groups (NTG) established by the advisory committee with guidance from the UNODC Project Management Team. The NTGs will be designed to ensure that all relevant agencies are able to contribute to identify and collect information that will be integral for measuring and assessing organised crime.
- Identification and recruitment of research partner by the end of the year.
- Recruitment of statistical assistance to the UNODC project management team completed by October.
- Consultations in place to set up the online project management platform and data repository.
- Initial review of statistical sources on organised crime and approaches to measure it, including qualitative methods.
- Background report for each country on data availability, legislations in place and policies guided towards fighting organised crime.

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| Programme reference: | Multi-country Programme, IPA 2016/373-757 |
| Project title: | 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) |
| EU contribution: | EUR 0.1 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans |
| Type of contract: | Grant Contract with SENSE News Agency |
| Contract reference: | CN 2016/373-757 |
| Duration of activities: | 01/01/2016 – 31/06/2016 |
| Links: | www.sense-agency.com |
| Contact : | Henk Visser, henk.visser@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

To inform the public on the work and mission of the ICTY, and to raise public support for cooperation with the ICTY and the domestic prosecution of war crimes.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

During the reporting period SENSE has continued coverage and audio-visual recordings of the presentation of defense evidence at Ratko Mladic's trial, Trial Chambers judgments in the Karadzic and Seselj cases, the Appeals Chamber judgment in the Stanisic & Simatovic case, termination of the Hadzic case following the death of the accused, developments in contempt of court indictments, as well as all other judicial activities of the ICTY/MICT;

With its daily reports and weekly TV programs, SENSE is the only news agency bringing to the region regular and reliable information on trials for war crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia and the work of the ICTY. [SENSE website](http://www.sense-agency.com) is a reference for international justice and human rights “watchers”, journalists, lawyers, academics, diplomats and general public.

The aim of SENSE multimedia presentations, exhibitions and interactive narratives is to show how the crimes committed during the war in the former Yugoslavia 1991 - 1995 were investigated, reconstructed and prosecuted by the ICTY. During the reporting period SENSE produced and [promoted](#) its second Interactive Narrative (IN) [“Srebrenica - Genocide in Eight Acts”](#) and started production of the third one “Targeting History and Memory” that will present how and to what extent the destruction of cultural, religious and historical heritage during Yugoslav wars was investigated and prosecuted at the ICTY.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

- Around a 100 daily reports and analysis in Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian and English on one ongoing trial at the ICTY (Mladic), Trial judgments (Karadzic, Seselj), Appeals judgment (M. Stanisic & Zupljanin), case termination (Hadzic) and other Tribunal's proceedings (retrial, and contempt proceedings);
- Production of 13 TV updates entitled “TV Tribunal”, on the trials and other developments at the ICTY. (712 in total since March 2000);
- To commemorate the 21st anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide, SENSE has successfully launched its latest interactive narrative, [Srebrenica - Genocide in Eight Acts](#), in Belgrade, Zagreb and Sarajevo. The events were hosted by the [The Humanitarian Law Center](#), in Belgrade, [Documenta](#) - Center for Dealing with the Past, in Zagreb, and the [Museum of History of Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), in Sarajevo. The presentation in Sarajevo was followed by the opening of the exhibition of photographs taken by British forensic photographer Tim Loveless during the exhumation of the mass graves in the Srebrenica area in 1999 and 2000 and with the panel discussion, Srebrenica: ARTifacts of Genocide. The exhibition will remain open until 30 August 2016. More than 17 000 on line visitors were registered only in the first month after the narrative was uploaded on our web site.
- Continued digitalisation of SENSE audio-visual trial archive.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Reporting on the remaining trial, re-trials, contempt cases, appellate proceedings and judgments at the ICTY; transfer of the archive, equipment and the activities to the SENSE Transitional Justice Center in Pula, Croatia; Launching and promotion of the “Targeting History and Memory” Interactive narrative; further activities on the creation of network of local Documentation Centers all over the Western Balkans region.

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| Programme reference: | Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2013/024-091 |
| Project title: | ICTY Outreach programme 2014/2015 - International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia |
| EU contribution: | EUR 0.5 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans |
| Type of contract: | Grant Contract with ICTY |
| Contract reference: | CN 2014/342-964 |
| Duration of activities: | 21/08/2014 – 31/03/2016 |
| Links: | http://www.icty.org/action/outreachnews/7 |
| Contact : | Henk Visser, henk.visser@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

To strengthen the Tribunal's legacy as its mandate draws to a close and to ensure that people across the region of the former Yugoslavia have access to, understand and foster its legacy.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – MARCH 2016)

- Published '15 years of Outreach at the ICTY' in book form;
- Completed the production of two documentaries: 'Crimes before the ICTY Višegrad' and 'Dubrovnik and Crimes against Cultural Heritage';
- Organised public screenings of the two documentaries in Sarajevo (BiH), Belgrade (Serbia) and Zagreb and Dubrovnik (Croatia);
- Ensured broadcast of the documentaries by 10 local and regional TV stations in BiH;
- Produced two special features for Facebook and YouTube: 'The Tribunal Remembers – Marking the Bikoši Massacre' and 'The Tribunal Remembers: International Day in Support of Victims of Torture';
- Continued implementation of the fourth cycle of the 'Youth Outreach' project;
- Continued negotiations on the establishment of information centres in Sarajevo and in Srebrenica/Potočari;
- Organised visits to the ICTY for students and professionals from around the world, including the countries of the former Yugoslavia.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY - MARCH 2016)

- Held 14 presentations at high schools in Kosovo and BiH, which were attended by over 540 students;
- Held 13 lectures at universities in Kosovo, BiH, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia, which were attended by more than 450 students;
- Held a training on delivery of high school presentations about the ICTY to five high school teachers from Tuzla Canton, BiH;
- Held a 'train-the trainer' workshop in Mostar for 80 high school teachers from the countries of the former Yugoslavia. The training was part of the EU-funded project 'Historija, Istorija, Povjest', implemented by the Anne Frank House and local partners;
- Tens of thousands of citizens viewed the ICTY Outreach documentaries broadcast by local and regional TV networks covering BiH, Serbia and Croatia;
- Special features on ICTY social media were viewed over 50.000 times;
- Average monthly increase of ICTY social media followers doubled compared to the previous reporting period, due to the greater amount of content that targets topics of interest;

- Drafts of the MoU to be signed on the establishment of information centres in Sarajevo and Srebrenica have been prepared and submitted to the City of Sarajevo and Memorial Centre Srebrenica/Potočari for final comments;
- Around 3,500 individuals visited the ICTY, where they received briefings on the work of the Tribunal and attended trials.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

New contract CN 2016/374-687

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| Programme reference: | Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2015/031-609 |
| Project title: | ICTY Outreach programme 2014/2016 - International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia |
| EU contribution: | EUR 0.425 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans |
| Type of contract: | Grant Contract with ICTY |
| Contract reference: | CN 2016/374-687 |
| Duration of activities: | 01/04/2016 – 31/03/2017 |
| Links: | http://www.icty.org/en/outreach/home |
| Contact : | Henk Visser, henk.visser@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

To strengthen the Tribunal's legacy as its mandate draws to a close and to ensure that people across the region of the former Yugoslavia have access to, understand and foster its legacy.

ACTIVITIES (APRIL – JUNE 2016)

- Organisation of up to 15 university lectures and high school presentations about ICTY and transitional justice in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, BiH, Croatia and Montenegro;
- Organisation of essay writing competitions for both high school and university students in BiH, Serbia, Croatia and Montenegro;
- Organisation of a workshop for history teachers from the former Yugoslavia, in cooperation with 'Euroclio', to form a group of history teachers/educational authors from BiH, Croatia and Serbia. This group will collaborate to devise an approach and methodology for responsible history education utilising material available from the ICTY archive;
- Completion of production for the documentary 'Crimes before the ICTY: Torture';

- Work on two additional documentaries: ‘Crimes before the ICTY: Srebrenica’ and a documentary about 25 years of the ICTY and its legacy;
- English language premiere screening of the documentary ‘Crimes before the ICTY Višegrad’ in The Hague;
- English language premiere screening of the documentary ‘Dubrovnik and Crimes against Cultural Heritage’ in The Hague;
- Further broadcast of Outreach’s documentaries on regional TV networks and on UN TV;
- Launch of the publication ‘15 years of Outreach at the ICTY’;
- Organisation of visits to the ICTY (including tailored briefings for visitors) for 3,000-4,000 students and professionals.

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|--------------------------------|---|
| Programme reference: | Civil Society Facility and Media, IPA 2014 /031-605 |
| Project title: | Strengthening and supporting the RECOM Process, Phase II |
| EU contribution: | EUR 0.7 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans |
| Type of contract: | Grant contract with Humanitarian Law Centre, Belgrade (HLCB), |
| Contract reference: | CN 2015/364-189 (continuation of CN 2012/292-650) |
| Duration of activities: | 20/08/2015 – 19/02/2018 |
| Links: | http://www.hlc-rdc.org ; http://www.recom.link/ |
| Contact: | Karl Giacinti, karl.giacinti@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

Establishment of the Regional Commission for the facts about war crimes and other serious human rights violations in the former Yugoslavia (RECOM). The initiative was launched by the Coalition for RECOM which brings together about 2,050 civil society organizations from post-Yugoslav countries. The Coalition has won support from 580,000 citizens, drawn up a draft RECOM Statute and received strong political backing for the establishment of RECOM. The region’s Presidents have affirmed their support for the establishment of a regional commission by appointing personal envoys to RECOM, who, in October of 2014, after a year’s worth of collaboration and consultations with their respective Presidents and Presidency members, submitted the “Amendments to the RECOM Statute” to the Coalition for adoption. On November 14th, 2015, the Coalition Assembly voted to adopt the Amendments to the RECOM Statute without any objections, which marked the start of the transfer of the initiative to an inter-state level, where the decision to establish RECOM is to be made.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

- Debate about the potential of RECOM as official instrument for discovering the facts about war crimes contributing to reconciliation;
- Presentation of research results of human losses in armed conflicts in 1991 -2001 and detention facilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- The launch of the online campaign "Sign for RECOM";
- Meetings with public advocates, political leaders and representatives of EU-delegations;
- Non Formal Education in Kosovo.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

The Coalition for RECOM (TJAR and CCE) organized two debates on reconciliation with politicians, representatives of the EU and the Coalition for RECOM in Sarajevo on February 25, and in Podgorica on 17 March. In Banja Luka on March 3 a presentation on research casualties in armed conflicts in 1991 -2001 and detention facilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

An online campaign was launched "Sign for RECOM" through short adverts: "Do we know the names of victims? Sign for RECOM"; 580.000 citizens from countries of the former Yugoslavia supported RECOM. Sign for RECOM received a grant from Google AdGrants program for advertising the website and the petition for the establishment of RECOM.

Public advocate Natasa Kandic met on 30 May with the Head of the EU Delegation to Serbia Michael Davenport. She informed him that the coalition intends to launch a campaign for the inclusion of RECOM in Berlin process with the aim to sign the Declaration on the Establishment of RECOM at the summit in Rome in 2017.

Public advocate Dzenana Karup Druško met with the Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denis Zvizdović, on 22 June 2016. Public Advocates, Adriatik Kelmendi and Natasa Kandic met the Prime Minister of Kosovo, Isa Mustafa on 8 July 2016. The two prime ministers expressed their support for the establishment of RECOM and the inclusion of RECOM in Berlin process.

Researchers from Documenta, HLCK and HLC carried out additional 1000 interviews with witnesses and war victims' family members about hundreds of war victims. Researchers from TJAR and CDTJ documented 200 camps and other detention facilities during the war 1991-95. Regarding Non Formal Education (NFE) HLC Kosovo organized workshops in 5 high schools, 3 with students from international and domestic universities based in Pristina, and 5 workshops with non-governmental organizations' representatives. Overall, 13 workshops were organized with 346 participants. Students were informed in detail about RECOM Process, KMB Database and others transitional justice instruments.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- The Coalition will invite Premiers of the Western Balkans States to take "concrete steps towards lasting reconciliation in the region," in accordance with the declaration, which

they signed at the Berlin summit 2015, and make a decision on the establishment of RECOM;

- The Coalition will advocate with MS and the EU in order to convince the leaders of the Western Balkans to sign the Declaration on the Establishment of RECOM at the summit in Rome in 2017;
- Coalition will organize at least three debates about the potential of RECOM to contribute to reconciliation and a minimum of two debates on the EU strategy towards reconciliation in the former Yugoslavia;
- On the occasion of Human Rights Day, the Coalition will organize 4 presentations of research on human losses and detention facilities in BiH, in the context of promoting professional support to the establishment of RECOM;
- HLC Kosovo will organize at least 10 workshops on transitional justice and the process of RECOM in secondary schools and universities in Kosovo;
- The Coalition will organize at least 5 street actions to collect signatures for establishment of RECOM, during which it will inform and ask citizens to support the inclusion of RECOM in Berlin Process.

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| Programme reference: | 2013 / 024-091 - Multi-beneficiary programme under the IPA-Transition Assistance and Institution Building Component for the year 2013- part DG NEAR |
| Project title: | Joint History Project Phase II - Extending the proven tool for Reconciliation to the sensitive recent history of Southeast Europe |
| EU contribution: | EUR 0.6 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans |
| Type of contract: | Grant contract with Center for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeast Europe |
| Contract reference: | 2014 / 350-782 |
| Duration of activities: | 01/11/2014 – 31/10/2016 |
| Links: | http://www.cdsee.org/projects/jhp |
| Contact: | Karl Giacinti, karl.giacinti@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

Enhancing reconciliation and mutual understanding of the recent past in the Western Balkans and Turkey by means of multiperspective research and analysis on the last 60 years of history in the Western Balkans. The purpose is to trigger reform of education in Southeast Europe, promoting historical analysis that is constructive and critical and that can be utilised for reaching a more holistic understanding of the recent history. The region benefits from a shared democratic effort, working towards a future-oriented history education that nurtures the emergence of citizens who are empowered to defend and promote such values.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

Activity Cluster 1: Inclusive multi-stakeholder process for producing teaching materials.

Two new workbooks were researched, written and compiled during the aforementioned period and were then assessed by the editors, contributors, supervisors and the CDRSEE Board of Director's Rapporteur by November 2015. The final editing of the English language edition of the books is in progress and the final layout is available for viewing and has been approved by the CDRSEE's Executive Director.

Activity Cluster 2: History teachers' training and participation in the evaluation phase of the teaching materials.

Further underpinning and enhancing the multi-stakeholder nature of the process, teachers from across SEE were invited to evaluate the final drafts of the two new workbooks, prior to publication. A regional Teacher Training Conference was held on the 26th-28th of February, 2016 in Montenegro at which 50 teachers from Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Kosovo, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey participated. Representatives from the 6 partnering Ministries of Education attended the event and expressed their support for the project and its continuation.

Activity Cluster 3: Outreach to the general public multiplying a multi-perspective state of mind.

A short promotional film was produced in June 2016 and is now available on the CDRSEE website, You Tube and the CDRSEE's newsletter from June. Preparations began in June 2016 for the launch of the new workbooks in the European Parliament in Brussels, followed by 7 regional events in capitals across Southeast Europe. The JHP forum and platform have been created and are due to go 'live' in November 2016. A code of ethics for the use of the forum has been drawn up and agreed on by all of the partners.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

- Two new JHP workbooks in English finalised;
- Layout and design process started;
- JHP forum and platform created;
- Support for the JHP II from a number of Ministers of Education in Southeast Europe;
- 1 regional teacher training and books' evaluation conference successfully completed.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- Printing of the JHP II workbooks;
- 1 launch of the JHP II in Brussels on November 15th 2016, hosted by MEPs Ms Ulrike Lunacek, Mr Eduard Kukan, Mr Knut Fleckenstein, Ms Tanja Fajon and Mr Jasenko Selimovic at which Commissioners, Ambassadors, donors, civil society and MEPs will be invited;

- 7 local launches of the JHP II in cities across Southeast Europe in cooperation with the respective project partner, teachers' associations and Ministries of Education with local media and civil society organisations attending (November 2016-January 2017);
- Dissemination and publicity of the books through local press conferences, school presentations and project partners' networking in cooperation with project partners;
- Online publication of the two new workbooks;
- Online forum goes 'live' in November 2016 with accompanying visibility actions.

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| Programme reference: | 2013 / 024-091 - Multi-beneficiary programme under the IPA-Transition Assistance and Institution Building Component for the year 2013- part DG NEAR |
| Project title: | Balkan Transitional Justice |
| EU contribution: | EUR 0.3 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans |
| Type of contract: | Grant contract with BIRN |
| Contract reference: | 2014 / 350-410 |
| Duration of activities: | 02/11/2014 – 01/11/2016 |
| Links: | http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/page/balkan-transitional-justice-home |
| Contact: | Karl Giacinti, karl.giacinti@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The purpose of the project is to contribute to reconciliation processes in the Western Balkans through professional and objective journalistic reporting on transitional justice issues, as well as to advance the state of media in the Western Balkans by securing continued support to investigative media production on transitional justice issues.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

- Online publishing of news articles, radio programme and cross-regional multi-media investigations on transitional justice issues and dissemination;
- Production of documentary film on human resettlement and promotion of the documentary film "The Unidentified";
- War crimes verdicts assessment for creation of online war crimes' verdicts map;
- Internship for students of journalism within BIRN offices;
- Awareness raising on transitional justice issues and the role of media in that process.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

- At least 400 news, analysis, interviews and opinions published on Balkan transitional Justice web site in English and local languages (Albanian, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian and Macedonian) covering war crimes trials and other transitional justice issues;
- At least 1,850 republications of BTJ articles in media outlets across the region;
- One radio episode of radio programme “Roads to justice” produced in local languages and broadcast by more than 100 radio stations across the Balkan region; The radio programme has been terminated;
- Documentary film on human resettlement in postproduction phase;
- Documentary film “The Unidentified” (which reveals who were the commanders responsible for some of the most brutal attacks of the Kosovo war) was screened in February at The Harriman Institute at Columbia University, New York. The film screening was also hosted by the US Congress Tom Lantos Commission for Human Rights - the key US Congress commission setting the US policy in area of human rights, and aims to promote, defend and advocate internationally recognized human rights norms in a nonpartisan manner, both within and outside of Congress. The documentary was also screened at universities and special venues in cooperation with NGOs in Serbia and Kosovo;
- In this reporting period the documentary film was screened at the following film festivals: ‘Sarajevo Sur-Saine Film Festival’ in Paris (March, 2016), ‘South East European Film Festival’ in Los Angeles (April, 2016) where it won the award for the best short documentary, at the ‘Beldocs film festival’ Belgrade (May, 2016) and at the ‘Tirana film festival’ in Tirana (June, 2016);
- The New York Review of Books included the documentary on a list of great films and books dealing with war crimes in former Yugoslavia and a DVD copy of the documentary has been filed at the Harvard University Library;
- BIRN BTJ reports were used by campaign groups Center for American Progress and Human Rights Watch to press US government to push Serbia to resolve the murder of three Kosovo Albanians, brothers Bytyqi, in Serbia in 1999;
- BIRN BTJ editor took part in drafting of the first media guidelines for reporting on transitional justice published by Oxford University. Publication Opportunities and Challenges of Media Collaboration in Transitional Justice, which was published this year, gathered around 20 experts from around the world, with BIRN being the only organization from the Balkans taking part in the process;
- Four students at the internship programme at the BIRN local offices;
- Special web focus page produced on Kosovo Special Court;
- On-line war crimes verdict map design finalised.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- Continuous promotion of the documentary film “The Unidentified” at film festivals and TV stations across the region;
- Premiere of the new documentary film on human resettlement - an exchange of populations between Serbia and Croatia during the war;
- Organisation of regional conference;

- Organisation of training on reporting on transitional justice issues for 20 journalists from the region;
- Publishing of an on-line war crimes verdicts map;
- Internships for journalism students at BIRN country offices;
- Lectures for students of journalism at the Universities;
- Creation and dissemination of project promotion and educational material.

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| Programme reference: | 2013 / 024-091 - Multi-beneficiary programme under the IPA-Transition Assistance and Institution Building Component for the year 2013- part DG NEAR |
| Project title: | Historija, Istorija, Povijest – Lessons for Today |
| EU contribution: | EUR 0.38 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans |
| Type of contract: | Grant contract with Anna Frank House |
| Contract reference: | 2014 / 351-243 |
| Duration of activities : | 07/11/2014 – 06/05/2017 |
| Contact: | Karl Giacinti, karl.giacinti@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The action aims to raise awareness and encourage discussion about the recent history in the Western Balkans region that has divided and generated conflict over the past century. By promoting critical thinking about historical events and their relevance for contemporary challenges, the Anne Frank House with its local partners seeks to generate dialogue about the common past, thus fostering reconciliation.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

- Peer guide training in Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, January 22-23, 2016;
- Exhibition “Anne Frank – History for Today” official launch in Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on January 27 2016, on the International Holocaust Commemoration Day, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Holocaust Museum of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;
- Teacher Training Seminar I, February 17 – 21, 2016 in Zagreb, Croatia,
- Memory Walk Training of Trainers, February 20 – 23, 2016 in Zagreb, Croatia
- Exhibition launch “Anne Frank – History for Today” in Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina, on March 17, 2016 in cooperation with Federal Ministry of Education and the Dutch and Germany embassies;
- Teacher Training Seminar II, March 16 – 20 in Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina;
- Exhibition launch “Anne Frank – History for Today” in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina in April 2016;
- Exhibition launch “Anne Frank – History for Today” on April 21, 2016 in Belgrade, Serbia;

- Teacher Training Seminar III, April 20 – 24, 2016 in Belgrade, Serbia;
- Exhibition launch “Anne Frank – History for Today” in Banja Luka, Bosnia-Herzegovina in May 2016;
- Launch of the Memory Walk discussion tour throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia – first workshops taking place in May 2016.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

- Translation and finalization of all educational materials produced during the HIP project, into the 5 local languages of the project;
- 24 university students and high school teachers trained to be Memory Walk trainers;
- 150+ teachers taking place in the HIP Teacher Training Seminars, and already beginning to introduce and implement HIP educational materials in their classrooms;
- 50+ students trained to be peer guides in the Anne Frank exhibition;
- Several thousand visitors, both guided and independent, visiting the exhibition in all the countries of the project (all the numbers of guided tours and independent visitors will be compiled in the final project report).

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Launching the HIP website, with all the downloadable materials online; teachers competition and website/materials promotion throughout this period; continued Memory Walk dissemination tour, with workshops taking place in all four project countries, in minimum 10 towns/cities in each country; work on compiling evaluation and final narrative report.

2.3 HUMAN RIGHTS AND MINORITY PROTECTION

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| Programme reference: | Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2011/022-964 |
| Project title: | Promoting Human rights and minority protection in South East Europe |
| EU contribution: | EUR 3.60 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans |
| Type of contract: | Contribution Agreement with the Council of Europe (CoE) |
| Contract reference: | CN 2011/277-251 |
| Duration of activities: | 29/11/2011 – 28/12/2016 |
| Contact : | Emma Ascitti, Emma.ASCIUTTI@ext.ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

To improve access to rights for minorities in line with European minority protection standards and in particular the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM) and the European Charter for Minority Languages (ECRML).

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY - JUNE 2016)

During the reporting period, the small grant scheme ended. The most successful municipalities received additional grants to further elaborate and promote the identified elements of good practice locally and in the region.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

- Small Grant Agreements for all 35 grant beneficiaries evaluated and concluded. 18 small grant projects performed beyond expectations set in the original action plans, 15 small grant projects managed to implement their activities in line with the planned activities and 2 small grant projects did not manage to implement all the foreseen activities.
- The Selection Committees* identified seven elements of replicable good practice that received additional funding to further develop and promote the identified good practice.
- Fourth Steering Committee meeting organised in Podgorica on 6 April 2016. The Steering Committee members approved the plan of activities for the forthcoming semester. The meeting was also used as a platform for the small grant award ceremony. Seven projects in municipalities that demonstrated the most inspirational replicable elements of good practice in the small grant scheme were awarded an additional grant worth €10 000 to further elaborate the good practice developed and to share their experiences with peers on beneficiary and regional level through organization of “Open day” events.
- The Publication with elements of good practice coming out of the Project’s small grant scheme will be shared with regional stakeholders in November 2016. Following an international bidding procedure, the Centre for Southeast European Studies of the University of Graz was given a contract to research, analyse and compile the Publication.
- The final survey of the Project’s impact on the grassroots level in progress. A team of national and international experts from the College of Europe started conducting the second part of the two targeted studies in the seven beneficiaries (Project Assessment and Awareness Assessment). The final research is focused on the impact of the small grants on the lives of national minorities living in 35 municipalities’ beneficiaries of the small grant scheme.
- The Action plan for the realisation of rights of national minorities in Serbia (part of Chapter 23 of pre-accession negotiations) was adopted on 3 March 2016. The working group was supported by the Project secretariat, international and national experts.

* The selection committees included Steering Committee members on beneficiary level, local consultants, Project secretariat and local EUD where applicable.

- A kick-off event to launch drafting of the Law on minorities in Albania was organized. Based on an official request from Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Albania (MFA), the Project support working group established by the MFA drafting the law on minorities in Albania. The project will support the process through provision of the expertise and technical support. The new Law is due to be submitted to Parliament in December 2016.
- A transversal team of civil servants from relevant government bodies in Montenegro established and their capacity to tackle issues, implement recommendations and coordinate action in field of national minority protection increased. Capacity building for representatives of institutions in Montenegro in charge of the preparation of the state Reports on the implementation of the Framework Convention for Protection of National Minorities and European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages organized.
- Visibility of minority protection and rights and field action significantly increased. Five double spread pages about the results of the small grant scheme in Serbia was published during the period April – June 2016 in “Nedeljnik” weekly. “Nedeljnik” is one of the most read weekly magazines in Serbia. A TV report showing the results of the small grant scheme in Bosnia and Herzegovina was finalised and shared with municipalities and relevant authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The TV report is available on-line and will be shown on national TV. A similar TV report is being prepared in Albania.
- A regional TV report that outlines the results of the Project in the region was filmed. As a result of an international Call for tenders, Dokukino (a regional human rights focused company) was contracted to produce the regional TV report. The TV report will be ready in October 2016.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- Under the programme, seven “Open day events” will be organized where the local governments will present their success stories to peer municipalities on the national and regional level;
- A set of recommendations provided by the beneficiaries of the small grant scheme in each beneficiary will be shared with the relevant authorities and key stakeholders on beneficiary level as a result of seven “Policy meetings” organized in all beneficiaries.
- As a part of the promotion of good practices and raising awareness and visibility of minority inclusion regional documentary will be produced. The film will be advertised on social media and broadcasted on public TV stations in the beneficiaries;
- Training on project management will be offered to the small grant coordinators in each of the 36 municipalities. The aim is to create a forum for the discussion of the project implementation, the obstacles faced, and how they were overcome;
- The Publication with decontextualised elements of case studies from pre-selected elements of good practice will be finalised in October 2016;
- The results of the Project’s baseline and final survey will be presented to the stakeholders in the Closing Regional Conference. The Closing Regional Conference of the Project is planned for 16-17 November 2016.

2.4 ROMA INTEGRATION

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| Programme reference: | Multi-country Action Programme 2014 |
| Project title: | Roma Integration 2020 |
| EU contribution: | EUR 0.8 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans and Turkey |
| Type of contract: | Grant Agreement with The Regional Cooperation Council |
| Contract reference: | CN 2014/369-226 |
| Duration of activities: | 01/01/2016 – 31/12/2018 |
| Contact: | Maria Esposito, maria.esposito@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The Roma Integration 2020 project contributes to reducing the socio-economic gap between the Roma and non-Roma population in the Western Balkans and Turkey and to strengthening the institutional obligations of governments to incorporate and deliver specific Roma integration goals in mainstream policy developments. In line with this, Roma Integration 2020 aims to assist national governments to integrate Roma specific policy measures into: (1) mainstream socio-economic policies and public service delivery; (2) national budget planning and service delivery processes.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

- The Roma Integration Action team was selected.
- The Action Team conducted country visits and met with Ministers responsible for Roma integration in each of the beneficiaries to introduce the project, objectives and upcoming activities.
- The project launching event was organised on 9 June 2016 in Brussels, with the participation of the Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations Mr Johannes Hahn, the Secretary General of RCC Mr Goran Svilanović, the founder of the Open Society Foundations Mr George Soros, as well as relevant Ministers from the region and civil society representatives.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

- The political commitment of the beneficiaries to achieving the objectives of the project has been affirmed at the high level launching event.
- The project gained significant visibility in the Western Balkan region and Turkey due to media presence at the high level launching event.
- The beneficiaries have appointed National Roma Contact Points, public officials who represent the beneficiaries within the project and ensure coordination, implementation and commitment to the public policies on Roma.
- The office of the Roma Integration 2020 Action Team, which is based in Belgrade, Serbia has been set up and registered.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- Launching the Roma Integration 2020 website in October 2016.
- Organizing Public Dialogue Forums in each of the beneficiaries in October and November 2016. These forums will serve for participatory drafting of Action Plans on Roma integration for 2017 with concrete budgetary allocations and monitoring indicators.
- Organizing the first Task Force meeting in October 2016. The Task Force serves for steering the project within the general political processes relevant for Roma integration in the region.
- Organizing the first regional workshop in December 2016. The workshop will serve for sharing best practices on relevant mainstream and Roma policies from the region.

2.5 REGIONAL HOUSING PROGRAMME

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| Programme reference: | Multi-beneficiary Programmes, IPA 2011/023-537, IPA 2012/024-133 and 2013/024-134 |
| Project title: | Regional Housing Programme (RHP) |
| EU contribution: | Contributions to the RHP Fund: EUR 121.250 million Implementation costs: EUR 28.0 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia |
| Type of contract: | Contribution Agreements with CEB, UNHCR |
| Contract reference: | CN 2012/297-405; CN 2013/314-991; CN 2012/307-562; CN 2013/325-468; CN 2013/325-470; CN 2015/369-230 |
| Duration of activities: | end dates: 22/04/2014 (CN 2012/297-405) 30/11/2017 (CN 2013/314-991; CN 2012/307-562; CN 2013/325-468 and CN 2013/325-470) 31/12/2018 (CN 2015/369-230) |
| Contact : | Emma Ascitti, Emma.ASCIUTTI@ext.ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The Regional Housing Programme (RHP) addresses in a regional framework the housing needs of the most vulnerable refugees and internally displaced persons from the armed conflict in the 1990s in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia. The RHP contributes to a 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 are based on voluntary return and reintegration, or local integration.

The programme is financed mainly through donor contributions by the international community. A multi-donor Trust Mechanism (the “RHP Fund”), managed by the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB), provides grants to Country Housing Projects (CHPs). UNHCR and OSCE are responsible for monitoring the beneficiary selection process and sustainability issues.

Until end-June 2016, donors pledged in total EUR 268.8 million to the RHP, out of which EUR 159.8 million have been committed to and EUR 120.3 million paid into the RHP Fund. Out of these, the European Commission disbursed EUR EUR 84.2 million. The latest EU contribution to the RHP Fund amounting to EUR 11.3 million was signed in December 2015.

Funds committed to the RHP Fund will be spent on reconstruction of destroyed and damaged houses, purchase of village houses, buying of flats or building of pre-fabricated houses. The European Commission has in addition contributed EUR 26.9 million for technical assistance and direct support to the Partner Countries.

One of RHP’s cornerstones is its regional nature: from exchanging information so that the most vulnerable beneficiaries could be selected to sharing best practices to speed up implementation, the RHP has strengthened neighbourly relations and enticed the Partner Countries to cooperate and build trust with each other. The countries themselves highly value the regional cooperation that has been developed thanks to RHP.

Another important aspect is the RHP’s contribution to empowering the municipalities involved in RHP implementation: several hundreds of municipalities throughout the four Partner Countries have an active role in RHP housing project implementation. Furthermore, the Partner Countries, as project implementers, have developed a strong ownership of the RHP.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

Until June 2016, the Assembly of Donors approved 19 sub-projects which aim to provide durable housing solutions for 7 265 beneficiary families. This equals to 27% of the originally estimated overall figure of beneficiaries in need. The total approved grant requests amounted to EUR 141.2 million. EUR 133.1 million had been contracted between the CEB and the Partner Countries and EUR 44.7 million disbursed in favour of the latter.

During the reporting period the implementation of the RHP picked-up speed with an increasing amount of tender dossiers launched and several new construction sites opened.

In addition to several promotional events at local level, the following major RHP-related events took place in the period January-June 2016, in the presence of international stakeholders:

- 04/03/2016: SRB3, SRB5 – signature of agreement with City of Belgrade to provide housing for 2 700 vulnerable refugee families in Belgrade, Serbia
- 23/03/2016: MNE2 – start of construction of houses in Konik Camp, Montenegro
- 05/04/2016: HR5 – start of construction of 21 apartments in Benkovac, Croatia
- 12/04/2016: BiH1 – first RHP beneficiary families move into new homes in BiH
- 20/06/2016: MNE1 – handover of keys to 62 families in Niksic; MNE3 – start of construction works of a home for elderly in Pljevlja, Montenegro

- 27/06/2016: SRB3 – signature of contracts with 69 beneficiaries in Belgrade for purchase of village houses
- 29/06/2016: BiH1 – handing out homes to beneficiaries under BiH1, BiH

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

- Cross border verification of applicants (wishing to return to BiH) by Croatia has been proceeding at an increased pace since Croatia hired additional experts for this purpose.
- By the end of May 2016, the number of housing solutions delivered in all 4 PCs reached 351 (149 building material packages, 149 flats, 30 pre-fabricated houses, 23 reconstructed houses).
- The construction works of multi-apartment buildings on-going on 6 sites (Knin, Glina and Benkovac in Croatia; Konik and Pljevlja in Montenegro; and Ovca in Serbia); delivery of building material packages, installation of pre-fabricated houses and reconstruction of houses on-going in all Partner Countries.
- A new building with 62 flats in Niksic, Montenegro was inaugurated in June 2016.
- Altogether 58 flats have been purchased throughout Croatia, 50 of which are allocated to beneficiaries, and a further 11 have been approved for purchase which is ongoing.
- Around 60 grant contracts have been signed with municipalities throughout Serbia, to implement RHP housing projects.
- At end-August 2016, the contracts signed by Partner Countries with contractors/service providers/suppliers amounted to around EUR 30 million. Costs incurred by the PCs amounted to EUR 10 million.
- To increase the RHP's visibility, communication activities were further intensified in the first half of 2016. Several documentary films and publications were prepared. A major regional meeting of the RHP Fund Assembly of Donors and the RHP Steering Committee was organised in Sarajevo on 28-29 June 2016. The promotional material is available at the RHP website (www.regionalhousingprogramme.org) and at the CEB RHP Secretariat. RHP films are also available at the RHP YouTube channel.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- In addition to the already delivered 351 housing units, the Partner Countries' objective is to deliver some 600 additional housing solutions in 2016.
- The cross-border verification of thousands of potential RHP beneficiaries throughout the four countries will be finalised, so as to confirm their eligibility and avoid overlapping with other forms of support. In Croatia alone over 8 000 administrative verifications should be settled, in addition to a large number of field verifications.
- Several visibility events are scheduled, such as the start of works of a multi-apartment building construction (235 apartments) in Ovča, Belgrade. This is currently the RHP's largest single construction project.
- A visibility event is also scheduled to launch the construction of 94 apartments in Berane, Montenegro.
- RHP visibility will continue to be enforced in the Partner Countries and beyond, e.g. through showing promotional films in local tv channels and other relevant fora. A photo exhibition is to be organised in the EU Info Centre of Belgrade in December 2016.
- Meetings in the second semester of 2016:

Regional Coordination Forum: 6 October 2016
Technical Committee: 26-27 October 2016
Assembly of Donors and Steering Committee: 1 December 2016.

2.5 MIGRATION

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|--------------------------------|--|
| Programme reference: | Multi-country Action Programme, IPA 2014/031-603.07 |
| Project title: | Regional Support to Protection-Sensitive Migration Management in the Western Balkans and Turkey, Component 1 (Frontex-led) |
| EU contribution: | EUR 5.5 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans and Turkey |
| Type of contract: | Grant agreement with FRONTEX and partners |
| Contract reference: | CN 2016/369697 |
| Duration of activities: | 01/01/2016 – 31/12/2018 |
| Contact : | Emma Ascitti, Emma.ASCIUTTI@ext.ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The action is implemented by Frontex, in cooperation with its project partners IOM, EASO and UNHCR. The aim is to support the target countries in developing a protection-sensitive response to mixed migration flows by strengthening their identification, registration and return mechanisms, aligning with EU policies and standards.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS (JANUARY-JUNE 2016)

The activities included internal and external consultations and meetings with project partners and the European Commission, a kick-off conference and a Regional Steering Committee meeting in Belgrade in March 2016, the setting up of the project implementation structure and desk research regarding the geopolitical context in the beneficiary countries and the needs for technical assistance with a special focus on mapping ongoing assistance projects in the region.

Six kick-off field visits to the Western Balkans took place in the period April - July 2016.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY-JUNE 2016)

A kick-off conference was held in Belgrade in early March 2016 with the aim of launching the project and explaining its rationale to all stakeholders. A list of common recommendations was issued and new activities proposed, such as kick-off field visits to each beneficiary.

Six kick-off field visits took place in the period April - July 2016 with the aim of obtaining a more comprehensive picture of the state of play regarding migration management and systems in place and tailor the interventions accordingly. The visits were organized with the

involvement of EU Delegations to the respective beneficiary countries as well as with the participation of the Civil Society Organisations.

The first meeting of the Regional Steering Committee took place in March 2016 in the aftermath of the kick-off conference.

A Project Advisory Group was established and the structure of National Steering Committees was agreed.

In order to avoid duplication and overlapping as well as to create synergies with other projects and institutions, a mapping of activities/projects implemented in the region was created.

National focal points were appointed by each beneficiary country in the Western Balkans.

A detailed Visual and Communications Strategy was elaborated.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

A first regional train-the-trainers courses organized for all the beneficiary countries in the area of detection of falsified documents, combatting trafficking in human beings, nationality assumption/screening and interviewing techniques.

The National Steering Committees are scheduled to take place in the second semester of 2016 as well as the meeting of the Advisory Group.

The activities related to enhancing the beneficiaries’ capacity for performing registration of mixed migration flows will kick off, starting with performing the inventory and field assessment in the field.

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Programme reference: | IPA Multi-beneficiary Programme 2014/031-603.08/MC/migration CN 2015/369-495 |
| Project title: | Regional support to Protection-sensitives migration management in the Western Balkans and Turkey component 2 (International Organization for Migration-IOM) |
| EU contribution: | EUR 2.5 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans |
| Type of contract: | Grant contract with IOM |
| Contract reference: | CN 2016/369495 |
| Duration of activities: | 23/12/2015 – 22/12/2018 |
| Contact : | Emma Ascitti, Emma.ASCIUTTI@ext.ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The overall objective of the action is to develop and operationalize a comprehensive migration management system in the seven IPA beneficiary countries, in line with EU

standards. The specific objectives aim to facilitate and strengthen some of the key areas of a migration management system, focusing on enhancing the exchange of non-personal information in the region, and contribute to establishment of assisted voluntary return mechanism in the beneficiary countries.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY-JUNE 2016)

- An overview of project activities in the field of sensitive migration management;
- Project goals and Project Partners presented to the beneficiaries;
- Beneficiary countries and other participants presented the state of play in their respective countries and gave feedback to the proposals made;
- Field visits to all beneficiary countries of the WB.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS (JANUARY-JUNE 2016)

- Series of Videoconferences between Frontex and Implementing Partners to define future actions as well as prepare for the kick-off meeting in Belgrade;
- Project Partners Coordination Meetings: 25 February at Frontex HQs in Warsaw, Poland; 4 May in Vienna, Austria and 8 June in Valetta, Malta;
- Kick-off Conference in Belgrade, Serbia;
- Regional Steering Committee meeting in Belgrade, Serbia;
- Kick-off field visits in all the Western Balkan countries;
- MARRI and AVRR Gap Analysis, June –September;
- Assisted voluntary returns

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- Implementation of an assessment on sharing of non-personal data (expected start end of September);
- Finalise gap analysis on assisted voluntary return framework (September) and organise regional validation workshop (mid-November);
- Develop standard operating procedures (by end of 2016);
- Organise national workshops for standard operating procedures (December 2016);
- Collate best practices on regional pool of interpreters (October 2016).

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Programme reference: | Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2015/031-60 |
| Project title: | European Union/Council of Europe Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey |
| EU contribution: | EUR 20 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans |
| Type of contract: | Grant agreement with |
| Contract reference: | CN 2016/374-543 |
| Duration of activities: | 24/05/2016-23/05/2019 |
| Contact : | Emma Asciutti, Emma.ASCIUTTI@ext.ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

To support country-tailored reform process in the areas of rule of law, democracy and human rights with the aim for Council of Europe South-East Europe (SEE) member states/IPA beneficiaries to comply with European standards.

The European Union/Council of Europe Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey (hereafter: the Horizontal Facility) focuses on three themes: 1) ensuring justice, 2) fighting corruption, economic crime and organised crime and 3) combating discrimination and protection the rights of vulnerable groups. It will follow a complementary two-fold approach, with technical co-operation to assist beneficiaries in achieving increased compliance with European standards and an Expertise Co-ordination Mechanism, which forsee the provision of Council of Europe legislative expertise and policy advice in response to requests from the beneficiaries.

ACTIVITIES (MAY-JUNE 2016)

- The inception phase started on 24 May 2016;
- A co-ordination hub has been established at the beginning of June in Belgrade: the Horizontal Facility co-ordinator and senior programme officer have been appointed. The co-ordination hub will be responsible for co-ordinating the overall implementation of the Horizontal Facility;
- In June, each beneficiary designated a Horizontal Facility Beneficiary Co-ordinator (hereafter: HFBC) to act as a focal point for the Council of Europe (as well as respective EU Delegations and DG NEAR) in the planning and implementation of the Horizontal Facility in the respective beneficiary;
- A first meeting of the HFBCs was held in Strasbourg on 15 and 16 June where implementation of the Horizontal Facility and the role of the HFBCs were discussed. The HFBCs had an opportunity to meet with the representatives of the relevant Council of Europe programmatic units/divisions and to learn more about the actions envisaged for the respective beneficiaries in the so-called TAPAs (Tri-Annual Plans of Action);
- On 15 June, representatives of DG NEAR and the Council of Europe presented the Horizontal Facility to the Permanent Representations of the respective Horizontal Facility

beneficiaries. It served as an opportunity for the ambassadors/permanent representations to learn more about the activities to be implemented under the Horizontal Facility;

- For 17 out of the 33 actions under the Horizontal Facility, inception visits were carried out to discuss and fine-tune the TAPAs (and the logframes/workplans) for the technical co-operation component with the authorities and the EU Delegations;
- The implementation of 4 out of 33 actions have started: actions on economic crime in Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro, as well as the action “Strengthening the protection of the rights of sentenced persons” in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
- The action “Strengthening the protection of the rights of sentenced persons” in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was officially launched by the Minister of Justice, the Head of the Political and Information Section of the EU Delegation and the Horizontal Facility Co-ordinator in Skopje on 29 June 2016.

OUTPUTS (MAY-JUNE 2016)

In the reporting period, given that the inception phase only started on 24 May 2016, there are no outputs to be reported yet.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- Completion of the inception phase and submission of the inception report on 21 October 2016;
- Continuation of inception visits to fine-tune TAPAs until mid-September 2016;
- Launch of the action “Human Rights Policing” in the the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia planned for 21 September;
- Start of further 19 actions planned during the forthcoming reporting period;
- Expertise Co-ordination Mechanism: legal opinions in the form of amicus curiae briefs to the Constitutional Court of respectively Albania (on restitution of property) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (on the method of election to the FBiH House of Peoples) will be adopted by the Venice Commission at its 108th Plenary Session on 14-15 October 2016;
- Communication and visibility: the Horizontal Facility website, Twitter and Facebook will be launched following the inception period.

CHAPTER 3: PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Support in the area of private sector development and investments aims to provide access to finance, 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). Private Sector Support Facilities established under the Crisis Response Package are also included.

3.1. WESTERN BALKAN ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION FACILITY (WB EDIF)

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Programme reference : | Multi-beneficiary Programmes for the years 2011-2013, IPA 2011/021-964; IPA 2012/022-966 and IPA 2013/024-091 |
| Project title: | Western Balkan Enterprise Development and Innovation Facility (WB EDIF) |
| EU contribution: | EUR 64.6 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans |
| Type of contract: | Contribution agreements (CA) with OECD (TA) CA with European Investment Fund (EIF) (coordination) CA with EIF (Guarantee Facility) Delegation agreement with EIF (ENEF) Delegation agreement with EIF (ENIF) |
| Contract reference: | CA with World Bank (Support to TA) CN 2012/295-825; CN 2012/306-154; CN 2012/306-653; CN 2013/319-472; CN 2012/306-667; CN 2013/333-444; CN 2013/318-776; CN 2013/331-504 ; CN 2014/334-654 |
| Duration of activities: | 05/12/2012 – 30/11/2025 |
| Links: | www.wbedif.eu |
| Contact : | Eleni, Vossou, eleni.vossou@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

EDIF promotes emergence and growth of innovative and high-potential companies and creation of a regional Venture Capital market.

Coordinated by EIF, EDIF is 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, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), Deutsche Investitions und Entwicklungsgesellschaft, OECD, World Bank and others participate in order to streamline the Western Balkan private sector development efforts, providing for:

- early-to-development stages equity financing in innovative SMEs through the Enterprise Innovation Fund (ENIF);
- development and expansion capital to established high-potential SMEs through the Enterprise Expansion Fund (ENEF) to be implemented alongside the EBRD Local Enterprise Facility;
- improved access to bank lending and lower costs of borrowing by providing SME loan portfolio guarantees to financial intermediaries under a regional Guarantee Facility (GF);
- support to beneficiary governments in implementation of priority reforms to create favourable regulatory environment for innovative and high-potential SMEs, as well as direct support to SMEs through the Support Services Facility.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

Platform level

EIF ensured coordination and facilitated the EDIF governance, including organisation of the Platform Advisory Group (PAG) meeting on 22 June in Vienna (hosted by the World Bank). Due to the lack of ties with Norway, as well as concerns over travel costs for the PAG members who remain as yet uncovered under WBEDIF, this meeting was not held back to back with the Steering Committee of the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) which took place in Oslo. One EDIF Working Group meeting was organised prior to the PAG on 23 May 2016.

In terms of Communication efforts the EIF continued to work on the website improvements in collaboration with the EIB (as Support Services coordinator) in order to:

- a. Launch the WB EDIF interactive map
- b. Launch the PAG members log-in area
- c. Launch the form to be used for PAG registrations as well as for events registrations (this was used for the Vienna PAG registrations without any issues).

An overview of these communication developments was presented to the PAG members at the meeting in June.

EIF also continued to update the WB EDIF presentation – available on the www.wbedif.eu website and distributed the WBEDIF leaflet to PAG partners for various events. Furthermore, the EIF participated at various conferences, often together with the EC, for the general promotion of WBEDIF, including EU Access to Finance days, held in Belgrade in March and in Tirana in April. EIF also organised a press event in Podgorica in April to mark Montenegro's investment in ENIF.

As Platform Coordinator, EIF also introduced a new more 'informal' setting to the PAG meetings, to facilitate more lively exchange among the members and spend less time hearing presentations. To this end EIF also requested the PAG project managers to produce short summaries of activities during the last 6 months, for the PAG members to read before the meeting and therefore enable more time for discussion. EIF also created a discussion forum layout, however due to time restrictions this will rather take the form of a PAG survey to be launched in the autumn of 2016.

ENIF

EIF, as part of its responsibilities as Platform Coordinator has been charged with the selection of the private sector Fund Manager for ENIF. South Central Ventures was selected in 2014 following due diligence (where also EBRD and KfW participated) and with the PAG's approval as per the Terms of Reference.

Following a first closing in September 2015, ENIF held its second closing on 8 April 2016, thereby reaching its goal target of EUR 40m fund size. A summary of the investors is presented below.

| Investor | Final Commitment in MEUR |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| EC through EIF | 14.1 |
| EIF | 5 |
| EBRD | 5 |
| Beneficiaries | 2.51 |
| Private investors | 5.3 |
| KfW | 8 |
| Total | 39.91 |

In parallel the Fund Manager, South Central Ventures, continued to source deals and market the fund, in particular by:

- Enabling reinforcement of the local offices and harmonisation of workflow
- Building up a deal pipeline, with the first ENIF investment taking place in February 2016 and several more close to execution as at June. Over 200 proposals have been screened in the target countries
- Active promotion of ENIF in the region, often in collaboration with local governments and agencies as well as various organisations dealing directly with start-ups

In addition, and in order to mark the important investment from Montenegro, the EIF co-hosted press conferences in Podgorica, together with the local PAG members and investing entities; whereby a good level of interest from the press was generated.

ENEF

Following discussion at IC and Board level to explore solutions for enhancing the investment pace of ENEF it was decided to update the fund documentation in order to allow for senior debt operations (under certain conditions).

The main focus will remain on equity and quasi equity deals as per the mandate of the fund but, on a case-by-case basis; the IC will analyse the merit of allowing a senior debt deal as a 'gateway' to a subsequent equity deal and in order to establish a relationship and trust with the entity. ENEF senior debt will not compete in terms of pricing with local commercial banks

(i.e. a premium will be set for establishing a relationship with an institutional fund as a first step of a closer financing relationship and follow on investment).

This proposal is expected to bring a greater deal of flexibility to the Fund so as to allow ENEF to deal with a challenging regional ecosystem, not conducive for the full development of a modern PE industry.

In terms of portfolio, ENEF has disbursed the first tranches of the first two investments and has three more pipeline deals at due diligence stage and expected for approval in Q3 2016.

Further marketing activities have been carried out across all countries with 460+ companies visited in various sectors of operation. Higher potential industries remain food processing, retail, automotive supply chain producers and trade, niche segments in IT & Telecom, export-oriented manufacturing.

The ENEF Board of Directors meeting took place on 6 March to evaluate the status of prospective investments, receive an overview and reporting obligations from the risk manager and corporate secretary, as well as review the financial position of the fund.

ENEF held one Annual General Shareholders meeting on 6 June in order to approve the issue document amendments relating to the senior debt option as detailed above, as well as to approve various other administrative matters.

Guarantee Facility

The 6 existing agreements with Financial Intermediaries which were signed under the first budgetary allocation to the Guarantee Facility have reached total or near total absorption in the market, with the exception of the deal in Croatia which was signed later than the others and therefore is still underway. EIF has seen the first guarantee calls under this instrument which is in line with expectations under this product.

The Delegation Agreement for the Guarantee Facility II was signed on December 23, 2015. During the first months of 2016 the final Call for Expression of Interest was finalised and the term sheet approved by EC - and EIF launched the related Call on its website in March – available via http://www.eif.org/what_we_do/resources/wbedif/guarantee_facility.htm

This Call documentation also notably included Youth Employment eligibility criteria, also in order to gather market feedback for a potential joint EIF-EIB action in the region (as agreed with EC).

As at June 2016 one application has been received and is under evaluation by the EIF, more applications are expected during the remainder of the summer months.

Support Services

The EIB continues with the Support Services Pillar management, according to the agreed actions: management and coordination – refinement of needs and gap assessment – delivery of short term actions on the Western Balkan EDIF programme.

The Assessment of the SME financing gap in the Western Balkans has been finalised, and the results were presented at the Vienna PAG meeting in June. The findings will also provide some country-related input for the future ex-Ante study on Financial instruments requested by the Serbian government.

At the request of the Serbian government a Capacity building workshop on EU-type financial instruments was held in June in Belgrade, with best practice experiences presented by EIB and EIF officials, as well as guests from the implementing countries with hands-on knowledge to share.

A selection process was launched for a consultant to conduct the Service Programme on Intangible Assets/Intellectual Property (IP) to compare local specifics in the area of IP protection and commercialisation, leading to an evaluation of monetisation potential for IP in the region. However, the tender call did not attract sufficient interest, so the Service Programme was simplified and amended for relaunch at a later date this year.

OECD: SME Policy Index & Triple Helix

OECD supports two projects under the WB EDIF umbrella, the first being Triple Helix aimed predominantly at the pre-seed and seed stages of SME growth, and the second dedicated to monitoring of policy reforms across the region.

The OECD launched two Triple Helix competitions, in Albania and Kosovo, in cooperation with the Albanian Investment Development Agency (AIDA) and Kosovo Investment and Enterprise Support Agency (KIESA). Following capacity building provided to early applicants, 10 applications involving 29 partners were received. Winners were announced after evaluations in each country, covering activities from mobile telephone apps to organic fertilizers and 3D printing. The programme in Croatia was aimed at Social innovation (thus expanding the concept to Quadruple Helix), with the winners announced in March ranging from a wool-recycling programme to a crowdfunding platform. OECD also published a policy handbook entitled "Social Innovation Policy Framework for Croatia".

EU Small Business Act (SBA) monitoring applied SME Policy Index with the purpose of improving SME policies across the region and identifying policy priorities. Key findings concerning SBA scores for the regional economies were published in the Western Balkan and Turkey 2016 SME Policy Index, officially presented in April 2016 in Paris. Other findings concerning policies in the Western Balkan region were made available in the OECD publication Competitiveness in South East Europe 2016.

EBRD: Advice for Small Businesses / Small Business Support (SBS)

This programme, ongoing under the SBS name for many years, received EDIF funding in December 2015. In 2016 there are 109 ongoing projects, of which 9 financed from EDIF funds, with projects in Bosnia and Albania receiving funding from the respective national IPA components.

The SBS/Advice for Small Businesses continues to coordinate with other components of the WB EDIF, cooperating in joint company visits and marketing events with the ENIF and ENEF pillars, comprising various ongoing programmes like the Women in Business programme.

World Bank: Venture Capital and Investment Readiness

The Investment Readiness programme was scaled up to reach over 300 companies throughout the region, all receiving assistance through a University of Texas Austin online programme, and participating in a business pitch competition entitled "Pioneers of the

Balkans". The Pioneers of the Balkans event in Zagreb in 2015 gave 100 regional SMEs the chance to pitch their business plans to investors. An initial assessment of the activity was presented at the Vienna PAG meeting in June, with further outcome analysis to follow.

The VC ecosystem assessment continues in Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia where the analytical frameworks were still under discussion with the respective governments.

World Bank : EU REPARIS

The EU-REPARIS is aimed primarily at strengthening financial reporting capacity within the region and will be implemented over 3 years with a budget of EUR 3,6 million. During 2015 the World Bank developed relevant methodology, established a web-site and produced a number of related publications. The activities in 2016 culminated in the Ministerial conference held on April 27 in Vienna, around the theme of Financial Reporting as a Catalyst for Growth. The conference was attended by four Ministers of finance and a total of 240 participants, followed by related events spreading over three days.

REPARIS is also operating a "Train the trainers" programme and another programme dedicated to bank supervisors. A tool is under development to provide better cooperation between auditors and bank supervisors. Mr. Henry Fortin has been replaced by Mr. Jerry Decker as CFRR Head.

OUTPUTS

Platform level

With the eight PAG meetings held since December 2012 (and relating Working Group meetings in preparation for these), as well as various communications activities, EDIF governance arrangements are being well consolidated. Enough experience has also been gathered to draw lessons for the future operations and streamlining of EDIF which shall be taken on board for the extension of the contract under FAFA.

ENIF

ENIF second closing at EUR 39.9 million was held on 8 April 2015. The first ENIF deal was signed in February 2016, with more deals at advanced stages in the pipeline and expected to be signed shortly.

ENEF

Further operations are at advanced stages of assessment and expected to be signed in early 2016. The new conditions for senior debt transactions are expected to also increase the pace of investment.

Guarantee Facility

Implementation is almost complete with six banks collectively standing at 83% utilisation and the first guarantee Calls being received. Full official figures to be provided in the SA reporting from EIF at end September 2016

Support Services

The Assessment of the SME financing gap in the Western Balkans was finalised, and the results were presented at the Vienna PAG meeting in June. The first Capacity Building Workshop on Financial Instruments was held in Belgrade in June. The target audience consisted of government officials and other stakeholders expected to be involved in implementing the first Financial Instruments in Serbia. The Support Services Working Party discussed new proposals for targeted TA measures presented by the EIB. The Research and Development Cooperation Programme, a grant scheme fostering cooperation between innovative SMEs and public sector research institutions, was presented to the PAG, but due to overlap with similar programmes funded by national IPA components was put on hold. The EIB also presented a proposal for a Feasibility Study for a Regional Centre of Excellence (CoE) as a mapping exercise on available innovation potential in the public sector and its potential for commercialisation, serving as a vehicle for developing an eco-system of innovative SMEs. This TA received approval and is scheduled to commence in late 2016.

The OECD supported innovative companies through its Triple Helix programme in Croatia, Albania and Kosovo, with final competitions held in February and March. The SME Policy Index Western Balkans and Turkey was published and presented in April 2016. This was followed by a series of in-country dissemination events.

The EBRD continued its well-established Advice for Small Businesses (SBS) programme providing services to 186 SMEs in the region through its network of local agents, with available funding in the amount of EUR 9 million (over 3 years) through the EDIF platform, and national IPA funding in Albania, Montenegro and Serbia. The advice provided directly to enterprises was complemented with trainings for local consultants.

The World Bank's VC Ecosystem assessment is underway and in different phases of implementation according to the specifics of each country. The Investment Readiness programme screened, evaluated and mentored over 300 SMEs from the region, and following the competition final an Impact Assessment analysis was started. The REPARIS programme organised a Ministerial Conference in Vienna in April, followed by in-country implementation support activities throughout the Western Balkan region. Other activities, such as Train-the-Trainers workshops and virtual seminars were implemented, and a Pilot Project on SME Reporting was launched.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Platform level

The next PAG meeting is indicatively scheduled for 14 December 2016 in London with WB EDIF and WBIF secretariats coordinating on logistics together with EBRD. A PAG Working Group meeting is expected to take place approximately 5 weeks prior in conjunction with the Support Services Working Party (SUPWP). The Platform Coordinator PAG annual report H1 2016 will also be prepared for this meeting.

EIF's work as Platform Coordinator during the 2nd half of 2016 will focus on the extension of the Platform Contribution Agreement (coming to expiration in December 2016) notably in order to allow for the inclusion of a travel budget for the WB beneficiaries.

Furthermore the PAG survey shall be launched in the autumn in order to gather information from the members to be presented in December.

EIF will also continue to work on communications efforts, in the first development phases of the promotional video and a 2017 WBEDIF event.

ENIF

The pace of investments is expected to continue and work will focus on bringing the remaining investors into the fund, as well as further promotional activities.

ENEF

Following the fine-tuning of the fund, further investments are expected to come online by year end.

Guarantee Facility

Applications will continue to be received over the course of the summer and the first agreements can be signed

Support Services

The first Steering committee for the ex-Ante Study on Financial Instruments will be held in Belgrade, establishing governance of the project and approving initial activities related to data gathering from a statistically relevant sample of SMEs. The EIB Bank Lending Survey will continue, updated every 6 months by the EIB Economics Department. A second Capacity Building Workshop is scheduled in Serbia in late November/early December, in conjunction with availability of findings from the ongoing ex-Ante study on Financial instruments. The Intangible Assets/Intellectual Property service is to be re-launched with a somewhat reduced scope, in order to attract qualified tenderers. The newly approved Technical Assistance project, Feasibility Study for a Regional Centre of Excellence, will be implemented following the EIB tendering procedure to select the most qualified consultant.

OECD is planning in-country dissemination events throughout the region to present findings of their publications.

The EBRD will continue implementing the Advice for Small Businesses under EDIF, deploying regional and national IPA funding.

The VC Ecosystem programme shall continue in close cooperation with the participating countries. The World Bank expects to deliver Impact Evaluation of the Investment Readiness programme by end of 2016. The REPARIS programme will continue implementation aiming to increase capacity of trainers to deliver relevant local training programmes. The development of a policy action tool will enable a stronger relationship between external auditors and bank supervisors.

3.2 EUROPEAN FUND FOR SOUTHEAST EUROPE (EFSE)

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|--------------------------------|--|
| Programme reference: | CARDS 2006/018-264 and Multi-beneficiary Programme IPA 2007/019-344, IPA 2008/020-300, IPA 2009/021-373 and IPA 2013/024-091 |
| Project title: | European Fund for Southeast Europe (EFSE) |
| EU contribution: | EUR 83.9 million |
| Beneficiary region: | 14 countries including Western Balkans and Turkey |
| Type of contract: | Contribution agreements with the European Investment Fund (EIF) |
| Contract reference: | CN 2006/124-240; CN 2008/154-338, CN 2009/201-622, CN 2009/222-012, CN 2011/268-296 |
| Duration of activities: | 04/08/2006 – 23/10/2017 |
| Links: | http://www.efse.lu/ |
| Contact : | Eleni Vossou, eleni.vossou@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

EFSE extends loans to selected financial institutions in the region of Southeast Europe (at present 47 in the IPA Region), including the European Eastern Neighbourhood Region, for on-lending to micro and small enterprises and low-income private households with limited access to financial services. EFSE's partner lending institutions include commercial banks, microfinance banks, microcredit organisations and non-bank financial institutions.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

By 31 December 2015, the outstanding investment portfolio in the EFSE amounted to EUR 944.1 million, thereof EUR 591.0 million in the Western Balkans and Turkey*. During H1 2016, EFSE signed 13 investments totalling EUR 83.5 million, of which EUR 39.5 million with 6 Partner Lending Institutions (PLIs) were in the Western Balkans and Turkey. This brings the total number of PLIs with active investments to 74 and an outstanding investment portfolio by 30 June 2016 of EUR 898.2 million – EUR 535.8 million in the Western Balkans and Turkey.

In terms of the sub-loan portfolio, by 30 June 2016, the outstanding sub-loan portfolio amounted to EUR 890.9 million, including EUR 511.5 million in the Western Balkans and Turkey. This translates into an on-lending rate of 99% for the total Fund and 95% for the Western Balkans and Turkey by 30 June 2016.

On the TA side, EFSE had 53 ongoing projects in the Western Balkan region and Turkey with a total volume of EUR 2.9 million. For example, in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), the EFSE Development Facility is currently supporting an MFI in improving the financial needs

* Includes Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey.

assessment of farmers by increasing loan officers’ knowledge and familiarity with the Institution’s new agricultural products and the agricultural sector overall. In addition, the project aims to improve the institutions’ management skills in agricultural lending in order to cope with the specific characteristics of agricultural lending as well as current and future developments in the agricultural sector in BiH. In Kosovo for example, the EFSE DF supports a Bank in enhancing its risk management practices in general and improving existing lending techniques in line with the Bank’s strategy to have a sound and sustainable growth over the coming years.

Following the successful raising of IFI and private investor funding during 2015, the Fund has been well funded in H1 2016, including 22% Notes from private investors as of 30 June 2016. This was also enabled by the Fund’s strong performance also in the Western Balkan region and Turkey. Overall, the Fund's performance remains very solid with continuously low impairment levels, very good financial performance, and continued leveraging the Fund's C Shares.

OUTPUTS

| EFSE investment portfolio figures as at end Q2 2016* | |
|---|---|
| 1. Total Invested Portfolio (Q2 2016 figures) | EUR 898.2 million |
| 2. Number of current Partner Lending Institutions (Q2 2016 figures) | 74 |
| 4. Type of Partner Lending Institution (Q2 2016 figures) | 70% Commercial Banks, 15% Micro-finance Institutions, 15% Non-Bank Financial Institutions |
| EFSE sub-loan figures as at end Q2 2016* | |
| 5. Active End Borrowers (Q2 2016 figures) | 162,772 |
| 6. Reached End Borrowers since inception (Q2 2016 figures) | 792,525 |
| 7. Average sub-loan outstanding (Q2 2016 figures) | EUR 5,473 |
| 8. Disbursed sub-loans since inception (Q2 2016 figures) | EUR 5.4 billion |

* Figures shown are aggregate for both, the region of Southeast Europe and the European Eastern Neighbourhood Region.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Given the failed coup attempt in Turkey and its yet unclear mid-term political and economic consequences, an intensive monitoring regime for the Fund’s investments in Turkey is in place. Up to now, the Fund’s investments in Turkey are all performing according to schedule. Against the background of those turbulences and the overall high degree of volatility in the operating environment, including the continued economic stagnation and low-price

environment in Southeast European countries, significant investment management efforts will be required for reaching the Fund’s portfolio goals for 2016.

Moreover, the DF will organize together with the Serbian Banking Association a workshop for bankers on Basel III and Asset & Liability Management Training. This training has been already implemented with Armenian bankers and received very positive feedback. In September, the EFSE DF will launch a Fintech competition benefiting EFSE partner countries (www.fincluders.com). The contest seeks entrepreneurs who can contribute to improved outreach, cost effectiveness, transparency and the delivery speed of financial services in conjunction with strongly advancing EFSE’s mission of promoting responsible financial sector development in partner countries and ensuring sustainable access to finance for MSEs and low-income households. At the end of November, the EFSE DF will organize a final event in Berlin where three final winners will be selected. Beside the final event, the EFSE DF will also organize mentorship sessions for the participants.

3.3 CRISIS RESPONSE PACKAGE

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Programme reference: | Multi-beneficiary programme, IPA 2009/021-373 |
| Project title: | Private Sector Support Facility for Turkey - Crisis Response Package |
| EU contribution: | EUR 22.5 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Turkey |
| Type of contract: | Contribution agreement with EBRD |
| Contract reference: | CN 2009/228-868 |
| Duration of activities: | 18/12/2009 – 30/11/2021 |
| Links: | http://www.turseff.org ; http://www.midseff.com ; http://www.msmeturkey.com |
| Contact : | Carlo Coppola, carlo.coppola@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The EU/EBRD programme "Turkey Private Sector Support Facility" (PSSF) assists economic actors in Turkey through loans, grants and technical assistance (TA) in increasing their competitiveness in products and services to face the challenges of the economic and financial crisis in the short and long term. To this end, it provides necessary financial and human resources as well as technical skills.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY - JUNE 2016)

MSME Finance Window - TARDES, the agri-scoring tool (previously CAP, later re-named to TARDES) is being used extensively in agricultural loan evaluation process by seven user banks: Isbank, Akbank, Fibabanka, Bank Asya, ABank, Garanti Bank and Kuveyt Turk Participation Bank. Three partner banks – Yapi Kredi Bank, Isbank and Vakifbank – established their dedicated agri-lending teams and sound agricultural lending processes. In

addition, after a series of negotiations between Yapı Kredi, the Project Consultant and KKB, Yapı Kredi Bank decided to be integrated into TARDES and a pilot testing process started with Finansbank in May 2016 to compare TARDES with the bank's existing loan system.

As of end June 2016, 24 provinces had been visited and the total number of TARDES tech-cards reached 4,028 including tech-cards for animal husbandry with **819** of these updated during the reporting period. The total number of agricultural products in TARDES stood at 162. A market survey exercise was initiated in May 2016 to better understand the needs and expectations of Turkish farmers. During the reporting period, **277 surveys** had been collected from 17 different provinces of Turkey. The latest edition of Agricultural Sector Report was developed and disseminated to the project's partner banks.

A one-day **TARDES seminar** was organised with the participation of representatives from 13 financial institutions including both TARDES-user and non-user-banks on May 30, 2016.

Energy Efficiency Window - The first phase of TurSEFF was successfully finalised in early 2013, having disbursed EUR 200 million to finance 370 sustainable energy measures in Turkey through 269 sub-loans. The sub-loans under TurSEFF are currently being verified. Under MidSEFF, five new projects were requested in the first half of 2016: three wind power, one solar plant and one hydro plant.

Small Business Support (SBS) - Since the inception of the Programme, 18 EGP projects were started under EU PSSF for Turkey. Out of these, 13 projects were completed, 1 project is ongoing and 4 projects were cancelled (due to lack of management commitment or financial difficulties). The total number of Business Advisory Services (BAS) projects implemented is 166 (1 cancelled), of which 1 is ongoing, the rest have been completed and have undergone one year after completion evaluation. In order to increase demand for local consultancy services, improve their quality and consolidate the industry, as well as to disseminate success stories and best practices, in total fourteen market development activities and one sector development activity were undertaken.

OUTPUTS(JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

MSME Finance Window - TARDES tool is increasing its penetration in the sector. Between October 2014 and June 2016, 137,403 agricultural loan applications of seven user banks had been evaluated through TARDES and TRY 2.795 million (EUR 893 million) had been approved. As of end June 2016, a total of 2,602 bank staff received trainings in study tour and classroom trainings with 183 bank staff receiving on-the-job trainings on top of classroom training sessions. On average, 93.8% of training participants evaluated the training programmes as "good" or "excellent" proving the high quality and relevance of training programmes.

Energy Efficiency Window - MidSEFF funds are now effectively fully allocated to PFIs. The preparation and financing of sub-projects continues.

SBS - Out of the 165 BAS projects that have already been evaluated, 92% have been rated as successful or highly successful. In addition, 87% of enterprises increased their turnover with a median increase of 20%, 65% of enterprises increased their productivity, with a median increase of 20%. 65% of BAS assisted enterprises report an increase in labour force, and BAS interventions contributed to the creation of over 1356 (net) new jobs. Furthermore, 16 % of BAS-assisted enterprises received external investments within one year after completion of

activities, for a total of Euro 17.6 million. Lastly, BAS interventions further contributed to raising demand for external advice. 97% would consider using a local consultant again, whereas 38% of beneficiary enterprises have in fact already engaged another consultant within one year after completion of the BAS project. Since the beginning of the action, 5 EGP Projects have been evaluated under the Enterprise Growth Programme. Based on their impact one year after completion, 100% of the projects have been rated successful or highly successful. All of the projects evaluated operate in Manufacturing Industry. 60% of the projects reported to receive external financing in their year-after evaluation. 40 % of the evaluated projects reported to introduce new business tools. 40 % of evaluated enterprises reported to receive on-site training workshops organised over the course of the projects..

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

MSME Finance Window – TC interventions will mainly focus on assisting KKB in marketing and promoting the activities of TARDES as well as on ensuring financial stability. Follow up and close co-operation with interested and potential user banks will be actively pursued. The agri-scoring tool will be updated continuously and the market research on small farmers and agricultural producers will be finalised and results disseminated. New modules are being developed to provide user-banks with wider platform for agricultural loan evaluation.

Marketing and visibility – An international agricultural conference will be organised in close cooperation with Isbank and KKB. The conference will bring together Turkish and foreign commercial banks, program stakeholders, agricultural organizations, related governmental authorities and other key players in the sector. In addition, a TV show on a national TV channel (e.g. Bloomberg HT) will be organised, with the participation of Jean Patrick Marquet, EBRD Country Director for Turkey and Kasım Akdeniz, KKB General Manager, to discuss interventions and cooperation between the programme donors and KKB in support of the Turkish agriculture sector. Donor visibility will be ensured for both events. An agricultural bulletin will be prepared for a national newspaper summarising activities of programme donors, partner banks and KKB. The bulletin will have detailed information on TARDES and programme donors. An impact study will be conducted and beneficiary client visits will be organised to develop success stories in the last quarter of the TC project. Marketing and visibility measures will be further ensured through semi-annual newsletters, brochures and the project website.

Energy Efficiency Window will continue to encourage the development of MidSEFF sub-projects from non-mainstream renewable technologies. The MidSEFF Project Consultant will work on developing projects with the aim of allocating all MidSEFF funds. It will also continue to monitor the implementation of active MidSEFF projects. The final verifications of the TurSEFF sub-loan portfolio are expected to be completed in 2016.

The next phase of MidSEFF has started implementation with a project consultant contracted and two PFI transactions signed with another two in the pipeline. TurSEFF III is planned to be partly funded from the PSSF's Energy Efficiency Window and include projects in the municipal sector and resource efficiency investments. The Facility is still under preparation but is expected to begin implementation by the end of the year. TurSEFF III will also incorporate a pilot geographical extension to the northern part of Cyprus, thanks to the funding provided by the EU under the "SME competitiveness integrated finance facility in the Turkish Cypriot community" programme.

EBRD intends to submit an official request for budget reallocation from MSME Window to EE to provide additional TA to the extension of TurSEFF.

SBS – No further BAS projects are planned under the Facility. A re-allocation of funds in the amount of EUR 200,000 from the MSME Finance Window will be proposed to implement additional EGP projects. A training on Marketing and Selling Consulting Services (Grow Your Consultancy Business Trainings) will be delivered to local consultants.

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Programme reference: | Multi-beneficiary programme, IPA 2009/021-373 |
| Project title: | SME Recovery Support Loan for Turkey – Crisis Response Package |
| EU contribution: | EUR 30.0 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Turkey |
| Type of contract: | Contribution Agreement with EIB |
| Contract reference: | CN2009/228-929 |
| Duration of activities: | 22/12/2009 -22/12/2016 |
| Links: | http://www.eib.org/projects/pipeline/2009/20090580.htm http://www.eib.org/projects/press/2010/2010-131-eib-provides-eur-150-million-innovative-recovery-support-loan-to-smes-in-turkey.htm |
| Contact : | Carlo Coppola, carlo.coppola@ec.europa.eu |

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 (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

The SME Recovery Support Loan is combined with an EIB loan for SMEs (together, the Facility) and fully disbursed to the two selected financial intermediaries since April 2011.

- 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.
- 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 EUR 0.8 million.

Main activities in the period January-June 2016:

- As scheduled, the EU contribution was fully repaid by the intermediaries in Turkish Lira (TRY) as at the end of April 2016.
- A Result-Oriented Monitoring mission took place in the Kaiseri province in May 2016; two SME clients from Halkbank as well as the Halkbank local branch office were visited. Both EIB final beneficiaries expressed their satisfaction with the Facility and demonstrated very good awareness of the EU funding component and impact of the

Facility. When asked about their interest in future similar programmes, the clients and Halkbank favoured working capital loans rather than for new investments, following the crisis of oil countries (export of goods) and the economic contraction of the local market (domestic sales are paid by instalments in 18-24 months thus creating a lead time between incurred costs and revenues inflow). Interest has been expressed for future similar programmes in Turkey and long (up to five years) maturity.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

The impact of the Facility on employment is substantial, with an estimated total number of more than 4,000 jobs created. The Facility was very well received by the SMEs that found it extremely convenient (affordable interest rate); it was disbursed in a record time.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Current Facility

As the Facility is fully disbursed and fully allocated since the end of H1 2012, the financial intermediaries now only report to the EIB on payment defaults, which are expected to remain at a low level (below 1%).

The EIB loan and the EU contribution were fully repaid by the end of April 2016. Because of the depreciation of the TRY during the implementation of the Facility, the amount of the EU contribution available for a second round is around 62 million Turkey (18-20 million EUR at today's exchange rate).

Second round

The SME Recovery Support Loan contribution agreement is due to expire on 31 December 2016. However, following the approval from the 2015 steering committee and the full repayment of the EU contribution in April 2016, the EIB is working on a second round. It is foreseen to maintain the original structure of the Facility: interest free loan provided by the EU contribution combined with an EIB loan for SMEs.

Next steps in H2 2016 include i) defining more in detail a term sheet; ii) testing it with the financial intermediaries who could potentially participate in the second round; iii) reporting back the findings to the EC; iv) extending and adapting the current contribution agreement; and v) approving the new EIB loan(s) (envisaged in H1 2017).

Having in mind the EC preference for some regional concentration, and in order to achieve efficiency gains and possible synergies of EU funding available for South-Eastern Turkey, the EIB is investigating the possibility to combine/extend the market assessment and testing for GAGF-Resilience (portfolio guarantee instrument in favour of regions most affected by the Syrian influx, coordinated by the EIF, expected delivery: mid-October) together with the market appetite and testing of the SME Recovery Support Loan second round.

3.4 COMPETITIVENESS

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|--------------------------------|--|
| Programme reference : | Multi-beneficiary Programme IPA 2013/024-091 |
| Project title: | The Next Generation Competitiveness Initiative (NGCI), |
| EU contribution: | EUR 4.9 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans |
| Type of contract: | Direct Grant to the OECD |
| Contract reference: | CN 2013/316-772 |
| Duration of activities: | 22/04/2013 – 31/03/2016 |
| Links: | http://www.oecd.org/investmentcompact |
| Contact : | Gabriela Negut, gabriela.negut@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The aim of the Next Generation Competitiveness Initiative (NGCI) was to improve the competitiveness of the Western Balkans economies by addressing structural economic challenges. The programme had three main components: the Competitiveness Outlook (CO) which monitored policies that affect competitiveness across 15 different areas and provided recommendations going forward, the Sector Component seeking to foster the competitiveness in two key economic sectors for the SEE region (food and beverage processing as well as tourism) and the assistance with the preparation of the Economic Reform Programmes (ERPs).

The OECD South East Europe Division assisted each of the potential candidates and candidates country in the region by providing expertise in assessing whether each country's ERPs reflected the most relevant, competitiveness enhancing policy priorities.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – APRIL 2016)

Activities in the first four months of 2016 aimed at wrapping up the NGCI project. In the sector component, two Policy Handbooks were finalised reflecting respectively the work of the Tourism Expert Group and the Food and Beverage Processing Expert Group. The main focus of this period was on the preparation of a high-level event in February with the aim to launch the flagship publication, [Competitiveness in South East Europe: A Policy Outlook](#) and the two Handbooks. Subsequently, a series of launch events were organised for in-country launches during March and April in Skopje, Tirana, Podgorica, Belgrade, Prishtina and Sarajevo.

ERP assistance:

The OECD provided support to the ERP Coordinators in finalising the ERP 2016-18 before submission to the European Commission on 31 January. This support included a final check of the general consistency of the ERP, justification of the reform priorities and accordance with strategic documents and recommendations.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – APRIL 2016)

- Two Policy Handbooks were finalised as a result of the sector component of the NGCI:
 - [Fostering Tourism Competitiveness in South East Europe;](#)
 - [Bridging Skills Gaps in South East Europe: The case of the food and beverage processing sector.](#)
- A High-level event was held in Paris on 25- 26 February, under the title “Competitiveness for Growth in South East Europe”. This event was structured around:
 - the release of the OECD flagship publication [Competitiveness in South East Europe: A Policy Outlook;](#)
 - thematic roundtable discussions with regional experts;
 - the release of two Policy Handbooks on sector competitiveness in Tourism and Food and Beverage Processing.

The meeting gathered over 100 participants, including two Ministers, two State Secretaries and 18 ambassadors from the SEE region and OECD member countries.
- Subsequently, the publications were presented at in-country meetings across the six economies of the Western Balkans, at meetings chaired by Ministers, or (in the case of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), the Deputy Prime Minister. Additionally, the publication was presented at the headquarters of the European Central Bank in Frankfurt.
- The Economic Reform Programmes for the period 2016-18 were prepared by the ERP Coordinators under the guidance of the OECD and submitted to the European Commission.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- The project has been finalised in April 2016.
- A final report will be drafted.

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|--------------------------------|--|
| Programme reference : | Multi-beneficiary Programme IPA 2016/373-821 |
| Project title: | Support to Economic Competitiveness in South East Europe, |
| EU contribution: | EUR 10.7 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans |
| Type of contract: | Direct Grant to the OECD |
| Contract reference: | 2016/373-821 |
| Duration of activities: | 01/04/2016 – 30/09/2019 |
| Contact : | Gabriela Negut, gabriela.negut@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The programme aims to reinforce economic competitiveness and growth of the Western Balkan economies and Turkey by identifying policies for enhanced competitiveness and long-term growth and by building capacity to further develop and implement these policies. The programme consists of three main components: (1) Support for Economic Reform Programmes, (2) Going for Competitiveness and (3) EDIF TA pillar / SBA assessment.s.

ACTIVITIES (APRIL –JUNE 2016)

(1) Support for Economic Reform Programmes:

- Prepared individual country support in the next ERP cycle; including the structuring of the process, developing work plans with each economy and setting up a menu of support interventions.
- Developed practical tools/methodologies for the ERP preparations, including indicators to diagnose structural constraints, methodologies to identify reforms addressing economic challenges and to prioritise those reforms.
- Actively participated to the regional event to kick-off the next ERP cycle.

(2) Going for Competitiveness:

- Took stock of the previous cycle of the Competitiveness Outlook.
- Defined the scope of the publication: addition of Energy and Agriculture dimensions, focus on tourism within Culture.
- Developed of initial assessment framework for tourism sector.

(3) EDIF TA pillar / SBA assessment:

- Activities are foreseen to start next semester. Project related to the EDIF TA pillar / SBA assessment is ongoing and to be finalised by 30 June 2016. Separate reporting for this period.

OUTPUTS (APRIL – JUNE 2016)

(1) Support for Economic Reform Programmes:

- Concept of the ERP Diagnostics Tool and an updated version of the ERP Prioritisation Tool.
- The Regional Meeting of ERP Coordinators on 7-8 June 2016 in Brussels.

(2) Going for Competitiveness:

- Competitiveness Outlook concept paper for Regional Organisations.
- Initial assessment framework developed for high-potential tourism sector.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

(1) Support for Economic Reform Programmes:

- Holding capacity-building seminars (at the level of the ERP working group or line ministry, as needed), in country support in the structural reforms process to line ministries.
- Remote and in county support in the ERP preparation and review of draft ERPs.

(2) Going for Competitiveness:

- Nomination of National Co-ordinators for Competitiveness Outlook 2018.
- Development of assessment frameworks for the new cycle Competitiveness Outlook 2018.
- Launch of assessment process in all six SEE economies.
- Development of final assessment framework for high-potential tourism sector in collaboration with OECD-directorates and Regional Cooperation Council.

(3) EDIF TA pillar / SBA assessment:

- Set-up of project team for the next SBA assessment, take stock of the previous cycle of the SME Policy Index and develop concept for the future assessment (including methodological adjustments).
- Desk research and identification of relevant subjects for the regional policy dialogue and innovation capacity building activities .
- Reaching out to the relevant regional policy makers in the region.
- Potential first SME policy good practice seminar.

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|--------------------------------|--|
| Programme reference: | Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2013/024-091 |
| Project title: | Developing the entrepreneurial society in Western Balkans and Turkey – support to the South East European Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning (SEECEL) |
| EU contribution: | EUR 2.55 million and EUR 0.85 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans and Turkey |
| Type of contract: | Grant Contract with SEECEL |
| Contract reference: | CN 2013/316-501; CN 2013/334-013 |
| Duration of activities: | 01/05/2013 – 30/04/2016; 01/01/2014 – 31/12/2016 |
| Links: | www.seecel.hr |
| Contact : | Katja de Sadeleer, katja.de-sadeleer@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

To further work on a systematic approach of the development of the entrepreneurially literate societies across the region and to support alignment of national policies with EU recommendations and policy essentials related to lifelong entrepreneurial learning, as well as to further develop the lifelong entrepreneurial learning system in line with the Human Capital Dimension of the SBA for Europe.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

Developments in entrepreneurial learning as a key competence for the following ISCED levels of education: 1,2,3,5 and 6 and Teacher Training Authorities (TTA):

- Finalising implementation of pilot activities at all ISCED levels and TTA institutions: 96 pilot schools (ISCED 1-3), 15 pilot universities (ISCED 5-6) and 6 TTAs, as well as finalising implementation of peer learning activities.
- Publishing the fourth newsletter of the Entrepreneurial Learning Student Club (ELSC).

Small Business Act Assessment Methodology:

- Finalising publication of SBA results for the region (*SME Policy Index: Western Balkans and Turkey 2016*), in cooperation with the OECD, EC, ETF and EBRD.
- Finalising SEECEL publication on success of SBA human capital dimensions methodology (*Building Capacities: Entrepreneurial Learning and SME Skills*), followed by dissemination of both publications through national stakeholder events in each country of South East Europe and Turkey.

A comprehensive external evaluation of the SEECEL activities under the Grant Contracts was conducted in May and June 2016 at the SEE level (in SEECEL member states).

Other related activities:

- Further dissemination of the Training Needs Analysis (TNA) publication.
- Publishing a study *Entrepreneurship education in the EU: an overview of policies and practice* for EU SME Envoy, written in cooperation with Croatian SME Envoy.
- Contributing to international publications: *Entrepreneurship Education at School in Europe* (EC/Eurydice), *Entrepreneurship Competence Framework* (EC/DG-JRC), *Competitiveness in SEE: Policy Outlook 2016* (OECD).
- In partnership with ETF, organising seminar for chamber representatives from the region (Chambers Investment Forum) to encourage increased SME engagement in SBA process.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

- 96 pilot schools (ISCED 1: 32; ISCED 2: 32; ISCED 3: 32), 15 pilot universities and six TTAs implement entrepreneurship as a key competence instrument; 96 peer visits in which 589 teachers and 199 students participated (788 in total); 881 entrepreneurial learning lesson plans uploaded into SEECEL's Teacher Knowledge Base and 224 Individual Teacher Development Plans developed; 3603 questionnaires collected from teachers and school managers and 1890 teachers, school management and other school staff attend teacher training programme piloted by national teacher training authority.
- 914 active members of the CoP (Community of Practice) regularly participate in information dissemination and sharing knowledge.
- Three publications issued and four publications contributed to by SEECEL.
- Six dissemination events for SBA results publications held in the Western Balkans.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- Publications to be issued: piloting results for ISCED level 1-6; final ELSC newsletter.
- External evaluation report to be produced and disseminated.
- Organisation of the final project conference, *SEECEL Entrepreneurial Camp*, on 17–19 October 2016 in Šibenik, Croatia, with approximately 450 participants.
- Organisation of a high-level/ministerial strategic event (beginning of December 2016).

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|--------------------------------|---|
| Programme reference: | Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2014/031-603 |
| Project title: | Support to CEFTA Secretariat 2015-16 |
| EU contribution: | EUR 282,623.00 |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans and Moldova |
| Type of contract: | Operating grants with the CEFTA Secretariat |
| Contract reference: | CN 2015/356-713; CN 2016/368-970 |
| Duration of activities: | 01/04/2015 – 31/03/2016; 01/04/2016 – 31/03/2017 |
| Links: | http://cefta.int/ |
| Contact: | Alberto Costa, alberto.costa@ec.europa.eu Fulvio Capurso, fulvio.capurso@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The overall objective is to enhance economic development through supporting liberalisation and facilitation of intra-regional trade in the context of the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA). The Project supports the operation of the CEFTA Secretariat, which provides technical and administrative support to the CEFTA Structures (Chair in Office – CiO, the CEFTA Joint Committee – JC, the CEFTA Subcommittees, CEFTA Working Groups and CEFTA Committee for Trade Facilitation).

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY - JUNE 2016)

The CEFTA Secretariat assisted the CEFTA Parties in the implementation of priorities outlined in the 2016 Work Programme and facilitated the organisation of approximately 11 planned meetings of the CEFTA Structures, including Negotiation Rounds on Additional Protocols on Trade Facilitation and on Liberalisation of Trade in Services.

The two rounds of negotiations on Trade Facilitation held in February and May led to an agreement to submit the Additional Protocol on Trade Facilitation for adoption by the CEFTA Parties rather than having the Protocol signed. CEFTA also met with GIZ, UNCTAD and ITC to agree on the final report of the main distortive trade barriers in the supply chains of the automotive parts and beverages sectors.

The two sessions of the CEFTA Negotiating Group on Liberalisation of Trade in Services focused on financial, transport and audio visual services, as well as on the outstanding issues from previous rounds of negotiations. Furthermore, the preparatory work on further improving the quality and uniformity of trade in services and FDI statistics continued, including the development of a monitoring tool to measure achievements and report on implementation of commitments in services and investment sectors. The system will be integrated in the upcoming CEFTA Management Information System.

Additionally, one regular meeting of the Joint Working Group on Recognition of Professional Qualifications was held with the objective to advance the work on improving free movement of skilled labour and professionals in the Region. A tailored Assessment Study provided

guidance on sectors and professions of mutual interest for potential conclusion of mutual recognition agreements (MRAs) on professional qualifications. Moreover, one regular meeting of the Joint Working Group on Investment Policy and Promotion took stock of the two regional programmes, one with EU-World Bank on Regional Investment Reform Programme and the other with UNCTAD on Regional Investment Policy Review.

The CEFTA Secretariat has standardised its procurement activities and proposed a first draft of CEFTA Programming procedures to the CEFTA Parties for endorsement. The CEFTA Secretariat also prepared a visibility programme and launched the new CEFTA Website.

Finally, the CEFTA Secretariat organised several capacity building activities, including a study visit for the Chairs of CEFTA Structures to Brussels and, in cooperation with WTO Secretariat, a training programme for Chief and Deputy Chief Negotiators on Trade Facilitation of CEFTA Parties.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY - JUNE 2016)

- Negotiations on Additional Protocol 5 on trade facilitation finalised;
- Agreement on the list of trade barriers as detected by UNCTAD and ITC in consultation with private sector advisory groups;
- Draft text of the Additional Protocol on Trade in Services and the Annexes on Movement of Natural Persons, Horizontal and Specific Commitments;
- Potential sectors (health and construction) and professions (doctors, dentists, architects and civil engineers) for concluding MRAs on recognition of professional qualifications identified and agreed;
- The Draft CEFTA Procurement Rules and draft CEFTA Programming Procedures prepared;
- The CEFTA Visibility Campaign and the new CEFTA Website launched;
- 1 study visit to Brussels and 1 training programme organised.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

The CEFTA Secretariat will keep providing technical and administrative support to the Chair in Office for the implementation of the Chairmanship Programme 2016 and will continue assisting the CEFTA Parties in the organisation of all the regular meetings of the CEFTA structures and in conducting negotiations. In particular, the CEFTA Secretariat will mainly: 1) provide for legal proof reading of the text of Additional Protocol 5; 2) adopt the CEFTA Procurement Rules and Programming Procedures; 3) make the CEFTA Roster electronically available on the CEFTA Website; 4) send the list of detected trade barriers in the automotive and beverages supply chains to the CEFTA Committee of Trade Facilitation for their monitoring and eventual elimination; 5) organise the 9th and 10th sessions of the Negotiating Group on Trade in Services, 6) organise the 2nd meeting of the Subcommittee on Trade in Services to finalise negotiations and prepare for the adoption of the Additional Protocol; and 7) organise meetings and workshops on recognition of professional qualifications and on trade in services statistics.

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Programme reference: | Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2014/031-603 |
| Project title: | Strengthening the CEFTA Structures and their implementation capacities (2015 – 2017) |
| EU contribution: | EUR 2,579,700.00 |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans and Moldova |
| Type of contract: | 1 action grant with the CEFTA Secretariat |
| Contract reference: | CN 2014/356-738 |
| Duration of activities: | 01/05/2015 – 31/04/2018 |
| Links: | http://www.cefta.int |
| Contact : | Fulvio Capurso, fulvio.capurso@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The specific objective of the Action is to provide the CEFTA Parties with technical assistance related to the priorities identified in the Integrated Growth Pillar of the SEE Strategy 2020, where specific technical preparations are needed.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY - JUNE 2016)

The Procurement Officer to the CEFTA Secretariat, contracted in December 2015, began activities under the contract in January, while in the period April-May a Project Assistant to the CEFTA Secretariat was contracted. Four Seconded National Experts joined the CEFTA Secretariat in January, two for a term of 12 months and another two for a term of 6 months.

During the reported period the tendering and contracting of three experts took place – one in the area of trade in services statistics, one in event organisation and one in visibility. Two more tenders were launched in the area of implementation status of CEFTA Articles. The first, tender on Monitoring the Implementation Status of Competition and State Aid related articles of CEFTA, was successful and a technical expert was selected. The second, tender on Implementation Status of Government Procurement Related Articles, was cancelled. The latter was unsuccessful because only one offer was received, which did not meet the selection criteria.

In order to support the CEFTA Visibility Campaign, the Secretariat contracted one senior Seconded National Expert in each CEFTA Party. Those senior experts will work home based and support the Secretariat's efforts in managing the CEFTA Visibility Campaign for the 10th Anniversary. The CEFTA senior experts will organise one visibility meeting in each CEFTA Party and help draft a brochure on CEFTA Myths and Facts which will be based on the CEFTA Barometer.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY - JUNE 2016)

The Procurement Officer drafted the Procurement Rules of the CEFTA Secretariat and presented them to CEFTA Parties for comments and discussion at the CEFTA Strategic meeting held in Belgrade in May, prior to their formal adoption as a CEFTA Ministerial

Decision at the Joint Committee meeting to be held in end-November – beginning of December 2016.

The Seconded National Experts provided support in the daily activities of the CEFTA Secretariat, including media screening, preparation of reports, project synopsis and the CEFTA Trade Statistics Brochure, as well as represented the Secretariat in a number of meetings and workshops.

In the area of trade in services, two rounds of negotiations on trade liberalisation took place in April and in June. Additionally, the creation of a reporting system for services statistics, FATS and FDI statistics began in June.

The CEFTA Secretariat website was upgraded, thus expanding the visibility of the CEFTA Secretariat and its activities. Additionally, short-term senior Seconded National Experts were contracted in each CEFTA Party to support the CEFTA Visibility Campaign for the 10th Anniversary of the Agreement.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

The implementation of CPF III contracts continues. In August the contract on TA on Visibility of the CEFTA Secretariat will be closed, while two technical experts will be procured and contracted for the preparation of the CEFTA Barometer and the CEFTA Roster, respectively. The CEFTA Barometer will measure the public opinion on the implementation of CEFTA. The results will be reflected in a brochure, including myths and facts, with regard to the implementation of CEFTA. Activities under the contract on Monitoring the Implementation Status of Competition and State Aid will start in September 2016.

Four tenders will be launched and contracted in the period September-October: (i) Implementation Status of Government Procurement Related Articles (to be re-launched); (ii) Legal Counsel on CEFTA Negotiations and Implementation; and in the area of services (iii) TA for the Preparation of CEFTA Investment Report; and (iv) Improving Regulatory Cooperation in the Region.

Approximately four meetings will be organised by the Action in the next semester: in September, (i) Workshop on Dispute Settlement; (ii) Legal Scrubbing of Additional Protocol 5; in October, (iii) Conference on Economic Corridors; and end-November – beginning of December, (iv) CEFTA Week.

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Programme reference: | Multi-beneficiary Programme IPA 2013/024-091 |
| Project title: | CEFTA Project Facility II |
| EU contribution: | EUR 0.44 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans and Moldova |
| Type of contract: | Contribution agreement with the CEFTA Secretariat |
| Contract reference: | CN 2013/335-161 |
| Duration of activities: | 18/12/2013 – 17/12/2015 (extended to 17/07/2016) |
| Links: | http://www.cefta.int/ |
| Contact : | Alberto Costa, alberto.costa@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The specific objective of the Action is to provide the CEFTA Parties with technical assistance related to the priorities identified in the Integrated Growth Pillar of the SEE Strategy 2020, where specific technical preparations is needed.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY - JUNE 2016)

The CEFTA Parties required assistance to strengthen the CEFTA Dispute Settlement Mechanism and make it more efficient. A legal consultant provided legal opinion on the implementation of the dispute settlement provisions of the CEFTA Agreement and options for improvement.

Furthermore, the activities under the contract CPF II 2014-13 with SafeNet on IT related technical assistance to the negotiations of Additional Protocol 5 on trade facilitation continued during the reporting period. A consultant assisted the CEFTA Parties in preparing the technical annexes for electronic exchange of data. Additionally, the same consultant prepared the technical specifications of the Management Information System, the procurement of which is planned to take place in the framework of CPF III.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY - JUNE 2016)

- 1 meeting between the CEFTA secretariat and the CEFTA Chair in Office on the CEFTA Chairmanship priorities for 2016. Legal opinion on the options for strengthening the CEFTA Dispute Settlement Mechanism provided. In this regard, the legal adviser suggested CEFTA Parties to have an Additional Protocol on Dispute Settlement;
- Technical annexes for electronic exchange of data;
- Technical specifications of the CEFTA Management Information System.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

The implementation of all contracts in the framework of the Action has been completed. The final reports to three contracts are yet to be submitted by the respective Contractors. After the reports have been approved and the contracts closed, CPF II will be closed. A final expenditure verification of CPF II is planned to take place in September 2016, followed by the submission of a final report to the European Commission.

CHAPTER 4: TRANSPORT AND ENERGY

INFRASTRUCTURE, NUCLEAR SAFETY

One of the priorities for IPA assistance is to help 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, also with a view to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy. Under the Municipal Window of the Infrastructure Projects Facility, grant co-financing is provided for investment projects in the fields of environment (water supply, wastewater collection and treatment), energy (district heating) and transport (urban transport). Close coordination with International Financial Institutions (IFIs) is essential.

4.1 WESTERN BALKANS INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK (WBIF)

The Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) was created in 2009 as a regional tool for EU enlargement. It supports socio-economic development and EU accession across the Western Balkans through the provision of financing and technical assistance for strategic investments. It pools resources from the European Commission's Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA) with those of International Financial Institutions (IFIs), bilateral donors and the governments of the Western Balkans. The WBIF increases the region's capacity to finance crucial infrastructure and priority investments in line with accession priorities and enhances overall coordination of assistance. The WBIF seeks to maximise the impact of grant financing by using it to leverage lending by IFIs on priority strategic investments identified by the Western Balkan beneficiaries.

Since its launch six years ago, the WBIF has developed a pipeline of priority investments in the accession countries valued at approximately EUR 13.5 billion. To date, a total of 216 technical assistance and investment grants have been awarded to 139 projects for a cumulative value of EUR 588 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.

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), has signed contribution agreements with the IFIs for implementation of the Municipal Window and contribution arrangements with the WBIF Joint Fund Managers (EBRD&EIB) for the co-financing of connectivity projects.

The European Commission is the largest contributor to the WBIF and has channelled a total of around EUR 500 million in grants to the WBIF. Out of this, more than half –260 million– has gone to finance traditional Technical Assistance.

Between 2008 and 2015 bilateral donors have in total contributed more than EUR 49 million to the EWBJF and the partner IFIs have set aside EUR 10 million each in grant contributions. Grants provided to the WBIF from bilateral donors and from the IFIs are implemented directly by the IFIs through various technical assistance assignments.

PURPOSE

The WBIF has three objectives:

- 1 - to create a one-stop-shop, where a request for project support can be presented, screened, assessed and eventually be provided with the required financing for its implementation,
- 2 - to pool different sources of funding (IFIs, the EC and bilateral donors) and work out an appropriate blend of grants and loans for various actions,
- 3 - to strengthen the strategic and policy coordination of actions by multiple donors and investors that addresses the socio economic 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 result 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

Key issues under the WBIF work programme for the first half of 2016 included in particular the 15th call for proposals for WBIF technical assistance support, the identification and approval of 3 mature projects for co-financing under the connectivity agenda, the finalisation and adoption of the WBIF revised founding documents, the signing of the 1st Contribution Arrangement with the Joint Fund co-managers for co-financing of 7 connectivity projects approved in 2015, the upgrading of a the WBIF website and Management and Information System (MIS).

In December 2015, the call for project proposals – Round 15 – was launched and overall 34 applications were received. The Project Financiers' Group (PFG) met in May 2016 in Brussels to assess the grant applications.

The 14th Steering Committee (SC) meeting of the WBIF took place in Oslo on 16 June 2016 and was hosted by the Norwegian government. Based on the recommendations from the PFG, the SC approved 18 WBIF technical assistance grants for a total of approx. EUR 22.7 million.

The 14th SC concluded a long process of intense cooperation between the various WBIF stakeholders, launched in December 2014 and aiming at progressively implementing the so-called "new methodology". The objective was to prepare WBIF for new challenges under IPA II and the EC's new Financial Regulation. A parallel development to the "new methodology" is the "Connectivity Agenda" embedded in the "Berlin process" for which the WBIF is seen as the main delivering tools – via IPA II financing together with IFI loans.

The SC in Oslo finalised the adoption of the revised and final version of the WBIF General Conditions and Rules of Procedure, regulating the governance and functioning of the WBIF in a more transparent and systematic way. In parallel, the Commission signed the first Contribution Arrangement with EBRD and EIB for the transfer of EUR 138.1 million of IPA allocations to the Joint Fund for the co-financing of seven prioritised infrastructure projects already approved in 2015.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

The indicative work programme for the second part of 2016 includes the launch of Round 16 for technical assistance grants (deadline for applications is 2 September 2016) and the launch of Round 2 for co-financing of investment grants (deadline for applications is 31 December 2016).

Regarding technical assistance grants, and due to the limitation of available funds, only applications for high priority projects and/or unblocking existing projects will be eligible. Regarding investment grants, all four sectors are eligible for co-financing, the approval of environment and social sector projects being subject to availability of funds from bilateral donors since IPA funds should be allocated to connectivity projects only.

The next PFG will be held in Pristina in November 2016. The next SC meeting will take place in December 2016 in London and will be hosted by the EBRD.

Contact : Stine Andresen, Stine.Andresen@ec.europa.eu and near-wbif@ec.europa.eu

4.2 HORIZONTAL SUPPORT TO IFI COORDINATION

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Programme reference: | Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2013/024-091& IPA 2015/031-609 |
| Project title: | Horizontal Support to Coordination with International Financial Institutions (IFIs) – IFI Coordination Office |
| EU contribution: | EUR 7.76 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans |
| Type of contract: | Service contract with Mott MacDonald Limited |
| Contract reference: | CN 2014/340-622 & 2016/372-315 |
| Duration of activities: | 01/04/2014 – 31/01/2018 |
| Link: | www.wbif.eu/ |
| Contact : | Nadejda Mecheva, nadejda.mecheva@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The IFI Coordination Office refers to the consultancy service contract awarded by DG NEAR aiming to ensure better coordination and cooperation between the beneficiaries, the EC, the IFIs and bilateral donors. The IFI Coordination Office provides a range of technical,

management and communication services to support coordination among all WBIF stakeholders. It delivers analytical and operational services regarding EC, IFI and bilateral donors cooperation in the main WBIF sectors to facilitate better programming and planning of assistance including investments.

The Office supports WBIF structures, particularly the WBIF Secretariat and the WBIF SC, and has developed a range of WBIF related communication activities including the WBIF website and MIS.

ACTIVITIES (JULY– DECEMBER 2015)

- Preparation and follow-up of the WBIF Project Financiers' Group and Steering Committee meetings.
- Input regarding the finalisation and adoption of the revised WBIF founding documents and contractual arrangements with IFIs.
- Support in the identification of mature connectivity infrastructure projects to be financed from IPA 2016 Multi-Country envelope.
- Assistance to the beneficiary countries with the implementation of the new WBIF methodology, the setting-up of National Investment Committees (NICs) and the preparation of Single Project Pipelines.
- Support in updating of the Grant Application Form for blending facilities (GAF); Organisation of 2 GAF workshops for the Beneficiaries.
- Preparation and production of an information package and flyer for the Western Balkans Summit in Paris.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

- Support the Beneficiaries in the GAF preparation process / connectivity projects to be financed under IPA 2016.
- Support the Beneficiaries with their applications for call for project proposals Round 15.
- Support for the development of Single Sector Project Pipeline (SSPP) for the Competition and Business Development sector in Albania.
- Upgrading of the WBIF website and MIS.
- Drafting and submission of Terms of Reference for IPF4.
- Delivery of the bi-annual Monitoring Report May 2016, bi-monthly reports of active WBIF projects.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- Support the preparation and organisation of WBIF related meetings, in particular the 15th WBIF Steering Committee in December 2016.
- Screening of applications from call for TA project proposals Round 16; support in the launch and screening of applications from call for co-investment grants Round 2.
- Development of the TA-GAF and guidelines.

- Maintenance of the WBIF website, update of databases of investment and IPA flows, development of additional modules.
- Focus on visibility activities.

4.3 WBIF INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS FACILITIES (IPF)

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Programme reference : | Multi-beneficiary programmes, IPA 2011/022-964, IPA 2012/022-966 |
| Project title: | Infrastructure Projects Facility 3 – Technical Assistance Window |
| EU contribution: | EUR 22.42 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans |
| Type of contract: | Service contract with Mott MacDonald Limited |
| Contract reference: | CN 2012/293-208; CN 2013/331-494 |
| Duration of activities: | 20/06/2012 – 19/06/2018 |
| Links: | www.wbif.eu |
| Contact: | Élodie LOPPÉ, elodie.loppe@ec.europa.eu |

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Programme reference : | Multi-country programme IPA II 2014/031-603 |
| Project title: | Support to the Western Balkans Investment Framework projects - Infrastructure Project Facility |
| EU contribution: | EUR 35.54 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans |
| Type of contract: | Specific Grant Agreement with the European Investment Bank |
| Contract reference: | CN 2015/368-253 |
| Duration of activities: | 17/12/2015 – 31/12/2020 |
| Links: | www.wbif.eu |
| Contact: | Élodie LOPPÉ, elodie.loppe@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The Infrastructure Projects Facilities (IPFs) are consultancy services implementing Western Balkans Infrastructure Framework (WBIF) technical assistance grants for priority investments in the transport, environment, energy and social sectors.

The core task of the IPF teams is to carry out assignments for the projects approved by the WBIF Steering Committee and which are allocated as IPF projects (i.e. EU-funded). IPFs provide technical assistance for project preparation (feasibility studies, designs and

Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), etc.) and implementation (tender dossiers, works supervision).

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

IPF 3 was launched in June 2012 under DG NEAR's direct management. With a total budget of EUR 22.5 million, it has been assigned 26 technical assistance grants. IPF 3 activities are in full swing and the end date of activities is currently mid-2018. IPF 3 additionally carried out, at the request of DG NEAR, a gap analysis on connectivity and major infrastructure projects in the Western Balkans, which was completed in June 2016. IPF 3 also initiated in April 2016 the development of a regional hydro master-plan for the Western Balkans.

To ensure the implementation of WBIF technical assistance grants in the most efficient manner while minimising the administrative weight on the European Commission, it was decided that the next IPFs (from IPF 4 onwards) would be managed by the EIB.

IPF 4 was launched in June 2014. With a total budget of EUR 23 million, IPF 4 has been assigned the implementation of 16 technical assistance grants. IPF 4 activities are also in full swing and the current end date of activities is 2018.

IPF 5 was contracted by the EIB in June 2016 for an initial budget of EUR 13.15 million. The total budget of IPF 5 will amount to EUR 25.5 million.

The following tables show the indicative portfolios of IPF 3 and IPF 4.

| IPF 3 | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| WBIF TA GRANTS | | |
| CODE | PROJECT TITLE | GRANT ALLOCATED |
| TA3-SER-SOC-03 | Modernisation of prison facilities | 35,000 |
| WB6-ALB-ENE-03 | 220kV double-circuit line Elbasan1-Fieri | 850,000 |
| WB6-BiH-ENE-07 | HPP plants Krusevo & Zeleni Vir | 1,000,000 |
| WB6-BiH-ENE-08 | HPP Caplje | 800,000 |
| WB6-BiH-ENV-19 | Water and sewerage Mostar | 500,000 |
| WB6-BiH-TRA-15 | Brcko bypass | 120,000 |
| WB6-BiH-TRA-18 | Study on toll collection for RS motorways | 300,000 |
| WB6-HR-SOC-03 | New campus and University of Zadar Learning Resource Centre | 800,000 |
| WB6-MNE-ENE-05 | Biomass district heating system Kolasin | 330,000 |
| WB6-MNE-ENE-06 | Electricity network expansion for the development of RES | 600,000 |
| WB7-MNE-ENV-24 | Wastewater and water supply projects | 700,000 |
| CODE | PROJECT TITLE | GRANT ALLOCATED |
| WB8-BiH-ENE-11 | Smart metering/ARM system | 460,000 |
| WB8-HR-ENE-11 | Sava river development | 1,500,000 |
| WB8-SER-SOC-13 | Improvement of prison facilities | 70,000 |
| WB8-SER-TRA-14 | Belgrade-Nis (Stalac-Djunis section) rail line upgrade | 1,500,000 |
| WB9-BiH-ENV-03 | WATSAN in FBiH | 1,250,000 |
| WB9-MKD-TRA-01 | Motorway A4 Skopje - Blace, Stenkovec interchange Blace | 1,000,000 |
| WB9-SER-ENE-01 | 400kV OHL from substations Bajina Basta to Kraljevo | 800,000 |
| WB9-SER-SOC-01 | Belgrade Judiciary facilities (Palace of Justice) | 283,000 |
| WB10-KOS-ENE-01 | Rehabilitation of district heating in Gjakova | 600,000 |

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| WB10-SER-SOC-01 | Post-earthquake housing reconstruction in Kraljevo | 880,000 |
| WB11-KOS-TRA-01 | Construction of road N9 Pristina-Peja (SEETO route 6B) | 800,000 |
| WB11-SER-SOC-02 | TA for the modernisation of prison facilities in Serbia | 110,000 |
| WB12-BiH-ENV-02 | WATSAN in Republika Srpska | 1,500,000 |
| WB14-BiH-SOC-01 | Support to the construction of a maximum security state prison - Component 1: Technical assistance in design supervision and project engineering/technical support | 270,000 |
| WB15-MNE-ENV-01 | Wastewater & water supply - 12 municipalities | 540,000 |
| AD HOC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE | | |
| PROJECT TITLE | | ALLOCATION |
| Regional connectivity gap analysis | | 500,000 |
| Regional hydro master-plan | | 1,000,000 |

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|------------------------|
| IPF 4 | | |
| WBIF TA GRANTS | | |
| CODE | PROJECT TITLE | GRANT ALLOCATED |
| TA3-SER-ENV-01 | Municipal water – Nis and Novi Sad | 300,000 |
| WB5-REG-ENE-02 | 400kV interconnection SER-MON-BIH | 154,442 |
| WB10-MNE-ENE-01 | Gas development masterplan | 700,000 |
| WB10-MNE-TRA-01 | Bar-Vrbnica railway line upgrade | 1,000,000 |
| WB10-SER-TRA-02 | Construction of highway E-80 (Merdare to Doljevac) | 900,000 |
| WB11-ALB-ENE-01 | Gas Master Plan for Albania and Project Identification Plan | 1,100,000 |
| WB11-KOS-TRA-02 | Highway (SEETO Route 7) section E from Pristina to Merdare | 500,000 |
| WB11-REG-SOC-01 | Implementation of the SEECCL Centre | 1,200,000 |
| WB11-SER-SOC-01 | TA for Judiciary Facilities - Supervision of works Kataniceva Building | 380,000 |
| WB12-BIH-ENV-04 | Preparation of Flood Hazard Maps, Flood Risk Maps and Support to the PMU of the Flood Risk Management Project | 3,380,000 |
| | | 1,500,000 |
| WB12-MNE-TRA-01 | Detailed Design and tender Documents for the reconstruction of the Road Scepan Polje-Pluzine | 3,500,000 |
| WB12-MKD-SOC-01 | Project for reconstruction of penitentiary institutions in Republic of Macedonia | 350,000 |
| WB13-ALB-TRA-01 | Feasibility study for the rehabilitation of the railway line Durres-Pogradec-Lin and new rail line to MKD border | 720,000 |
| WB13-MKD-TRA-01 | Feasibility study, detailed design and tender documents for joint MKD and SER border station Tabanovce | 200,000 |
| WB13-MNE-TRA-01 | Inspection of 106 tunnels and detailed designs for rehabilitation on the railway line Vrbnica-Bar (SEETO route 4) - Inspection phase (total grant EUR 2,500,000) | 1,000,000 |
| WB13-SER-TRA-01 | Feasibility study and preliminary design for the construction of highway E-80 (SEETO route 7) | 1,700,000 |

| AD HOC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE | |
|--|------------|
| PROJECT TITLE | ALLOCATION |
| Flood prevention and management gap analysis | 330,000 |

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

Support to Beneficiaries with the preparation and implementation of priority investments in transport, environment, energy and the social infrastructure within the WBIF.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- Continuation of the implementation of IPF 3 and IPF 4 active sub-projects;
- Initiation of IPF 5 activities;
- Tender procedure for IPF 6.

4.4 MUNICIPAL WINDOW

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Programme reference: | Annual Programme 2008 II for Kosovo, IPA 2008/020-454 |
| Project title: | Municipal Window of the Infrastructure Project Facility – Kosovo Window |
| EU contribution: | EUR 25.0 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Kosovo |
| Type of contract: | Delegation Agreement to KfW |
| Contract reference: | CN 2009/221-084 |
| Duration of activities: | 11/12/2009 – 31/12/2016 |
| Contact: | Élodie LOPPÉ, elodie.loppe@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The project covers the following:

- Water and sanitation Pristina: rehabilitation of the water distribution, rehabilitation of the water treatment plant Badovc, replacement of parts of the sewerage network and protection of the water resources,
- Pristina district heating: rehabilitation and upgrade of the existing heating network, construction of a cogeneration facility in the thermal power plant Kosovo B and its connection to Pristina district heating system.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY - JUNE 2016)

The water and sanitation sub-project suffered substantial delays starting with the signature and ratification of the Loan and Financing Agreements and continuing during implementation in particular due to poor construction site management by the contractors; unforeseeable findings on site implying additional drilling or changes to the pipes route in the course of the project. Activities will be finalised by the end of 2016, end date for the activities.

The Pristina district heating sub-project also experienced major delays and difficulties. Partly due to Termokos cash flow problems, following lengthy negotiations regarding the guarantee of a secured heat supply to Termokos and partly due to a substantial cost increase following a change in technology, resulting in the need to secure additional funding. Works on the first turbine were completed in November 2014, thus, the winter 2014-2015 was the first time a 24-hour service was provided. Works on the second turbine were completed during spring 2015 and testing was performed end of 2015. The system is now fully operational and fuel oil is no longer needed, resulting in substantial savings allowing Termokos to reach financial sustainability and improving considerably the quality of the air.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY - JUNE 2016)

- Improved quality of service, especially with the first winter season with the district heating system fully relying on cogeneration;
- Progress of construction works;
- Strengthening of the management and financial performance and the water utility and district heating company.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- Amendment to the contract to review the final payments arrangements.
- Completion of construction works; Initiation of project closure.

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Programme reference: | IPA 2007/019-340 |
| Project title: | Horizontal programme on the Energy Efficiency Finance Facility (EEFF) |
| EU contribution: | EUR 34.7 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans and Turkey |
| Type of contract: | Contribution Agreements with EIB, EBRD, CEB/KfW |
| Contract reference: | CN 2008/163-442 (EIB); 163-440 (EBRD); 163-444 (CEB/KfW) |
| Duration of activities: | 28/11/2008 – 31/12/2016 |
| Contact : | Davor Kunc, davor.kunc@ec.europa.eu |

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 AND OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

EIB: The Turkish component of the EIB credit line counts 14 sub-projects for a total grant amount of EUR 4.5 million. At the end of June 2016, all the sub-projects were positively verified and grants disbursed to 13 of them. The Croatian component is fully allocated to nine sub-projects for a total grant amount of EUR 3.3 million. As at the end of June 2016, seven sub-projects were positively verified and grants disbursed to all of them. Under both components, most sub-projects concern RE investments.

As at 30 June 2016, EIB had disbursed EUR 6.7 million of grants to verified sub-projects including EUR 5.7 million of investment incentives to the sub-project promoters.

CEB/KfW: The KfW credit lines (partly refinanced by CEB) continued to advance in Serbia. UniCredit Serbia and ProCredit Serbia showed great commitment to placing the credit lines. KfW closely monitored the progress of the Programme and is in frequent exchange with the partner banks to promote disbursements and pipeline development.

During the reporting period, the partner banks signed five new loans to end borrowers. Six IPA grant payments were disbursed to end clients. Since the start of the programme, a total of 46 sub-projects loans have been financed by the two partner banks and a total of 25 IPA grant payments have been disbursed to end clients. The overall grant amount disbursed to end borrowers and partner banks was EUR 5.72 million.

EBRD: The EBRD credit line of EUR 60 million is fully allocated through 8 Participating Banks – three banks 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 EUR 60 million credit line has been fully disbursed to Participating Banks (PBs).

By 30 June 2016, the PBs have on lent more than EUR 59.9 million (or 99.9% of the credit line) in energy efficiency and renewable energy loans. The number of signed sub-projects has reached 135 (supported by 137 sub-loans) for a cumulative sub-loan portfolio of over EUR 59.9 million. Corresponding incentive payments to sub-borrowers amounting to EUR 9,348,818 million have been committed by 30 June 2016. The portfolio of signed sub-projects will achieve combined expected annual energy savings of 482,866 MWh per annum and abatement of 161,313 metric tons of CO2 equivalent per annum.

In order to facilitate successful verification of the sub-projects under the facility, further time extensions have been issued to both consultants in H2 2016 due to project completion delays experienced on the Sub-borrowers side, linked to issuance of operating permits for two sub-projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as the phased implementation of the final project signed under Halkbank Macedonia. During the period, one of the sub-projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina was not granted the operating permit. The sub-project remains in the PBs portfolio as it was deemed eligible and was implemented but will not be verified and no sub-borrower incentive will be paid. The remaining two sub-projects are expected to be completed and verified in Q3 2016.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

EIB: Under the Turkish component, all the sub-projects are verified in the portfolio. Due to the limited time remaining until the expiry of the Facility (31/12/2016), new allocations are unlikely, yet one intermediary is still considering submitting one sub-project to be included in the portfolio.

As the Croatian component is fully allocated, H2 2016 will be dedicated to the verification of the two remaining sub-projects; the investment incentives are therefore expected to be fully disbursed before the expiry of the Facility.

CEB/KfW: ProCredit Bank has fully placed the credit line with the end borrowers. For UniCredit Bank, the consultants will continue to verify the remaining projects in the portfolio and will assist the partner banks in further pipeline development. The full loan amount is expected to be disbursed until the end of 2016.

EBRD: Continue sub-project implementation, completion and verification of two remaining active sub-projects. Project Consultant to provide clarification as necessary on the Final report, submitted to EBRD for review and approval.

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Programme reference: | Management of Participation in the Green for Growth Fund (GGF) |
| Project title: | Green for Growth Fund (GGF) |
| EU contribution: | EUR 56.6 million |
| Beneficiary region: | 13 countries including Western Balkans |
| Type of contract: | Trusteeship Agreements with the European Investment Fund (EIF) |
| Contract reference: | CN 2009/228-008;2009/228-006/ 2011/267-146; 2010/257-202; 2010/257-202 |
| Duration of activities: | 17/12/2009-31/12/2016 |
| Links: | http://www.ggf.lu |
| Contact: | Davor Kunc, Davor.kunc@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The mission of the Fund is to contribute in the form of a public-private partnership with a layered risk/return structure, enhancing energy efficiency (EE) and fostering renewable energies (RE) in the Southeast Europe region including Turkey, and in the European Eastern Neighbourhood Region, predominantly through the provision of dedicated financing to businesses and households via partnering with financial institutions and direct financing.

GGF objectives are broadening the financing base of EE and RE investments in the target regions, increase awareness of EE and small RE products among companies and private households, contribute to broadening and deepening the financial sector servicing those development needs as well as to Harmonize and coordinate donor initiatives. GGF aims at achieving 20% energy savings and/or 20% CO2 savings across the energy efficiency portfolio and promote the use of renewable energy sources.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

As of June 2016, the Fund had active investments in 13 target markets and 34 Partner Institutions. GGF continued to build-up a diversified portfolio and increased impact by transferring best practices across a broad spectrum of Partner Institutions.

Furthermore, with the approved expansion into six countries in the European Southern Neighbourhood Region (Middle East and North Africa), the Fund is expected to deliver added levels of environmental impact, while increasingly diversifying its portfolio in terms of Partner Institutions and countries. The Fund is very active in the new region and has laid the ground for a solid investment portfolio build-up. The first investment in Egypt has been disbursed in July.

During first half of 2016, the GGF signed and/or disbursed 3 investments with financial institutions totaling EUR 32.5 million in Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and, significantly, the first investment in Montenegro.

GGF continued to build upon the strong momentum of the previous year, increasing the environmental impact of the Fund through considerable on-lending and outreach. GGF's cumulative sub-loan portfolio reached EUR 321.9 million by the end of June.

On the funding side, EUR 10 million new capital was obtained from the Church of Sweden increasing the private investments to 12% of the overall funding sources. In addition groundwork was laid to further increase private sector investments by up to EUR 32 million in late 2016.

The Fund was active in TA as well, with 15 projects for a total budget of EUR 516,350 approved during the first half of 2016. The current funding of the GGF TAF amounts to EUR 12.4 million. As the majority of this funding is already allocated to existing or planned projects, the TA Facility is actively seeking additional donations to secure its activities through 2016 and beyond.

The Fund continues to actively attend industry events, and to participate in the Energy Communities Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy coordination group meetings.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

GGF figures as at end Q2 (aggregate for the region of Southeast Europe):

1. Total Invested Portfolio (Q2): EUR 239.6 million.
2. Number of active Partner Institutions (Q2): 21.
3. Number of target countries (Q2): 8.
4. No asset impairments have been accorded.
5. Measures financed (Q2): 32% buildings, 33% improvement in processes, process related equipment, 19% use of RE for commercial energy generation, 7% energy service and supply business, 3% agri-equipment, 4% use of RE by households and businesses, 2% Others.
6. Sectors financed since inception: Households 32%; Manufacturing 31%; Services 26%; Commercial 6%; Agriculture 3%; Other 2%.
7. CO2 Savings / CO2 Reduction: 290,075 tCO₂/yr / 51%.
8. Energy Savings: 1,073,742/ 49%.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

The Fund will enter the second half of 2016 with a strong pipeline, with investments under consideration in Serbia, Montenegro, Turkey and Kosovo. The Fund is seeking additional capital to further leverage the investments of the donors and is in active discussions with several potential private and public investors. At the same time, additional funding, particularly for C Shares and TA is being sought, given the GGF's growing portfolio and expanding activities, after the new Delegation Agreement arrangements have been finalised between EC and EIF.

During the second half of 2016, the GGF TAF facility will continue to support the GGF investments particularly in Kosovo and Montenegro with several projects supporting the EE and RE lending activities of the Partner Institutions. The TA Facility is also supporting a

number of initiatives to facilitate further investments with ‘deep dive’ studies to identify untapped market potential in Bosnia Herzegovina and Serbia.

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Programme reference : | Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2012/022-966 |
| Project title: | Regional Energy Efficiency Programme for the Western Balkans |
| EU contribution: | EUR 20.0 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans |
| Type of contract: | Contribution agreement with EBRD |
| Contract reference: | CN2013/311-406 |
| Duration of activities: | 24/06/2013 – 31/12/2019 |
| Links: | http://: www.wb-reep.org |
| Contact : | Davor Kunc, Davor.kunc@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The overall aim is to establish a sustainable market for energy efficient financing of private and public sector. It will enable the public sector to take leadership in energy efficiency investments and facilitate access to medium and long-term credits for municipalities needed to implement infrastructure investments and improve the investment climate for business development.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY - JUNE 2016)

Window 1 - Public Sector Energy Efficiency, Policy Dialogue, Institutional Capacity Building and Business Development Programme

Theme 1 ESCO Support

ESCO legislative work (policy dialogue)

In Serbia an ESCO Energy Supply Contract (ESC) contract template has been prepared.

ESCO project preparation work

Project preparation support is on-going in Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the remaining countries no tangible, viable projects have been identified but support would be available.

Theme 2 Energy Efficiency Policy Dialogue

Several deliverables were completed in the period including completing the NEEAP preparation in Albania, EPBD transposition support in BiH (Republika Srpska), software training in Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Policy positions and draft regulations regarding proposed Energy Efficiency Obligation (EEO) schemes in Croatia and Montenegro were delivered but await adoption in both countries. Support is also being provided to Serbia regarding its Article 7 (or the Energy Efficiency

Directive) obligations which cover a potential EEO scheme. Work in all three countries is ongoing to support the adoption and implementation process.

Window 2 (part of the WeBSEFF programme) – Sustainable Energy Credit Lines

- The Project Consultant (PC) assessed a total of 65 projects during the period
- In the period 15 verification site visits were conducted and 43 Verification reports issued in total by the Verification Consultant (VC)
- 13 New Case Studies have been developed/uploaded on the website
- 6 Public events were held: 3 in Croatia, 1 in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and 2 in Serbia.

Window 3 Sustainable Energy Direct Financing Facility:

As foreseen in the previous report, there were no sufficiently advanced new projects in the pipeline that could be approved and signed in H1 2016. As a result, the efforts were directed towards managing the existing portfolio (a few of the earlier projects were either completed or advanced significantly during the period) as well as building the pipeline.

At the end of the reporting period, the pipeline of potential projects, included one biogas project in Serbia, one SHPP project in Bosnia and Herzegovina and also for the first time an ESCO project in Serbia. These are still in an early stage and it may not be possible to have them approved before the end of the year, but they are likely to advance during the second half.

During the period, the completion of one project (SHPP in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) was verified. The incentive payment of EUR 0.22 million will be provided in H2 2016. The verification of two other projects was also underway.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY - JUNE 2016)

Window 1 Public Sector Energy Efficiency, Policy Dialogue, Institutional Capacity Building and Business Development Programme

Theme 1 ESCO Support

ESCO legislative work (policy dialogue)

In Serbia an ESCO Energy Supply Contracting contract template has been prepared.

ESCO project preparation work

Significant progress has been made on the basis of the prepared ESCO energy performance contracting (EnPC) contract templates:

Croatia

- 3 street lighting projects have been tendered, contracted and implemented.
- 1 street lighting tender was published and selection process is on-going.
- 2 tenders have been prepared and the municipalities indicated their intention to publish them in September.

Serbia

- 2 street lighting projects have been contracted. Implementation is about to start and could be completed before year end. The projects used the ESCO contract that was prepared under REEP and adopted by the Ministry of Mining and Energy. Project preparation was done by the municipalities themselves.
- 4 street lighting ESCO tenders have been prepared and submitted to the PPP-Commission.
- The preparation of the ESCO street lighting project in Belgrade is progressing and publication of the tender early coming year seems possible.
- The second biggest city Novi Sad requested support for preparing a street lighting ESCO project for buildings. Preparation has started.
- 1 ESCO Energy Supply Contracting biomass project for its district heating system is being prepared.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- 1 tender for an ESCO energy supply contracting biomass heat supply project for a district heating system was published and is on-going. A private contractor should be selected before year end.

Theme 2 Energy Efficiency Policy Dialogue:

All assignments under this theme are now complete.

In the EPBD Domain, headline outputs delivered to relevant countries cover final regulations and policy recommendations covering implementing minimum energy performance standards, national calculation methodologies, energy performance certification, the regular inspection of heating and air-conditioning systems, finalisation of software specification and design.

In the Procurement domain, all planned outputs have been completed: finalisation of procurement rulebook and guidelines and delivery of associated training and capacity building for Montenegro and Serbia (no guidelines were provided in Serbia); both countries' regulations have been adopted. All activities under the NEEAP are completed but the document awaits governmental approval in Albania.

Draft regulations for EEO schemes in Montenegro and Croatia are completed and delivered but await adoption due to prior changes required to primary legislation and political considerations. Support for the adoption process is ongoing in both countries. Support is also ongoing for Serbia in assisting development of its Article 7 notification.

Window 2 Sustainable Energy Credit Lines

EUR 92 million funding to PFIs is fully allocated of which EUR 63.8 million has been on-lent to finance eligible sub-projects.

By the end of H1 2016, 243 sub-projects have been approved and loans signed for a cumulative total of EUR 63,723,290. Of those, 57 were signed in H1 2016 for EUR 14,064,207.

43 sub-projects were successfully verified by the Verification Consultant in H1-2016. To date EUR 1,909,930 has been paid in investment incentives to sub-borrowers, of which EUR 958,311 was paid in H1 2016. To date the total (equivalent) primary energy savings is 421,018 (MWh/y), with CO₂ emissions saving of 104,487 (tonnes/y).

Window 3 Sustainable Energy Direct Financing Facility

As at the end of June 2016, the EBRD had approved six projects under the second phase of the WeBSEDF: four small hydropower plant projects in Albania, BiH, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro, a biomass project in BiH, and a biogas project in Serbia. The amount of finance provided is EUR 28.1 million. Their implementation will add 24.3 MW of electricity generation capacity, with annual production of 241.7 GWh and will lead to estimated CO₂e emission reductions of 331,427 tonnes a year. Of these six projects, two have been completed and two are expected to be verified as completed in H2 2016. In total, they will qualify for up to EUR 1.79 million worth of incentive payments.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Window 1 Public Sector Energy Efficiency, Policy Dialogue, Institutional Capacity Building and Business Development Programme

Theme 1 ESCO Support

ESCO legislative work (policy dialogue)

In Serbia the formal adoption of the prepared Energy Supply Contracting (ESC) contract template is planned.

Additional policy/legislative support might be provided on an ad-hoc basis, as several countries have indicated interest and need for support.

ESCO (project preparation work)

In Croatia and Serbia it is planned to continue preparing street lighting tenders, support tendering, contracting and implementation. Most noteworthy are the street lighting ESCO projects in Belgrade and Novi Sad, the two largest cities in Serbia. In addition it is planned to initiate water supply and building ESCO energy efficiency projects. In Bosnia and Herzegovina it is planned to complete the tendering process for the PPP based Energy Supply Contracting biomass district heating project and revive the tender for ESCO project in the cantonal hospital.

In the remaining countries ad-hoc support is available.

Theme 2 Energy Efficiency Policy Dialogue

The aim for the next 6 months for each Domain is as follows:

1. EPBD Domain – assist/support countries to adopt delivered laws and regulations; deliver EPBD software training; complete the final four call-offs;
2. Procurement Domain – completed;
3. Domain relating to NEEAP implementation – support the adoption of the Albania NEEAP; complete delivery of final EEO/Article 7 support to Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia.

Window 2 Sustainable Energy Credit Lines

- Continuation of project assessments and sub-loan signings by PC/PFIs.
- Continuous update of the website with monthly graphical presentations, statistics, achievements and case studies.
- Bank relationship managers to continue marketing activities and continue with marketing / awareness raising activities in all four countries.
- More focused efforts to increase investments in Public sector in Croatia and Serbia.

Window 3 Sustainable Energy Direct Financing Facility

During the second half of 2016, efforts will be made to progress with the approval of the early stage projects in the pipeline, as well as on verifying the completion of two advanced projects. Most likely this will result in actual disbursement of the incentive payments.

On a related note, the available headroom under WeBSEDF is about EUR 21 million, of which EUR 15 million is earmarked for ESCO projects. One potential ESCO project has been identified and the efforts will continue to identify additional such projects.

4.6 RADIATION PROTECTION

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Programme reference: | Horizontal programme on nuclear safety and radiation protection, IPA 2008/020-350 |
| Project title: | Support to the Vinca Institute Nuclear Decommissioning programme (VIND part II) |
| EU contribution: | EUR 3.2 million |
| Beneficiary : | Serbia |
| Type of contract: | Contribution Agreement with the IAEA |
| Contract reference: | CN 2010/235-591 |
| Duration of activities: | 23/07/2010 – 22/09/2016 |
| Contact : | Eleni Vossou, eleni.vossou@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

This project includes 5 sub-projects/activities:

- Conditioning and secure storage of disused sealed radioactive sources in Serbia;
- Decommissioning of the degraded waste storage hangar No. 1;
- Radioactivity survey;
- Characterisation and conditioning of radioactive waste, and strengthening of radiation safety capabilities and infrastructure.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

This project is currently under implementation after the successful tendering and contracting of all remaining activities by the IAEA. The successful contractor is working on the ground and a very smooth cooperation is reported by both the IAEA and the relevant national authorities involved in this project.

This contribution agreement is foreseen to run until 22 September 2016. Not all activities are expected to be finalised by then. The Commission has rejected the request for a further extension of the implementation period. In light of this, the concerned parties (COM, IAEA, Serbia) have held a series of meetings. The outcome of these meetings was that the IPA contribution will expire and that DG DEVCO will consider financing the continuation action in the future. Further coordination between IAEA, Serbia and DG DEVCO will be needed in order to reach final decision on the possible continuation of financing through EU funds.

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Programme reference : | Horizontal Programme on Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection (Montenegro centralised part), IPA 2011/023-388 |
| Project title: | Strengthening Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety in Montenegro through capability upgrading of the technical support institution (CETI) |
| EU contribution: | EUR 0.3 million |
| Beneficiary region : | Montenegro |
| Type of contract : | Supply contract(s) |
| Contract reference: | 2015/356-441 |
| Duration of activities : | 25/05/2015 - 17/09/2015 (possible extension needed) |
| Contact : | Eleni Vossou, eleni.vossou@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The purpose of the project is to upgrade CETI's performance and capabilities in the following five major areas of radiation protection: monitoring of the radioactivity in the environment, including response to radiological/nuclear emergency situations; management of low and medium radioactive waste, storage and transportation of radioactive materials; professional, patient and public exposure control.

The project entails providing adequate pieces of equipment, staff training and expert assistance.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

The delivery of the equipment under this project was effectuated in July 2016. However, the EUD in Podgorica when receiving the delivery and before signing the Provisionary Acceptance Certificate reported a series of deficiencies. The contractor responded positively and these deficiencies are now being rectified. The finalisation of this contract is expected in October 2016.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

Supply of adequate pieces of equipment, staff trained and expert assistance delivered.

As a result it is expected that Montenegro complies with international (IAEA and EU) norms in the respective fields.

Reduction of the radiological risks in Montenegro.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Finalisation of delivery and correction of deficiencies expected in October 2016..

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Programme reference: | Horizontal programme on nuclear safety and radiation protection, IPA 2011/023-384 |
| Project title : | Further enhancement of the technical capacity of nuclear regulatory bodies in the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia) |
| EU contribution: | EUR 2.7 million |
| Beneficiary region : | Western Balkans |
| Type of contract : | Service contract |
| Contract reference: | 2015/362-673 |
| Duration of activities : | 25/06/2015 - 24/06/2018 |
| Contact : | Eleni Vossou, eleni.vossou@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

This regional project will aim at enhancing the technical capacity of the regulatory bodies of the beneficiary countries in the field of nuclear safety and radiation protection is fully compliant with the MIPD's objectives.

ACTIVITIES

The activities of the project are now in progress. Task 2 – transposition of the EU acquis and task 3 development of regulatory procedures are underway.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Continuation of activities as per programme.

CHAPTER 5: ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Assistance in this area focuses on strengthening regional cooperation, strategic planning and institutional capacities through the Environment and Climate Regional Accession Network (ECRAN). Assistance also targets the development of capacities in the area of disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change.

5.1 ECRAN

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Programme reference: | Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2013/024-094 |
| Project title: | Environment and Climate Regional Accession Network (ECRAN) |
| EU contribution: | EUR 5.0 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans and Turkey |
| Type of contract: | Service contract to Hulla & Co. Human Dynamics KG |
| Duration of activities: | October 2013 – October 2016 |
| Link: | http://www.ecranetwork.org/ |
| Contact: | Maja Mikosinska, maja.mikosinska@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The project aims at enhancing regional cooperation in the Western Balkans and Turkey in the field of environment and climate change.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY - JUNE 2016)

The following key capacity building events or workshops were completed during the reporting period:

Environment Working Groups:

- Strategic Planning and Investments: roundtable for cost recovery in waste management sector and cost benefit analysis, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Water Management: 3rd Annual Meeting, of Water Management Working Group Skopje; Workshop on Water Framework Directive: "Program of Measures Basic and Supplementary measures and their anticipated effects"; Regional workshop "Tools and guidance for assessing resource and environmental cost in the WFD", Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; WFD Drina Program of Measures. ECRAN Multi-beneficiary Workshop on Program of Measure under the Water Framework Directive, Tirana, Albania; Multi-beneficiary Workshop "The economics of climate change adaptation measures under WFD, MSFD and ICZM", Istanbul, Turkey; WFD - Program of Measures Basic and Supplementary measures and their anticipated effect, Podgorica, Montenegro.

- Environmental Assessments: 2nd workshop within SEA pilot in Albania; 2nd workshop on the linkages between SEA/EIA and Appropriate Assessment; workshop on practical application of SEA in Montenegro; Environmental Impact Assessment in the Industrial Sector (energy, construction of hydroelectric power plants and wind parks) in Kosovo; training on linkages between SEA and EIA in Turkey.
- Air Quality: nothing to report. All activities finalised in the previous reporting period.
- Waste Management: Study visit on Implementation of Efficient Waste Management Systems and Tools, Liege, Belgium.
- Nature Protection: Regional Workshop on Implementation of EU Timber Regulation, Skopje; - Fighting Illegal logging and associated trade - Cooperation between the EU and EU Candidate Countries and Potential Candidates on Implementation of the EU Timber Regulation, Zagreb, Croatia; ECRAN Expert Mission on Natura 2000 Network Assessment in Albania; ECRAN Expert Mission on Natura 2000 Network Assessment in Serbia.
- IED / Chemicals: ECRAN Multi country Workshop on compliance with the legislation on Trans Frontier Shipment of Waste and 3rd Annual Meeting of IED/Chemicals Working Group, Izmir, Turkey.

Climate Action Working Groups:

- Climate Policy Development and Building Climate Awareness: ECRAN Climate Component Annual Meeting, Istanbul, Turkey; Modelling HAM scenario workshop for Albania; Training on climate legislation on cars and vans, fuel quality and RES in Tirana; Module 4 Regional LEAP Platform training workshop in Tirana; Modelling HAM scenario workshop for Serbia; High Level dialogue – Post Paris/COP 21/NDC implementation in Zagreb.
- GHG Inventory Systems and the EU Monitoring Mechanism Regulation: Second National systems workshop, Tirana, Albania; Training on GHG estimates in the agriculture sector in Zagreb; Third National systems workshop, Podgorica.
- Emissions Trading: Training in Bosnia and Herzegovina of Setting up a framework for ETS, Sarajevo Bosnia and Herzegovina; Advanced training on accreditation in the scope of EU ETS for Serbia; Regional ETS roadmap workshop, Zagreb; Advanced training on verification in the scope of EU ETS for Serbia.
- Adaptation: Step C Workshop - Prioritise Adaptation Options, Ankara, Turkey; Step D Workshop, Podgorica, Montenegro;

Cross-cutting activity for both environment and climate components:

- Enforcement and compliance (ECENA): training course of the ECENA and the Waste WG on Waste inspection, covering TFS (harbour transport), Turkey; External Country assessments/IMPEL Review Initiative – IRI, Turkey; Sub-regional course common inspection, Kosovo; Sub-Regional Workshop - Capacity Building on compliance with environmental legislation, Belgrade, Serbia; National capacity building on the Integrated Risk Assessment Method (IRAM)/easy Tools, Multi country Workshop on Compliance with the Legislation on Trans Frontier Shipment of Waste, Antwerp, Belgium; National

Capacity Building on the Integrated Risk Assessment Method (IRAM)/easy Tool, Belgrade, Serbia.

- Progress Monitoring: the draft reports for all the countries were submitted.
- Legislative compliance checks as required by Republic of Serbia were performed comparing the draft Law on amendments to the Law on waters with the requirements of several EU legal acts.
- First draft of the Handbook on the Implementation of EU Environmental Acquis has been delivered in the reporting period but requires further substantial revision following the feedback of the European Commission. The revised version is expected before the end of the project.
- Draft Handbook on the Implementation of EU Climate Acquis was delivered in the reporting period.

NGO Forum:

The participating NGOs prepared Common statement for the public hearing of European Economic and Social Committee on external dimensions of the EU energy policy and submitted a paper on perspective/evaluation of civil society on the country progress reports. This contribution in the reporting period was limited to four countries. In addition, the following events were organised: 2nd Annual meeting, Brussels; NGO capacity building programme on climate change, Croatia.

The project capacity building activities are implemented in cooperation with the TAIEX facility.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY - JUNE 2016)

- Improved regional cooperation between the competent authorities;
- Enhanced public participation in environmental and climate planning and decision making process;
- Improved quality of transposition and implementation of the EU environmental and climate acquis;
- Improved skills in relation to enforcement of the legislation;
- Enhanced cross-border cooperation in relation to environmental and climate policies, legislation and investments.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- Workshop Actions toward the “WFD good status” - results, case studies and challenges;
- Advanced training on LEAP for Montenegro;
- Review Mission Draft Climate Law, Albania;
- Operators training;
- Final ECRAN Climate Adaptation Conference;
- Regional training workshop on SEA/EIA in industrial sector;
- Final Steering Committee Meeting.

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Programme reference : | Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2013/024-094 |
| Project title: | Support to the International Sava River Basin Commission in the development of the Sava Geographic Information System |
| EU contribution: | EUR 150,000 |
| Beneficiary region: | Sava River Basin area (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia and Montenegro) |
| Type of contract: | Direct grant to the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC) |
| Contract reference: | 22.025100/2014/675749/SUB/ENV. CI |
| Duration of activities: | October 2013 – October 2016 |
| Links: | www.savacommission.org ; www.savagis.org |
| Contact: | Marija SIMUNOVIC, Marija.SIMUNOVIC@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The project's aim is to provide support and assistance to the International Sava River Basin Commission and the countries cooperating under the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Slovenia) as well as to Montenegro in starting to implement the first Sava River Basin Management (RBM) Plan as well as in all joint activities targeted for subsequent RBM cycles by developing the necessary capacities and an information base – the Sava Geoportal.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

Following the successful takeover of the Sava GIS in the last reporting period, ISRBC prepared the final project report and submitted it to DG Environment in February 2016.

The contractor, which established the core functionalities of the Sava GIS is obliged to carry out both preventive and corrective maintenance of the system for a period of one year after the takeover. The system has been monitored permanently in line with the approved maintenance program.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

The final narrative and financial report for the Grant Contract: “Support to the International Sava River Basin Commission in the development of the Sava Geographic Information System”, together with the selected outcomes of the project (system, user and other technical documentation, meeting minutes etc.).

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Maintenance of the Sava GIS, with possible upgrade of the SavaGIS software components.

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Programme reference: | Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2013/024-093 |
| Project title: | Prevention, preparedness and response to floods in the Western Balkans and Turkey - Lot 1 |
| EU contribution: | EUR 2.0 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans and Turkey |
| Type of contract: | Grant |
| Contract reference: | ECHO SUB/2014/692292 |
| Duration of activities: | 01/01/2015 – 31/12/2016 |
| Links: | http://ipafloods.ipacivilprotection.eu/ |
| Contact: | Biljana Zuber, biljana.zuber@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

To increase Beneficiaries' capacity to ensure proper flood risk management at national, regional and EU levels. Specific objectives:

- to increase Beneficiaries' capability to develop effective national civil protection systems and collaborate in a coherent manner in dealing with floods at regional/European level (prevention, preparedness and response). Developing multinational civil protection modules - flood rescue using boats (FRB);
- to support Beneficiaries in becoming better prepared to cope with the challenges posed by approximation to/implementation of the EU Floods Directive.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

- 19-21 January 2016 Regional Host nation support (HNS) Workshop in Budva, Montenegro (Lot 1 + Lot 2);
- 26-28 January 2016 in Bonn, Germany, 1st Workshop for developing concept for national modules for HCP-FC;
- 9 March 2016 the second IPA FLOODS Steering Group meeting (Lot 1 and Lot 2) in Bosnia and Herzegovina with back-to-back workshop on the EU Floods Directive;
- 3rd workshop for developing standard operating procedures (SOPs) and 2 trainings for management staff of the modules, table top exercise;
- 2nd planning conference for the regional IPA Floods exercise.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

- Guidelines for the implementation of EU Floods Directive and MSs Good practices;
- Findings and recommendations for implementation of EU Floods Directive for each beneficiary country were finished;
- Draft Standard operating procedures for the modules were developed (to be tested during the exercise in October 2016);

- Draft Border crossing and Host Nation support protocol was developed (to be tested during the exercise in October 2016);
- Beneficiaries have received the equipment for Flood rescue modules with boats (FRB);
- Two Newsletters No 4 and 5 were produced.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- 8-9 September, 3rd planning conference for the IPA Floods exercise in Croatia;
- Regional exercise IPA Floods in Croatia, 18-21 October;
- 2 trainings for operational staff of the multinational modules, HCP and FC;
- December 2016, 3rd steering committee meeting.

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Programme reference: | Multi-country Programme, IPA II 2014/037-853 |
| Project title: | Prevention, preparedness and response to floods in the Western Balkans and Turkey - Lot 2 |
| EU contribution: | EUR 4.0 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans and Turkey |
| Type of contract: | Grant |
| Contract reference: | ECHO SUB/2014/ 707177 |
| Duration of activities: | 22/07/2015 – 21/01/2018 |
| Links: | http://ipafloods.ipacivilprotection.eu/ |
| Contact: | Biljana Zuber, biljana.zuber@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

To increase Beneficiaries' capability to develop effective national civil protection systems and collaborate in a coherent manner in dealing with floods at regional/European level (prevention, preparedness and response). Capacity building for flood preparedness and response through establishment of multinational Civil Protection Modules for flood response – High Capacity Pumping (HCP) and Flood Containment (FC).

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

Lots 1+2 are closely related so many activities are organized together:

- 9 March 2016 the second IPA FLOODS Steering Group meeting (Lot 1 and Lot 2)
- Two working group meetings on development of SOPs for the High Capacity Pumping (HCP) and Flood Containment (FC) modules and trainings for management staff of the two modules were organized.
- Procurement for the equipment for HCP and FC modules has been launched.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

Developed concepts for composition of the national and multinational HCP and FC modules.
Two Newsletters No 4 and 5 were produced.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- Further development of the SOPs for the HCP and FC modules and organisation of operational trainings for the modules as well as procurement of the equipment;
- 1st planning conference for the regional exercise in 2017;
- December 2016 , 3rd steering committee meeting.

CHAPTER 6: CIVIL SOCIETY

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. In 2014 DG Enlargement had developed two sets of guidelines aiming to support the civil society and media sectors in the region through an inclusive and participative approach with contributions from all relevant stakeholders, CSOs, journalists' and media professional organisations of the region.

"The Guidelines for EU support to civil society in enlargement countries, 2014-2020" complemented by a result framework with clear objectives and indicators to be monitored in the years to come have been finalised and constitutes a reference document for the MCSP 2014-2020.

The "Guidelines for EU support to media freedom and media integrity in enlargement countries, 2014-2020" that are built on the policy vision as set out in the Conclusions of the Speak-up! Conferences were finalised in March 2014.

Link to the guidelines:

http://www.tacso.org/documents/otherdoc/?id=9887&template_id=73&langTag=en-US

Civil Society Facility

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

The CSF consists of three strands of activities which aim at strengthening Western Balkan and Turkish civil society's commitment and involvement in the transformative process in view of their eventual integration into the EU:

- Support/technical assistance (TACSO) for local civic initiatives and capacity building, thereby enforcing the role of civil society at national level;
- 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. The main instruments (implementation modalities) of the action at regional level are the Framework Partnerships Agreements (FPAs), functional to create long-term CSOs coalition building and re-granting schemes for smaller organization;

- A "People 2 People" (P2P) programme to bring a variety of organisations in the Western Balkan region into contact with EU institutions and European-level counterparts. These include CSO representatives, human rights and minority defense activists, NGOs dealing with *acquis*-related subjects, journalists, young politicians and trade union leaders. TACSO has taken over the management of the third strand, the P2P programme applying a demand driven approach.

6.1 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS (TACSO)

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Programme reference: | Civil Society Facility Programme 2011 - 2013, IPA 2012/023-324; IPA 2013/024-081 |
| Project title: | Technical Assistance to the Civil Society Organisations (TACSO) |
| EU contribution: | EUR 10.6 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans and Turkey |
| Type of contract: | Service contract with SIPU International AB, |
| Contract reference: | 2013/325-596, 2013/325-603 |
| Duration of activities: | 01/09/2013 – 30/08/2017 |
| 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: | Karl Giacinti, karl.giacinti@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

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, thus contributing to the changes at the level of organisational and institutional/enabling environment development of the CSOs, improvement of the CSO visibility, better quality of CSO project funded by the EU, ensuring sustainability of provision of TACSO services.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

During the reporting period TACSO focused on extensive cooperation, strengthening internal communication and overall work with the TACSO selected Resource Centres in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey.

Major events with the regional dimension encompassed:

- Regional Conference: EU Guidelines Monitoring – year II. This event looked into the state of play with regard to the civil society capacities, organisational and institutional, in the region and progress made with regard to the EU Guidelines. The event was organised in Skopje (26-28 April 2016).
- Events that TACSO organised through P2P contributing to the development of the enabling environment of the CSO participation were:
 - Sustainability of the FPA (Framework Partnership Agreement Project) Conference, organised in Brussels, Belgium (26 – 28 Jan 2016);
 - Civil Society and Beyond: A Joint Dialogue on the European Path, organised in Belgrade, Serbia (26-26 Feb 2016);
 - Transparent Allocation of Public Funds - EU good practices and Models, organised in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (29-31 March 2016);
 - Regional Networking Workshop - Cooperation and Communication for Migrants Human Rights, organised in Gevgelija, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (21-22 April);
 - Role of Civil Society in Public Administration Reform - EU standards and Practice, organised in Prishtina, Kosovo (6-8 June 2016);
 - Kick-off conference for the Long-term grants, organised in Brussels, Belgium (23-24 June 2016);
 - Study Visit - Civil Society Inclusion in Decision-Making - the Estonia Model, organised in Estonia (28-30 Jun 2016).

TACSO Albania

TACSO Albania organised national training programs on Advocacy and Lobbying for Social Change and Organizational Development and Management for CSOs Networks. 10 Networks 27 CSO representatives from various regions of Albania aiming to increase the capacities of their staff in the areas of strategic planning, and management of CSOs. Organization of information sessions on Legal and Fiscal Treatment for NPOs in Albania with CSOs from 8 different administrative regions, during the period February – May 2016. These sessions were attended by 242 CSO representatives, representing 154 organizations. Publication of the Guide on Fiscal Treatment for Non-for Profit Organizations in Albania.

TACSO Bosnia and Herzegovina

The regional two-day Conference “Transparent Allocation of Public Funds – EU good practices and Models” was held in March 2016, in Jahorina. The aim of the conference was to examine good models and practices for ensuring transparency of public funding. The conference brought together 89 participants from civil society, the EU Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina and national authorities from the six Western Balkans countries and Turkey. The guest lecturers were from Estonia and Hungary. Technical Assistance was provided to the EU Delegation in organizing, two informative sessions (April 2016 in Banja Luka and Sarajevo) on the recent Call for Proposals for the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) 2015-2016. A total of 99 CSO participated in both

sessions. PCM training was delivered by TACSO VESTA in May in Sarajevo for 21 participants from 11 CSOs.

TACSO the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

TACSO Macedonian Office organised three capacity building activities in format of trainings which focused on organisational development issues (Advanced management practices for CSOs, Strategic management for CSOs) and visibility of CSOs (Public relations for CSOs).

In order to provide comparative experiences related with the issue of public funding analysis on lottery proceeds for CSO work in Croatia, Ireland, United Kingdom and Netherlands was performed. Three P2P conferences were organised covering very relevant topics for the country ("Open Government Partnership – Dialogue with Civil Society Organisations on the National Action Plan 2016-2018", „EU support to freedom of speech and freedom of expression", "Communication and Cooperation for Migrants Human Rights").

TACSO Serbia

TACSO Serbia and Resource center led by Civic Initiatives kept focus on providing technical assistance to CSOs through Help desk services. Services related to organizational and project financial management, administrative support, organizational development and sustainability, were provided to 104 representatives of 82 CSOs from different parts of Serbia. Actual information sharing was done via e-Newsletters: 230 news items were shared with 3719 organizations.

Information events on Civil Code draft were organized on proposed changes in Civil Code draft relating to civil society associations, endowments and foundations. These two events gathered 114 CSOs representatives engaged in public debate in areas relevant to their work.

Practice on promoting citizens' activism continued with organizing CSO Fair in Kruševac, Central Serbia. Over 30 CSOs from the region promoted their results to the public. This resulted in 17 media news reaching over 15.000 people.

TACSO Turkey

Three trainings, several direct technical assistance workshops and one seminar were organised on communications, visibility and social media issues during the reporting period. Total of 112 CSO representatives received capacity building on these topics. TACSO facilitated and supported development of *#notwiththislaw* campaign as a result of CSO workshop on TIHEK in February 2016, with participation of CSOs aiming to create impact on policy development on human rights and anti-discrimination mechanism, TIHEK (Turkish Human Rights and Equality Board). 22 capacity development events organised in the reporting period on the topics of Access to EU Funding, PCM, Strategic Planning, Fundraising, Volunteer Management, PCM, organisational Assessment and development with 340 representatives from 146 CSOs and six CSO Networks. Four information meetings were organised with 128 participants from CSOs and stakeholders. Also a workshop on CSO Support Programs by re-granting was organised with 25 CSO representatives. TACSO supported and facilitated six events for enhancing CSO's participation to policy development and decision making processes with 199 representatives from CSOs and stakeholders.

TACSO Montenegro

A conference “Status and Sustainability of the CSOs in Montenegro” aiming to assess the situation in which CSOs are operating in Montenegro and to harmonize the key recommendations for further development, and to support the process of drafting a new Strategy for the development of NGOs (2017-2020) gathered 100 participants. Three regional information meetings on the models and methods for Quality Assurance Systems in CSOs were held. Public consultation on the draft regulation on the procedure for cooperation between the state administration and NGOs and the draft regulation on the procedure and manner of conducting public debate in preparing laws was a continuation of support of TACSO offices to the improvement of CSO participation in the process of decision making. Training courses on project proposal writing were held aiming to enhance the knowledge and skills of 24 CSO representatives in methods, techniques, tools and approaches.

TACSO Kosovo

During April and May 90 grass root organizations working in Mitrovica, Gjilan, Prizren, Peja and Ferizaj regions were consulted in relation to the forms of civic participation and cooperation with public authorities in local and central level. The “Role of Civil Society in Public Administration Reform - EU Standards and Practice” conference held in Prishtina in June 2016, served as a forum to discuss public administration reform with an emphasis on citizen engagement and exploring modalities to advance cross-sector collaboration (78 participants). A total of 26 CSOs benefiting the CSF 2014-2015 and EIDHR 2014 grant scheme actively participated in the TACSO training programme which was designed in close coordination with EU office in Kosovo.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

In April, over 85 key representatives from CSOs and institutions in the Western Balkans and Turkey as well as representatives from the EU institutions gathered for Regional Conference, Monitoring of the EU Guidelines – Year 2. The conference represented the second year of monitoring of each country’s progress towards the indicators and benchmarks set within the Guidelines. As for the last year, this monitoring event produced country inputs for the EU Progress Reports 2016. The inputs were produced in participatory manner encompassing fair diversity of key stakeholders per each country. Also, with this conference the monitoring system with sound methodology of the EU Guidelines can be regarded as established after three-years long diligent and participatory process. The Guidelines on Developing a Communication Strategy for CSOs was developed and published by TACSO in May 2015. All TACSO offices updated their respective country Needs Assessment Reports for 2016.

TACSO Bosnia and Herzegovina held two LAG Extended workshops: the first one held in February 2016 with 22 participants produced inputs for Needs Assessment. The second one held in June 2016 with 18 participants had focus on further assistance needed to CSO networks. LAG Extended workshops were attended by both LAG members and CSO key stakeholders relevant for the focus of the meetings. The regional two-day Conference “Transparent Allocation of Public Funds – EU good practices and Models” resulted in drafting

seven national trajectories with models and steps for ensuring transparency of public funding for civil society as well as mechanisms for implementation and monitoring of distributed funds in Western Balkans and Turkey.

The report from comparative analysis on lottery proceeds for CSO work: "Luck has nothing to do with it" was produced by Macedonian TACSO. The Report provides comparative experiences and will serve as support for the further debate on the issue and as main input for the national conference on public funding to be organised by Macedonian TACSO at the end of the year.

At the Conference "Open Government Partnership – Dialogue with Civil Society Organisations on the National Action Plan 2016-2018", over 80 CSOs articulated their views on the priorities of the next OGP action plan, number of measures to be included in the plan were drafted and were proposed to the Government.

New generation of 27 trainers for the CSOs in the area of Strategic development and Advocacy planning was created by TACSO Serbia. New trainers held two training sessions for the total number of 219 participants and had developed draft strategic plans for 12 local CSOs. Policy paper/Analyses on legal aspect of the Serbia Draft Civil Code in the area of the framework for associations and foundations was prepared and put in use - submitted to the members of the Commission for the Civil Code.

Supported by TACSO Serbia, the Civic Initiatives and Trag Foundation, together with 245 CSOs from 58 towns/municipalities sent to the Ministry of State Government and Local Self-government a formal initiative for changing the amendments in Civil Code draft relating to associations, endowments and foundations.

Electronic tool that facilitates CSOs influence on legislative changes in Serbia has been created with TACSO assistance. Web page for online consultations in the process of regulations adoption process was established – www.javnerasprave.com.

Through TACSO Turkey social media trainings and technical assistance on communication matters: 33 CSOs enhanced their skills; 5 CSO networks developed draft communication strategies; 1 CSO adopted online tools to improve internal communications. #Notwiththislaw Campaign facilitated by TACSO Turkey campaign received 92 retweets, was used in 62 new tweets. The Campaign video produced by TACSO and STGM was viewed 305 times. Campaign web site was visited 694 times during the campaigning period. The representatives from 100 local CSOs in 14 cities across Turkey were informed of the EU support and TACSO. On 2 March 2016, in Istanbul, STGM and TÜSEV invited 18 representatives from key stakeholders from CSOs and experts of civil society development and enabling environment for CSOs for a brainstorming session facilitated and supported by TACSO in order to gather ideas for foreseen draft law framework law on civil society and how CSOs shall cooperate to participate the drafting process in Grand National Assembly Commissions. A Road Map for advocacy was produced.

TACSO Montenegro prepared the Analysis of the effects of implementation of the Strategy for Development of NGO 2014-2016 which will be sent to the Government for adoption. Analysis of QAS models with recommendations for Montenegro was prepared. 12 project proposals, LF matrix and budgets in EU format prepared during the training on project proposal writing. Regulation on the procedure for cooperation between the state

administration and NGOs and regulation on the procedure and manner of conducting public debate in preparing laws were prepared

On May 25, 2016, the Government of Kosovo reached the decision to apply the mixed model for public funding for CSOs. This process was supported by TACSO Kosovo since autumn 2014.

TACSO Albania developed the Guide on Legal Treatment for NPOs in Albania to assist the representatives of CSOs in Albania, individuals and activists working with non-profit organisations (NPOs), those offering goods, services and sponsorships, or benefiting from goods and services delivered by NPOs with information on legal and fiscal obligations for non-for profit organizations. 45 CSOs benefiting from IPA funded project have been interviewed regarding the effective implementation of Instruction of the Albanian Ministry of Finance on "VAT reimbursement for IPA funded projects under the national grant scheme".

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

TACSO will continue to work closely with the Resource Centers on their further organizational development and strengthening through the series of capacity building sessions. The regional conference on communication issues is planned for November 2016 to be held in Tirana. Also, follow ups on few major prior regional initiatives are envisaged, role and achievements of WBT CSOs in Public Administration Reform, further diversification of funding for CSOs through corporate social responsibility and individual philanthropy, best practices in impact evaluation and monitoring of public funding for CSOs, leadership and network management for CSOs networks, national and regional.

Macedonian TACSO will be conducting an analyses of CSO involvement in Cross-border cooperation programs, and will be organizing a conference "Public funding for CSOs" in November 2016.

Further facilitation of the establishment of the quality assurance system for CSOs in Serbia will be in focus of TACSO Serbia activities, as well as continued assistance to the CSOs in consultations on new Civil Code and Social Protection Law. TACSO Serbia will be also opening the dialogue on possibilities of other sources of state financing (outside of the regular budget line – e.g. Law on State Lottery). Two national P2P Conferences on Media freedom and Fundamental rights in Serbia will be organised.

TACSO Montenegro will be very much involved with the work on preparation of the new the Strategy for Development of NGOs 2017-2020.

TACSO Turkey will continue to provide support to joint CSO actions in advocacy campaigns for enhancing participation to decision making. Additionally, working visit by TACSO Turkey is planned to Serbia on the issues of SECO Mechanism.

TACSO Albania will continue to contribute to the implementation of the priorities of Road Map for Albanian government policy towards more enabling environment for civil society development and in particular supporting on add-hoc basis the Government Agency for Supporting Civil Society in performing its role as a technical secretariat of National Council for Supporting the Civil Society in Albania.

Capacity building programme by national offices in the next period will consist of trainings and workshops that will be in some cases followed by mentorship and coaching support.

Focus areas will be transparency and communication with particular focus on use of social media for advocacy and lobbying purposes. Events planned are listed in the [Calendar](#) of events.

6.2 FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Programme reference: | 1st Phase - Civil Society Facility Programme and Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2011/022-965, IPA 2011/022-964 |
| Project title: | CSF, Framework Partnership Agreements (FPAs) |
| EU contribution: | EUR 11.2 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans and Turkey |
| Type of contract: | 18 Grants |
| Duration of activities: | 01/12/2012 – 30/11/2014 |
| Programme reference: | 2nd Phase - Civil Society Facility Programme IPA 2013/024-081 |
| Project title: | CSF, Framework Partnership Agreements (FPAs) |
| EU contribution: | EUR 8.9 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans and Turkey |
| Type of contract: | 18 Grants |
| Duration of activities: | 01/12/2014 – 30/11/2016 |
| Links: | http://www.tacso.org/news/awarded/fpa/Default.aspx?id=9533 |
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PURPOSE

The Framework Partnership Agreements come under the second strand of the CSF mentioned above. They provide long-term support to 18 thematic networks of CSOs organised at regional level. The FPAs were concluded following a call for proposals for up to 48 months but subject to review after 24 months.

The global objective of the FPAs is to bring together Western Balkans, Turkey and EU based CSOs into operational partnerships to deliver their own specific objectives and at the same time the collective aim to support 'a dynamic civil society actively participating in public debate on democracy, human rights, social inclusion and the rule of law and with capacity to influence policy and decision making processes.

The specific objective of the Programme is for: 'Greater commitment and capacity of civil society organisation (CSO) networks to give citizens a voice and to influence public sector reform processes through analysis, monitoring and advocacy, etc.

ACTIVITIES IN THE PAST SEMESTER AND PLANNED FOR THE NEXT

A thorough mid-term review of the 18 FPAs was finalized in autumn 2014 and new contracts were subsequently signed with all the FPAs for the second phase of activity.

A short presentation of the main results achieved and new activities planned for each of the project is provided in the following section. The 18 projects are divided in 3 thematic areas:

1. GOVERNANCE
2. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS AND RECONCILIATION
3. ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES, ENERGY

1. GOVERNANCE

Civil society coalitions built up within the project **Advocacy for Open Government (2014/351- 527 continuation of 2012/306-656)** continued to work with officials tasked with implementing Action Plans within the Open Government Partnership (OGP). Project partners published policy studies to maintain the presence and visibility of OGP issues in national policy debates. Nine webinars were held for representatives of civil society and civil servants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo, Serbia, and Montenegro. Partners gathered data for a scorecard system that measures and compares levels of governmental transparency in the six project countries, and they began work on national reports analyzing the data. Several public discussions were held in connection with the project. Three subgrants were awarded to NGOs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, and Kosovo that are working on projects to boost public participation in policymaking at the municipal level and to educate civil servants on implementation of OGP principles in city governments.

The project **“Towards Efficient Public Procurement Mechanisms in the EU (potential Candidate Countries (2014/351-493 continuation of 2012/306/161)”** is managed by the Balkantenderwatch coalition (BTW) which consists of six organizations from five countries. During the reporting period, shadow reports on the chapter 5 – public procurement are prepared for each of the WB countries (Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) as well as comparative shadow report for the year 2015. Also, 48 case studies (12 per country) on purposefulness of particular public procurements related to previously selected PP areas were completed. The shadow reports and case studies were presented at the regional conference “Monitoring of the public procurements: corruption risks, identified from the civil society organizations” held in Skopje. Experiences and best practice examples were shared with other CSOs and networks as well as with organizations from Croatia and Hungary which also participated at the conference.

During the period January - June 2016 the **SELDI initiative (2014/351-414 continuation of 2012/307-476)** performed analysis of the energy sector governance deficits and corruption risks based on 57 interviews and desktop research, and started to explore the hidden economy manifestations and trends. SELDI concluded the *Corruption Monitoring Systems (CMS)* population surveys in 9 countries, and presented the results and policy recommendations in the former Yugoslav Republic of [Macedonia \(22 March 2016\)](#), [Montenegro \(14 April 2016\)](#), [Albania](#) and [Serbia \(12 May 2016\)](#), [Turkey \(16 June 2016\)](#), and [Bosnia and Herzegovina \(28 June 2016\)](#). SELDI held an international policy workshop [Strengthening Resilience to Corruption and State Capture in Southeast Europe](#) on 14 June 2016 in Brussels to discuss with the wider policy and civil society community the CMS 2016 results, the energy sector governance deficiencies, and the possible corruption counter-measures. The initiative also signed Memoranda of Understanding for future anti-corruption

collaboration with [seven Albanian CSOs](#) on 1 June 2016. Main expected results or activities planned for the next semester are: finalization and publication of Regional and Turkish Corruption Assessment reports; policy briefs on energy governance and hidden economy; and closing international conference for SELDI planned for 29-30 September 2016 in Skopje.

In the reporting period of the **“SIGN for Sustainability” project (2014/351- 410 continuation of 2012/306-172)** Trag (SER) and Mozaik (BIH) started conducting a survey on the existing tax incentives in these countries, trying to identify the level of their current use and obstacles to their full implementation. Based on this survey, Trag and Mozaik will define recommendations and their advocacy campaign. SIGN sub-grantees completed the fundraising campaigns that they implemented under the “Regional Sustainability Academy” program. In total, 25 SIGN sub-grantees received 25,000 EUR of technical grants for their campaigns, managed to raise over 100,000 EUR from companies and individuals in their local communities and receive matching grants of over 95,000 EUR from SIGN partners. SIGN also published Manual for Implementation of Standards for Fundraising that will assist CSOs in attaining the standards and help them monitor and evaluate their impact.

In the period from January to June the **Triple A for Citizens project (2014/351-417 continuation of 2012/306-166)** and its local partners have been focusing on actively campaigning for better access to justice and for an improved legal framework for provision of direct services to citizens. This was achieved on the basis of national advocacy roadmaps which provide an analysis of the legal aid systems, legislations and the capacities of the CSOs that provide information, advice and free legal aid. Clear action plans for an enabling framework for provision of Triple A services were presented at national conference in Turkey (14/06/2016) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (18/07/2016) and discussed with stakeholders from civil society, government and Bar associations. Conferences in other countries are scheduled to take place in September (Albania 22/09/2016, Bosnia and Herzegovina 29/09/2016). The Quality Standards of the network as well as the “self-evaluation mechanism” have been finalized and are currently being tested among the partners. The launching of the Triple A for citizens network has been scheduled for the 29-30 November in Brussels at an international conference which will close the phase 2 of the project. The project launched a revamped website (<http://tripleacitizens.eu>) to give it a more modern look and to include an updated [Regional Service Providers Map](#) .

South East European Media Observatory: Building Capacities and Coalitions for Monitoring Media Integrity and Advancing Media Reforms (2014/351-607 continuation of 2012/306-658) More than 100 editors from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia were interviewed for the research on the role of editors in media integrity protection at the beginning of 2016. Simultaneously, eight case studies on good practices in media integrity protection in the region were elaborated in details. Policy paper on alternative models of financing of independent journalism was compiled. All the findings guided and inspired the discussions at the final regional conference of the SEE Media Observatory on 13 June 2016 in Novi Sad, a gathering of pro-media integrity actors from the region and other parts of Europe aimed at discussion on future of independent journalism in our region. Joint manifesto with concrete media reform demands was developed and discussed at the conference, summarizing main messages of the SEE Media Observatory after four years of research and actions. The agenda for reforms has been further elaborated in the final overview of hundreds of policy

recommendations of SEE Media Observatory for concrete media-reform measures in seven countries of the region elaborated during the project. The SEE Media Observatory has contributed to the media reform debates and processes in the countries of the region with an idea of media integrity as a guiding principle for addressing the problems in media systems in the region, delivering at the same time to the media community and decision makers a body of knowledge (facts and analyses) about patterns of corruption in all parts of the countries' media systems and a pool of concrete proposals how they should be reformed. It has managed to connect in the pro-media integrity debates and concrete actions beside civil society also investigative journalists and independent state bodies, such as anti-corruption bodies.

Within the project **Balkan Civil Society Acquis – Strengthening the Advocacy and Monitoring Potential and Capacities of CSOs (2014/351-412 continuation of 2012/306-577)**, [Balkan Civil Society Development Network \(BCSDN\)](#) had devoted to set the agenda on improving basic data on CSOs as a basis for countering stereotypes about CSOs and to enable developing policies and measures for civil society based on relevant and sound data. For these reasons, a study [“Economic Value of the Non-Profit Sector in the Countries of the Western Balkans and Turkey”](#), giving an overview of the available non-profit sector-related data and challenges faced in its collection and availability, was prepared and published. Furthermore, aiming to effectively communicate and visualize civil society enabling environment trends on the level of [Monitoring Matrix](#) (MM) standards for each country, BCSDN developed a quantitative methodology for quality standardization and categorization of the MM Country Reports. All 2015 country reports as well as the regional one are now published and are available on the MM [platform](#). BCSDN also continued with the efforts to provide policy input on EU support to civil society with the new brief published: [Supporting vs. Fostering: The Effectiveness of EU's Regional Support for CSO Partnerships](#).

During the upcoming semester, the project partners will be dedicated to preparing the 2016 MM country reports, both with qualitative and quantitative methodology and their promotion. It will also finalize designing of the [“Government Self-assessment Tool on the Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development”](#), which, along with the [Guidelines of the EU for Support to Civil Society in Enlargement Countries](#), 2014-2020 on the part of the European Commission, is one of the three pillars of the triangle to be established for improving the dialogue on the advancement of the enabling environment.

2. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS AND RECONCILIATION

The Balkans ACT (Against Crime of Trafficking) Now! (2014/351-406 continuation of 2012/306-193) Two major outputs in the period January-June 2016 were finalization of the compensation fund feasibility studies and completion of the monitoring process. Feasibility studies examined the costs and above all financial feasibility of the funds for compensation for victims of human trafficking (and other violent crimes), including possible sources of financing, in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. These studies are a valuable advocacy tool for state compensation funds since the main objection from government structures when discussing such mechanism concerns its costs and impossibility of state budgets to support it. Further, national anti-trafficking policies in the four IPA countries were monitored and subsequently assessed based on the monitoring tool jointly developed within the Action. The tool was designed to

ensure high-quality and objective monitoring of compliance with international and European standards and rules in the area of protection of trafficked persons and their access to justice. Both these groups of outputs were presented at the Regional Conference at the National Assembly of Serbia in June. In addition to aiming at improving the position of trafficked persons, both the feasibility studies and the findings of the monitoring process will contribute to the EU accession processes in the countries involved. In the upcoming months work on advocating for policy proposals for state compensation funds will be continued, regional curriculum on the topic of access to compensation will be piloted at the Judicial Academy of Serbia and the monitoring tool will be completed and distributed to all relevant anti-trafficking organizations and network in Europe for their local usage.

Improving the provision of Social Service Delivery in South Eastern Europe through the empowerment of national and regional Civil Society networks (2014/351-393 continuation of 2012/ 306-530). During first half of 2016 project team was engaged in capacity building and policy influencing of the IRIS Network in 7 countries of SEE. Main capacity building activities for CSO IRIS network members were: organization of 3 traineeships for the staff, mentoring programme for 15 CSOs - assisting in licensing process and 11 CSOs – obtaining ISO quality management certificate. Policy influencing activities consisted of 6 national and 1 SEE policy paper development, implementation of advocacy campaigns in 6 countries and implementation of 13 advocacy initiatives throughout Small Grant Facility. As the result of cooperation with SOLIDAR, IRIS Network entered the membership of this European network of NGOs working to advance social justice in Europe and worldwide.

Coordinated efforts - toward new European standards in protection of women from gender based violence (2014/351-409 continuation of 2012/306-568). During the period of July-December 2015, the most important activities included: **21** proposals for law and policy changes submitted in the respective countries. AWC amendments to the [Criminal Code](#) have been confirmed by Ms. Vesna Ratković, GREVIO member. In spite of all obstacles, NCGE (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) has signed [Memorandums of Collaboration](#) with relevant Ministries. Persistent advocacy influenced the state policy through reporting to international bodies: [Human Rights Committee](#) (Slovenia), [CEDAW Committee](#), [EU Delegation](#) (2016 Progress Report - Montenegro and Serbia), [independent report](#) of progress in implementation of the [AP in Chapter 23 and 24](#) (Serbia). The President of Montenegro [invited](#) the Presidents of other states in the region to sign [Podgorica Declaration](#). At the regional leaders meeting ("[Brdo-Brioni](#)", 28-29.5.2016), participants accepted the proposal on regional cooperation in preventing and combating VAW and DV. All the activities have been continuously presented on the website [Potpisujem.org](#).

Partnership to Ensure Reform of Supports in Other Nations - PERSON (2014/351-686 continuation of 2012/306-649). During the first half of 2016, the PERSON partnership's third face to face meeting was arranged to coincide with the European Commission organised Sustainability Conference held in Brussels, Belgium in January 2016. Our Kosovan partners held their Regional Seminar in May 2016 in Prizren, Kosovo. The fourth face-to-face meeting and the closing Seminar was held in Belgrade, Serbia in June 2016 to officially disseminate the PERSON Project Report. The Project Report highlights the positive results achieved (and some of the challenges faced) within different areas of activity including: Law Reform; Strategic Litigation and Engagement; On-line Campaigning; Capacity Building and Promotion in each country. All partners also completed their final Country Reports during this period.

The country reports profile the most up-to-date research on the situation for people with disabilities regarding legal capacity status in our five partner countries.

Corporate Social Responsibility for All - CSR for ALL Project (2012/306-569 and 2014/351-680). Within the first half of 2016, the CSR for ALL Project continued with its activities focusing on reporting aspect of corporate social responsibility. Similar to the first phase, The CSRforALL provided trainings at several levels as well as country wide surveys. Foreseen activities for the specific period of the Project have been completed by all Partners. In that regard, (i) National Review Study focusing on CSR Reporting was finalized by Partners and the outputs are in the process of being compiled for further dissemination. (ii) Another supporting package in the second phase has been prepared for the Partners which will be utilised in scheduled trainings. (iii) Trainings at various levels have been completed by all Partners. (iv) Seminars for wider awareness raising are ongoing. There are only few remaining activities within the scope of the CSRforALL and final plannings have been initiated in order to meet specific deadlines regarding overall project implementation.

Partnership for Reconciliation through Early Childhood Education and Development in Europe – PRECEDE (2014/351-609 continuation of 2012/306-585). In the period January – June 2016, within PRECEDE, two Regional Manuals for local CSOs and other stakeholders (preschools, informal networks and groups) were finalised: Manual for Action Research and Manual for Monitoring the activities and work in general. Regional Manifesto for Peace-building with Young Children was developed and is currently distributed to various national political parties, government bodies and parliaments for signature. National Toolkits for preschool teachers for work with young children and their parents were being developed and National Training Modules were accredited in the countries where it was possible. The Sub-granting programme was implemented in all six partner countries to advocate for respect for diversity from early years. Preparations and planning for the International Conference “What are Young Children telling Us” to be held on September 20-21 in Belgrade were finalised.

Citizens' Network for Peace, Reconciliation and Human Security (2014/351-549 continuation of 2012/307-468). During the period January-June 2016, Claim Network organized the advocacy mission to Brussels following the FPA Conference (January 25-28). On May 11-13, Regional NGO Network Forum in Sofia was organized. NGO representatives across the region attended the Forum. As a result of the event, the partners of the Claim Network launched a network call along with attendance of the participants of the Forum. After the Forum a side event was organized to extend advocacy activities of the project in UN World Humanitarian Summit. Finally, Call for sub-grant was launched in April; and proposals were collected in May. The applications were processed and evaluated with the collaboration of all partners during Regional NGO Network Forum. The contracting process was fulfilled with ten grantees on June. As for the next six months, a final conference on human security will be organized in Istanbul and a cross-border political dialogue in Sabir Maydan meeting in Sicily, Italy.

3. ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES, ENERGY

Advocacy NGOs networks for sustainable use of energy and natural resources in the Western Balkans and Turkey – ETNAR (2014/ 351-683 continuation of 2012/306-573). A regional webinar on Environmental Approximation was organised; two studies on energy

security and employment opportunities in the energy sector were presented in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The European Parliament passed a resolution on Bosnia and Herzegovina, calling the Governments to regulate and supervise the construction of hydropower plants in environmentally sensitive areas and in protected and potentially protected areas. A harmful project of TE Plomin C in Croatia has been cancelled.

Seminars organised: Preserve our water and watersheds, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Training for exercising the right to a healthy environment and public advocacy, Montenegro; Activist to activists: Environmental advocacy skillshare, Turkey; Shebenik Jabllanic National Park protection and better livelihood in Rajca buffer zone, Albania; The EU and Serbia – Environmental legislation and its application in practice, Serbia.

In the third semester of the **ESSEDRA project (2014/351 continuation of 2012/307-143)** the partnership organised one training on the Theory of Change that proved crucial in further defining the strategy ahead, spreading beyond the project duration. The partnership focused on establishing an umbrella organisation acting as a legal entity, currently in process of being registered. Ad hoc capacity building trainings were held in all IPA countries, involving both partners of the action and relevant stakeholders. National advocacy strategies for IPARD II have been set up in all countries but Bosnia (where IPARD II has not been released yet). The partnership further submitted a common statement with FACE network to DG SANTE to encourage the creation of a specific working group on flexibility, at the European level, led by the DG. Furthermore, the partnership started working on a guide on "Minimum food hygiene and food safety conditions for small producers" serving as guidance and training to producers on hygiene. The partnership held in Tirana, 2 - 5 June is a major event foreseen during the second phase: "Terra Madre Balkans" – the regional meeting of small-scale artisan food producers. The event counted over 350 delegates from 12 countries who participated in the 3-day programme of conferences and workshops, and side events. An extensive international media coverage was ensured (its promotional video reached over 250,000 people and a BBC radio coverage took place). A major national event was also held in Bitola, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 24 - 26 June, that gathered activists, small-scale artisan food producers and policy makers for two-days discussion on project issues.

The ENV.net project - Development of the ENV.net in Western Balkans and Turkey: giving citizens a voice to influence the environmental process reforms for closer EU integration (2014/351-610) in the past six months continued to improve the dialogue with the national authorities, local media, CSOs and EU institutions to keep them informed about the results of the monitoring exercise on three important categories of the environmental acquis: water quality, horizontal legislation and climate change. The results are available in the [ENV.net monitoring matrix web-platform](#). For the same purpose, a toolkit on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and the ENV.net first policy paper has been developed. Furthermore, the ENV.net Partners organised simultaneous events to spread key messages and raise awareness at the occasion of the World Water Day and the World Environment Day by strengthening also the cooperation with media. In the meanwhile, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro came on board and are providing a precious contribution to the ENV.net work in a regional perspective. To know more, visit the [ENV.net blog](#)

South East Europe Sustainable Energy Policy (SEE SEP) Program (2014/351-623 continuation of 2012 / 307 – 460). From January to June 2016, the SEE 2050 Energy Model

continued to be the focus of SEE SEP’s activities. In March the model was a part of the key-note presentation at the International Conference on 2050 Calculators hosted by the UK Government in Mexico City. The Permanent High Level Group of the Energy Community also approved the model to be [hosted on the website of Energy Community](#). June marked the publishing of the 2050 Energy Roadmap for South East Europe at the [3rd High Level Policy Conference](#) with DG NEAR at EU Sustainable Energy Week. The Roadmap was published in two volumes: [A Guide to the Future](#) and [Technical Analysis](#), and it presents the road SEE countries should follow to achieve EU climate and energy goals and a fairer, cleaner and more efficient energy future. On EUSEW 2016, SEE SEP also initiated collaboration with private sector companies in the region that work in the area of energy efficiency (Knauf Insulation, GGE). In June, the 1st ever CSO Energy Day that formalized the dialogue between Energy Community and CSOs, that SEE SEP strongly advocated for. Until the end of the project, the Red Flag Report on energy poverty, as well as one more Watch Dog report will be launched.

6.3 OPERATING GRANTS

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|--------------------------------|---|
| Programme reference: | Civil Society Facility Programme and Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2014/031-605 |
| Project title: | CSF, Operating grants |
| EU contribution: | EUR 1.57 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans and Turkey |
| Type of contract: | Grants |
| Duration of activities: | 01/01/2016 – 31/12/2016 |
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PURPOSE

Operating grants contribute to the general expenses of operating an organization whose overall mission and objectives correspond to the policy priorities of the European Commission. The current operating grants provide structural support to 10 regional partnerships of CSOs working on topics such as youth policies, social dialogue, rule of law, promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities and LGBTI persons. The operating grants were concluded following a call for proposals for a period of 12 months with the possibility of extension for up to 48 months. In the second half of 2016 an evaluation will take place in order to select those operating grants that can be renewed for one more year.

Regional CSO platform advocating social innovation under employment policies that guarantees security for youth at risks – YOU SEE! Platform (2015/368-862 continuation of 2014/351-917). The project is designed to create a CSO platform enabling regional response to challenges stemming from the implementation of socio-economic policy reforms affecting youth. During the first six months of the second year of project implementation, all partner

CSOs prepared Monitoring reports on the results of active measures implemented in the Western Balkans and Turkey as well as National White papers on how to develop adequate active measures in specific segments of the youth employment policy and for particular categories of youth at risk. A partner meeting analyzing "the applicability of identified models of social innovation" was organized in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in April. Nineteen representatives from partner organizations improved their knowledge in creating social innovations. Moreover, three thematic chronicles on social innovation are being prepared as examples of good EU practices, while the on-line platform was updated and is widely used. An advocacy campaign regarding policy solutions and de-institutionalization of services in the field of youth employment is implemented in all partner countries and through social networks. Future activities to be implemented by the end of 2016 are: testing of some social innovation practices, publication of the Regional Policy brief II "Mechanisms and tools for youth employment", organization of a regional workshop in Kosovo on the "Methodology for testing social innovation" and organization of national workshops on social innovations and policy solutions for beneficiaries and stakeholders.

Regional Youth Exchange Association (2015/371-378 continuation of 2014/351-845). The regional network of the Youth Initiative for Human Rights (YIHR) with offices in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia continued to advocate for the establishment of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO). YIHR worked on promoting institutionalized mechanisms for youth exchanges in the Western Balkans aiming at building trust among nations and contributing to reconciliation on a regional level. YIHR organized a number of street actions and presentations at universities throughout the region, as well as five national conferences that gathered CSOs and individuals active in the field of youth policies and regional cooperation. In addition, four pilot exchanges with 80 participants from different WB countries were organized addressing the issues of EU integration, dealing with past processes and regional cooperation with Kosovo. As part of the RYCO Working Group, YIHR was also involved in drafting the documents that define the mission and vision of RYCO. The highlight of this process was YIHR's contribution to the Summit on the Western Balkans held in Paris on 4 July where the prime ministers of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia signed the Declaration on the establishment of RYCO. Together with the Franco-German Youth Office and the Center for Balkan Cooperation Loja, YIHR organized one session at the "Connecting Youth – Western Balkans Youth Conference" where the initiative for establishing RYCO was presented to more than 150 young people from all around Europe. This session was attended by six ministers from the Western Balkans in charge of youth policies.

Young With A Voice (2015/371-191 continuation of 2014/351-938). During the second year of the project, in the period January - June 2016, the work programme was focused on improving and promoting the Child Protection Index (CPI). The main result of this refining process was the Revised CPI methodology and indicators matrix, produced after comprehensive consultations were initiated in the framework of the Regional technical and stakeholder workshop for refining of CPI methodology and indicators', organized in April (Belgrade, Serbia). This Regional workshop gathered CPI experts from 9 pilot countries, members from national networks participating in the project, ChildPact board and ChildPact secretariat members, CPI Data Collection Manager and relevant external stakeholders. The CPI promotion process has started with the implementation of the National CPI trainings for CSOs and national network members, organized in each of five project countries, and will be

followed by the implementation of evidence (index)-based advocacy campaigns, at both national and regional level, in the next semester.

Balkan regional platform for youth participation and dialogue (2015/371-185 continuation of 2014/351-922). The project seeks to contribute to structuring regional cooperation between civil society and public authorities in the Western Balkans in view of improving the environment for youth activism and participation, in particular of young people with fewer opportunities. The main activities focus on creating a Balkan Network for Local Democracy comprising CSOs and local/regional authorities that can provide a framework for strengthening the capacities of CSOs and youth groups for creating a regional co-operation platform promoting active citizenship and participation in the reform process towards EU integration. The project partners adopted a Regional Co-operation Platform engaging Local Democracy Agencies and their host cities in the Western Balkans; conducted a capacity building programme for eight local Youth Task groups, a training seminar in Knjazevac, Serbia and a study visit and meetings with MPs of the Parliament of Montenegro; launched the Youth Art workshops and photo exhibitions organised in eight host cities; and conducted a comparative analysis of the legislative and institutional framework related to youth public policy making in the Balkan countries. Future activities comprise: organisation of the Regional Youth Forum gathering all the project partners, LAs, relevant government bodies in Subotica, Serbia; coordination of an youth group for additional volunteering activities providing aid to the migrants in city of Subotica; dissemination of key findings from the comparative research.

Together for Equality: Advancing Human Rights of LGBTI people in Western Balkans and Turkey (2015/371-462 continuation of 2014/351-960). The newly established Regional Association ERA – LGBTI Equal Rights Association for Western Balkans and Turkey – has implemented a number of activities in 2016. Comprehensive Organizational Capacity Assessments of LGBTI organizations from the Western Balkans and Turkey were conducted, involving 25 LGBTI organizations. Moreover, 18 advocacy meetings and workshops with representatives of CSOs, national governments and institutions, as well as with representatives of international institutions and donors took place. In June, 4 public roundtable events about the human rights of LGBTI persons were organized in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia, gathering representatives of governments, LGBTI CSOs and international institutions. In June, a panel on LGBTI rights in Western Balkans was organized in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Germany. In September, a training/strategic meeting on Public Campaigning for 30 LGBTI organizations will be organized in Belgrade. Furthermore, ERA's first Annual Conference "Why laws are not enough: Towards social inclusion and equality of LGBTI persons in Western Balkans and Turkey" will be organized in October in Pristina. A comprehensive regional online resource center/database will be launched in December, containing LGBTI related legislation, policy, reports, research, manuals, articles and multimedia content.

Strengthening NGO capacity and promoting public health and human rights oriented drug policy in South Eastern Europe (2015/ 371-158 continuation of 2014/351-836). In the period January-June 2016 the Drug Policy Network South East Europe (DPNSEE) opened its own office at the Dr Aleksandra Kostića 14/6 street, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia. In a meeting of the partners on 15-17 February 2016 the work programme for 2016 was discussed and implementation arrangements among the partners were made. The DPNSEE board was also

convened during those days. A selection commission of three board members coordinated the procedure that led to the appointment of three staff members. Since the 1st of April 2016 the executive director Milutin Milosevic, the financial manager Julijana Daskalov and the staff member for the Secretariat Irena Molnar are settled in the office. On 2-4 June 2016 the regional conference “Drug policy after the UNGASS” was held in Thessaloniki (Greece). Representatives of Civil Society Organisations, scientists and policy makers participated in the conference and discussed ways of implementing the decisions of the UN Special Session of the General Assembly (UNGASS 2016) in the region of South East Europe. Two Newsletters have been published with news about activities and developments in relation to drug policies in South East Europe.

Balkans Independent Disability Framework - BIDF (2015/371-187 continuation of 2014/351-920). With this project, ACED and its partners, CIL in Serbia, UPCG in Montenegro, Polio Plus in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the newly registered regional network BIDF, will assist associations dedicated to the fulfilment of the rights and needs of persons with disabilities (APWDs) to establish disability focal points and to undertake policy and legislative advocacy, public education campaigns and other related activities at national and regional level. Building on previous achievements related to developing the institutional capacity of BIDF as a regional network as well as the capacities of other APWDs, the project partners have continued to advocate for positive legislative changes and to monitor legal developments related to the prevention of disability or gender-based discrimination and marginalization in the region. Moreover, an assessment of the implementation of National Disability Strategies in the region was conducted through the BIDF National Focus Groups that prepared analytical reports with concrete recommendations for each national strategy. To ensure the transparency, mutual recognition and equal opportunity to participate in this assessment for both the CSOs and the public sector, 4 round tables were organized gathering inputs from over 120 APWDs and stakeholders. The final policy recommendations of the BIDF Focus Groups were presented to representatives of national governments on three national conferences. Observing the capacity building needs of the BIDF members identified through a membership survey, a series of eight basic and advanced trainings were provided to APWDs in order to develop their advocacy approach and monitoring capacities in relation to the implementation of the National Disability Strategies. In the forthcoming period BIDF will organize promotional round tables in four project countries presenting its achievements to APWDs, local authorities and the general public and will also convene its annual General Assembly meeting.

Stronger Social Dialog in Western Balkans Countries - SSD WBC (2015/371-444 continuation of 2014/351-846). The project aims at strengthening the capacity of social partners in participating countries to contribute to the national and regional development of social dialogue and the harmonization with EU regulations (in Serbia, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania). It is implemented by the Montenegrin Employers Federation (coordinator) and its partners: the Association of Employers of FBiH, BusinessAlbania, the Business Confederation of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Serbian Association of Employers, the Union of Employers' Associations of Republika Srpska. In the first six months of 2016, the project partners organized an important joint event in Skopje, the school of social dialogue, with the purpose of strengthening the human capacities of social partners by increasing their knowledge of collective bargaining techniques in the Western Balkan countries. Moreover, at the national

level, each partner organized workshops to discuss the state of social dialogue with the social partners. In the next period, a publication on the subject of social dialogue and occupational safety and health (OSH) will be prepared and each partner will organize national workshops to present the EU rules and practices related to OSH. In addition, the project partners will create promo videos for social dialogue which will be the main tool for raising awareness about the importance of social dialogue.

European Integration and the social dimension: strengthening regional cooperation of trade unions in the Balkans (2015/371-495 continuation of 2014/351-847). The project aims at strengthening the network of trade unions created in the region of the Western Balkans. Due also to the efforts of the network, in Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, trade union reform starts to be on the agenda, more particularly within the CATUS Confederation in Serbia and the SSM Confederation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In Montenegro, the “old” union seems to be aware of the urgent need for reform and has announced changes. The regional Trade Union network “Solidarnost” is working on its political visibility in the Western Balkans regional process. In the coming period the project will focus on involving young trade unionists in the process (with a joint workshop “Young and Old” to be organized in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and on ensuring workers representation at company level and the need to find a common approach with regard to EU standards.

Western Balkans Pulse for Police Integrity and Trust - POINTPULSE (2015/371-144 continuation of 2014/351-850). The project seeks to contribute to increased trust and confidence in law enforcement agencies in the Western Balkans by fighting corruption and promoting police integrity through activities of the regional civilian oversight network POINTPULSE. Launched in January 2015, POINTPULSE now comprises seven civil society organizations: Belgrade Centre for Security Policy from Serbia (BCSP), Balkan Investigative Reporting Network Serbia (BIRN), Analytica from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Institute for Democracy and Mediation from Albania (IDM), Centre for Security Studies from Bosnia and Herzegovina (CSS), Institute Alternative from Montenegro (IA) and Kosovar Centre for Security Studies (KCSS). In the past six months, POINTPULSE conducted public opinion surveys on perceptions of corruption and trust in police (<http://pointpulse.net/pulse>). The findings were presented in public events in all of the region’s capitals simultaneously. Moreover, two workshops were organized for developing an advocacy plan and enhancing the methodology for assessing police integrity. Currently, the partners are finalizing the National Assessments of Police Integrity, to be presented in early December. These contain comprehensive, in-depth assessments of national police authorities and will be a continuation of the baseline studies produced last year (<http://pointpulse.net/publications/page/4>). An Android application is also being developed in local languages that will provide information on the location and contact details of local police stations, as well as on how to report police misconduct. BIRN will produce a TV feature piece on the relation of media and police by the end of the year, whereas a closing regional conference will be organized in Belgrade in December on the same topic. The rationale is to start a debate on the ways in which police communicates with the public through the media and how their approach can be changed in order to better present the results of police work. The Network’s website continues to be regularly updated with analyses and opinion pieces on issues relevant to police integrity. POINTPULSE is active on Facebook and Twitter (hashtags: #BalkanCops #POINTPULSE).

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| Programme reference: | Civil Society Facility and Media Programme 2014-2015 (allocation 2014) - IPA 2014/031-605 |
| Project title: | CSF, Support to regional thematic networks of Civil Society Organisations – Long-term Grants |
| EU contribution: | EUR 15.8 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans and Turkey |
| Type of contract: | 16 Grants |
| Duration of activities: | December 2015 – December 2019 |
| Contacts: | Maria Esposito, maria.esposito@ec.europa.eu Olga-Elena Fimin, olga-elena.fimin@ec.europa.eu Karl Giacinti, karl.giacinti@ec.europa.eu Henk Visser, henk.visser@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The 16 Long-term grants were awarded after a Call for proposals launched under the Civil Society Facility and Media Programme 2014-2015 to provide support to regional thematic networks of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), fostering regular networking at regional and EU level, facilitating the exchange of knowledge, skills and connections, and increasing and widening their impact in campaigning and advocacy.

The CSOs networks supported in this framework are active in a number of sectors identified as relevant for the region. The final aim is to strengthen their capacities to advocate and effectively dialogue with Governments in order to influence policy and decision making processes, and to produce lasting change in the society.

About 20% of each project budget will be used to provide financial support to CSOs external to the beneficiary network, with the purpose of reaching out to, and building capacities of, grass-root and other types of non-governmental local organisations.

ACTIVITIES IN THE PAST SEMESTER AND PLANNED FOR THE NEXT

The 16 action grants have completed their inception phase in the first six months of 2016. Activities carried out in the period January – June 2016, as well as the planned activities for the next semester are briefly presented in the following section. The 18 projects are divided in 3 thematic areas:

1. RULE OF LAW, GOVERNANCE AND MEDIA FREEDOM
2. SOCIAL INCLUSION, MIGRATION AND RECONCILIATION
3. SUSTAINABLE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A thorough mid-term review of the 18 FPAs was finalized in autumn 2014 and new contracts were subsequently signed with all the FPAs for the second phase of activities.

1. RULE OF LAW, GOVERNANCE AND MEDIA FREEDOM

Western Balkan's Regional Platform for advocating media freedom and journalists' safety (2015/369-846) aims at empowering journalist associations to be effective and accountable actors in advocating application of EU standards of media freedom and integrity in Western Balkan region. Activities so far include production of a research methodology based on a set of adopted indicators of media freedoms and safety of journalists. We are currently producing national reports, while Head Research is drafting a regional report. At the same time an external expert assessed capacity of each partner, with a focus on implementation of project goals and produced assessment reports and training needs analysis. Production of a regional Online Platform that will feature all information relevant to journalists' safety and media freedoms is under way and will be launched at the regional conference. Most importantly, as a part of Network establishment and adoption of its strategic plan, partners have developed internal mechanisms for early warning and prevention of violation of journalist' human rights and freedom of media that should be fully operational by the end of September. In the coming months partners will organize national reports and regional report presentation, two capacity building trainings (based on expert's report) and start production of own strategic plans that include minimum of two key advocacy goals relevant to the project. One advocacy trip to Brussels, to meet decision makers and influencers is planned.

Western Balkans Enabling Project for Civil Society Monitoring of Public Administration Reform - WeBER (2015/370-038). As the Project began in January, the inception phase was used to establish project structures and mechanisms, as well as to successfully communicate information about the Action and its goals and objectives to the targeted stakeholders (local/national CSOs and authorities, important regional and EU level stakeholders within the public administration reform (PAR) area). Additionally, the Project Visibility and Communication Plan and a set of visibility materials were developed within this phase. Next semester activities are: improving the capacities of Western Balkan CSOs and creating venues for dialogue with their respective governments (Constitution of regional PAR Platform), enabling CSOs to gather evidence for PAR dialogue (PAR Monitor Methodology development), establishing National Civil Society PAR Working Groups and implementing the Communication Strategy for CSO participation in PAR, including a website with multimedia presentations on Principles of Public Administration (SIGMA/OECD).

Accountability, Technology and Institutional Openness Network in the South East Europe region - ACTION SEE (2015/370-251) aims at enhancing the involvement of civil society and media organisations in the creation of public opinion, policymaking and participation in the decision-making mechanisms. During the first 6 months of the ACTION SEE project implementation, Action partners refined the methodology for the Regional Openness Index (ROI). Metamorphosis and project partners—Why Not, CDT, CRTA, MJAFT, Open Data Kosovo and Westminster Foundation—promoted the project through media launch and inception events held in all the participating countries. Project team conducted assessment and mapping of relevant actors and initiatives in all of the action countries: the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Kosovo and Albania. In order to assess how media cover rule of law and good governance related topics, besides the input from stakeholders and discussion from inception events, an online survey was conducted where 657 citizens and 56 experts of all of the Action countries participated.

In order to raise public awareness about the concept of good governance and issues of media reporting and institution's transparency, fight against corruption, project team produced a series of analytical articles in Balkan languages and English, which were then republished by various media. The second half of the first year of project implementation started with a partners' meeting in Skopje July 20-21, focused on refining the Index Methodology. The research process for the ROI will continue in September, and by the end of the year a defined list of institutions will be examined for their compliance to the standards of good governance according to the established indicators list. Another upcoming activity is publishing of an open call for small grants, enabling support for good governance advocacy activities by a wide network of CSOs from the region.

CSOs as equal partners in monitoring public finance (2014 /031-605) project in the first months of 2016 has conducted a needs assessment and a 3 days capacity building/ training event back to back with a networking event in Belgrade. An additional needs assessment has been conducted for preparing a tailor-made coaching plans for 7 IPA countries partners. Our representatives have attended different EU events: LTGs Kick-off Conference, Role of Civil Society in PAR, EU Standards and Practices and a Meeting of Bosnia and Herzegovina partners. In the next months second project meeting with a capacity building event planned for November 2016 in Sarajevo and publication of 7 short country based macro analysis. Also we will finalize our communication and dissemination plan, fine-tune our advocacy plan, prepare terms of reference for 4 analyses and 7 individual support plans.

2. SOCIAL INCLUSION, MIGRATION, RECONCILIATION

SE Europe Transnational CSO Coalition for Women and Child Protection Against Human Trafficking and Gender-based Violence - STOP (2015/370-114) project aims at fostering networking of CSOs to facilitate exchange of knowledge and skills while increasing their campaigning and advocacy skills related to illegal migration and its consequences such as human trafficking and gender based violence while transiting across SEE. The project has successfully gone through the Inception phase. Project teams were deployed in all five respective partner organizations. Coordination mechanisms was established and first activities implemented and outputs produced. These were mainly connected to the production of the baseline studies. Namely the Gender-based violence (GBV) in the region study, Human trafficking (HT) in the region and Legislative framework pertinent to GBV and HT in the region were completed, whilst the last one measuring the Public opinion on GBV and HT presence in the society will be completed during the next semester. During the next semester it is foreseen to complete the research on public opinion baseline; the kick-off and promotion of the #WinkForHelpsign - winkforhelp.org and the starting of round table discussions based on findings from the baseline studies in all five project countries.

Joint Initiative to Empower Roma Civil Society on the Western Balkans and Turkey (2015-370-300). The project aims to set up a supporting facilitating structure for (pro)Roma civil society to actively participate in the local and national policy and decision making process. During the inception phase (January – June 2016) the project overall strategy was fine-tuned with the participation of the whole partnership. This process was kick-started during a meeting of the core team (RAA and ERGO) in January, to set up the management strategy, develop the internal procedures for cooperation, make sure that all EU requirements for reporting and accountability are met and to prepare the Regional Coalition meeting that

took place in April. To ensure consistency with the aims of the programme, the core team assisted national coordinators in preparing annual plans including capacity building for the CSOs that will join the national coalitions (sub-granting) and that will be involved in the monitoring and advocacy activities, and the ground elements to develop advocacy plans. Sub-granting guidelines were prepared for the partners to manage the grant schemes in each concerned IPA beneficiary. An online monitoring tool www.romareact.org was elaborated to assess the performance of municipalities regarding Roma integration and will be piloted from October till December 2016. During the upcoming Regional Working Meeting (September 25th-28th) stock-taking of the progress the partners made and discussion on the monitoring tool. The ERGO Network Annual Meeting will take place in November and will give the opportunity to showcase the work done within the project. The template for the Shadow Reports is expected to be ready by end of the year.

SOCIETIES - Support Of CSOs In Empowering Technical skills, Inclusion of people with disabilities and EU standards in South east europe (2015/370-229). The project has the overall objective to improve the capacities of CSOs in South East Europe (SEE) in managing social inclusion processes and in promoting social inclusion policies, through an efficient dialogue with Public Authorities during the decision-making processes. During the first 6 months of project implementation a comprehensive mapping process was initiated and implemented in all countries covered by the project. As a result, a database with information on 169 CSOs has been created. At the same time, a first analysis of the public welfare systems in the fields of Disability and Mental Health in IPA beneficiaries was carried out focusing on the current situation (services provided, existing laws and good practices among public institutions). During the second half of 2016, main activities will be Regional Conference that will be held in Belgrade on September 21st -22nd, which will also mark the kick-off event for the start of working groups on social inclusion in each country. The working groups activity will be supported by national anti-stigma campaigns during October and December. Also, the process of sub-contracting will be initiated in December.

Taking action on social inclusion of older people (2015/370-287). The project aims at strengthening networks of civil society organisations from the Western Balkans in order to improve social inclusion of older people in local communities and the society at large across the region. The project partners (Albanian Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics, Osmijeh NGO, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonian Red Cross and Humanost NGO from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Red Cross of Montenegro as well as the Austrian Red Cross) met at a kick off meeting on 9-11 March in Belgrade. The meeting was a good opportunity to discuss the activities to be implemented during the first year of the project, to draft detailed plans for the next quarter, as well as to strengthen the partners' capacities of data collection for efficient advocacy. In the ensuing months a monitoring plan and a communication and visibility plan were developed through the joint efforts of the Red Cross of Serbia and the Austrian Red Cross with inputs provided by all the project partners. In addition, a first newsletter covering the first quarter of the project implementation was launched. Analyses of the national contexts were also conducted and the assessment reports identified policy gaps in each of the countries taking into account the necessary harmonisation with the EU acquis as well as gaps in the implementation of existing policies. The exercise also analysed the capacities of civil society organisations through questionnaires and structured interviews, looking into the gaps and opportunities for development and synergies. The reports provided recommendations to serve as basis for

subsequent strategic planning of each of the national networks. The resulting plans outlined the values, goals, vision and mission of the networks, defined the priorities in the next four years, (re-)examined and set structural rules and procedures to galvanise the work of the networks, improve the efficiency of their coordination and decision-making and further develop their capacities for communication, visibility and public advocacy.

Increasing capacities and strengthening the role of regional CSOs for improving labour conditions and labour dialogue with public institutions (2015/370-380). The overall objective is to promote an enabling environment for dialogue between regional CSOs and public institutions for improving labour conditions. In February 2016, the BALcanOSH.net officially started the project preparation period with a meeting of all project partners and associate partners in Skopje. The idea was to provide each of the interested parties with an equal understanding of the project activities as well as to ensure full commitment in the elaboration of the Project Strategy and Action Plan. The Strategy and Action plan were finalized at the end of July 2016 and were discussed at a Kick-off meeting in MOSHA's premises at the end of August. For transparent management of the project, a Steering Committee was established. Moreover, the Coordinator MOSHA has assisted each of the project partner organizations in setting up a unique methodology to share, download and upload needed project information internally as well as externally by creating a shared cloud folder, specific video tutorials, instructions on how to start individual, national, project-related social media profiles, as well a project web page. Emphasis was also put on building each organizations' capabilities in relation to financial management and project administration. Among the outputs produced, the most important ones are: communication plan between key project partners from different geographical areas:

- a project Communication Strategy;
- one interactive regional web site - www.project-balcanosh.net;
- Individual social media profiles created and launched (Facebook, Tweeter, G+);
- BALcanOSH.net Kick off meeting about the project activities and
- Forming Steering Committee.

The main activities planned for the next semester are: (i) off-line and on-line media campaign for promotion of regional CSOs collaborating on safety and health at work and labour conditions; (ii) organization of 5 initial meetings with members of CSOs and public institutions in each IPA beneficiary country, on the basis of the planned timeframe.

Youth Banks Hub for Western Balkans and Turkey (2015/370-394). The project "Youth Bank Hub for Western Balkan and Turkey" is designed to create a coordinated network of organizations focusing on fostering youth participation in decision-making processes. As the network, the Hub will continuously monitor the various mechanisms for youth inclusion and advocate for greater and more effective youth participation. The first six months of implementation of the project provided the opportunity to set up the rules and mechanisms for further development of the network itself and its activities. Shortly after being established, the "YBHWBT network" initiated the process of monitoring youth participation in the targeted countries. The methodology developed for that purpose includes a Youth Participation Index, a tool suitable for evaluating the overall level of social, political and

economic inclusion of youth as well as for making comparisons between countries. The first analysis based on the Youth Participation Index is expected to be presented in the next reporting period.

ARYSE - At-Risk Youth Social Empowerment (2015/370-628). During the first half of 2016 the project team has focused on three major aspects: 1) Networking in the Western Balkans; 2) Network Founding Conference and 3) Regional research on the state of youth at risk of social exclusion. 1) Juventas (Montenegro) as leading partner started the networking process in March 2016 when memoranda of partnership were signed with: Arsis (Albania), Labyrinth (Kosovo), Margina (Bosnia and Herzegovina), HOPS (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and Prevent (Serbia). A memorandum was also signed with SHL (Germany), as consultative partner. All partners have more than a decade long experience in social protection and social services delivery to different persons in risk of social exclusion and are generally leading organisations in this field in their own countries. 2) The Network Founding Conference was held in late May in Montenegro. During the conference, the members developed the Network's vision, mission, goals, strategic and advocacy plan and discussed other important structural issues. At the same time, the Network logo was chosen and it was decided that the Network's website, currently project-based, will be used in the future as a resource platform and will have special areas in the mother tongue of participating countries. 3) In early June, the network members started the preparatory phase for the Regional Research on the State of Youth at risk of social exclusion in the Western Balkans and the data collection began in the middle of the month. The activities planned for the second half of 2016 are: 1) data collection for research, 2) international training on Policy Paper and Policy Brief development, 3) drafting of six national policy papers, 4) one regional Policy Paper development, 5) national and regional promotion of policy papers, 6) Advocacy. Based on the research findings, ARYSEN is going to develop activities for 2017.

Divided Past - Joint Future (2015/370-393). The project aims for CSOs to be recognised by governments as an important societal factor with strong capacity to implement the peace building and reconciliation Agenda in the Western Balkans and Turkey. The activities conducted under this project during the period January - June 2016 involved: a) identification and analysis of the stakeholders; b) partnership building and major Kick off partner meeting in Banja Luka (Bosnia and Herzegovina) on March 22 - 23; c) baseline study on perception of public, civil, private sector as well as citizens towards peace building and reconciliation process in Western Balkans and Turkey. Expected results/activities planned for the next six months are: a) compiling the Baseline regional research report of comparative data findings from 6 Western Balkan countries and Turkey and promoting it; b) desk research on different sustainable reconciliation models; c) creation and promotion of an online resource platform.

3. SUSTAINABLE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ALTER - Active Local Territories for Economic development of Rural Areas (2015/370-371). The project is managed by coalition of six national rural development networks from the Balkans, one CSO from Turkey and two rural development networks from the EU. The main objective of the project is to stimulate an enabling legal and financial environment for civil society, as well as to empower civil society to be effective and accountable independent actors. The project aims to improve CSO capacity to dialogue with Governments influencing policy and decision making processes in sustainable development of rural communities and

holding them accountable for their performance towards citizens and society at large. In the period January – July 2016 (inception phase) the inception report was prepared through consultation process with key stakeholders and partners in all 7 IPA beneficiaries. In August 2016, 14 trainers were trained on policy analysis and advocacy. In the coming period the trainers will organise and hold 2 national training courses in the region, involving and targeting 210 CSO activists. Models and tools of direct cooperation, advocacy and dialogue of CSOs with governments will be defined, in order to influence policy making and produce concrete change. A 4-day thematic CSO Networks gathering will be organised in Voskopojë (Albania) and will see the participation of networks from the region and from EU countries with relevant experience.

Smart Start - Sustaining civil society impact through social entrepreneurship and innovations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey (2015/369-433). The project aims to help create an enabling environment for social entrepreneurship of civil society organizations (CSOs) and to improve their sustainability, financial viability and social impact in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey. During the inception phase (January – June 2016), the project management, coordination and financial reporting procedures have been established and shared, and the project promotional materials and visibility guidelines have been designed. The project activities were promoted and more than 400.000 online users were reached. During the first semester of 2016, the first project partnership meeting was held, and an online organizational entrepreneurship capacity assessment (OECA) tool was developed by experts from Serbia, Croatia and Turkey. The project website development has started, and a Call for Application was published. More than 270 CSOs have applied submitting business plans in order to receive, if selected, start-up funds and capacity building to implement their entrepreneurship ideas. In the second semester 2016, the project partners will conduct the evaluation of the received applications and select 100 organizations from five countries to go through the OECA assessment and receive tailor made capacity building. The selected organisations will thus develop the skills needed for developing social entrepreneurship and implement their proposal. Regional research regarding financial stability and social entrepreneurship will be conducted.

Sustainable agriculture for sustainable Balkans: Strengthening advocacy capacities of CSOs and developing policies in the Western Balkans (2015/370-487). The project aims to improve sustainability and capacities of advocacy and regional networking of CSOs working on sustainable agriculture Western Balkans. During the first six months of 2016 the project implemented the activities foreseen for its inception phase. Coordination meetings of project partners were held, research on CSO capacities and public attitude towards civil society were carried out, a stakeholder analysis was conducted. Meetings with stakeholders were organised. Based on results of these activities, Working and Communication plans were developed as basis for the implementation of the project activities related to the CSO advocacy capacities and to research and advocacy in action. In the period July – December 2016 a number of advocacy and internal governance capacity building activities will be implemented. Training on advocacy, internal governance and sustainable agriculture is part of a three-component Grant & Training Programme for CSOs, that will be completed by coaching for project proposal development and by a grant award scheme for advocacy projects focussing on sustainable agriculture.

Civil society Acts for Environmentally Sound Socio-Economic Sevelopment - CO-SEED (2015/371-198). The project aims at promoting a more sustainable management of natural resources in the target region through more participatory and transparent decision-making processes involving civil society organisations which are recognized as crucial stakeholders. During February-June 2016, the establishment of the project structure was completed and the Inception Workshop held. A detailed project workplan was designed and Partnership Agreements were concluded among the project implementing partners. A monitoring plan was created and agreed to monitor the project achievements and measure progress towards its objectives. A monthly financial management reporting was introduced and the communication plan of the project was prepared. During the period July – December 2016, the Grant Award Programme will be designed and lauched, and applications will be evaluated leading to the award of at least 15 grants to applicant CSOs. One regional networking meeting and two capacity building workshops will be held with the CSOs supported in the framework of the sub-granting scheme. Stakeholder analysis and in-depth analysis of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) processes will be conducted in each IPA beneficiary. The design of the project logo, leaflet and website will be completed, and promotional kits will be prepared.

6.5 MEDIA

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|--------------------------------|--|
| Programme reference: | The Civil Society Facility and Media Programme for the years 2014-2015, allocation 2015 (2015/037-653) |
| Project title: | JUFEX - Reinforcing Judicial Expertise on Freedom of Expression and the Media in South-East Europe |
| EU contribution: | EUR 2.5 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans |
| Type of contract: | PAGODA with CoE |
| Contract reference: | CN 2016/372-924 |
| Duration of activities: | 20/04/2016 – 19/04/2019 |
| Contact: | Karl Giacinti, Karl.GIACINTI@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

Objective of the programme is to promote freedom of expression and freedom of the media in line with CoE standards, with a specific focus on the Judiciary. The programme comprises one major component, namely the judiciary, and an additional component (regulators, journalists and public service media) relating to the interconnected segments, which are of significant importance for freedom of expression and exercise of human rights, in line with CoE and European standards.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY - JUNE 2016)

The project has officially started on 19 April 2016. Recruitment of the project team has been initiated and international experts have been engaged for the assessment reports and common strategy developed. Contacts with beneficiaries have been established and the questionnaire for assessment has been drafted and dispatched to them.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY - JUNE 2016):

First regional conference of Media Regulatory Authorities on “European standards and best practices on hate speech and protection of minors” took place in Montenegro on 7-8 July 2016.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Country assessment visits to be carried out in the 6 project countries/locations. Country assessment reports to be delivered together with the common strategy and work plan for implementation in September 2016. Launch conference and first regional conference of the Judiciary to take place in Sarajevo on 13-14 October. Four trainings to be provided in each project country/location addressing four different target groups: judges and prosecutors, lawyers and legal professionals, media actors, and regulatory authorities.

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|--------------------------------|--|
| Programme reference: | The Civil Society Facility Programme 2011-2013 (Amend 1 - allocation for 2013), IPA 2013/024-081 |
| Project title: | Regional EU award scheme for investigative journalism in Western Balkans and Turkey |
| EU contribution: | EUR 0.45 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans and Turkey |
| Type of contract: | Grant Agreement |
| Contract reference: | CN 2014/350-133 |
| Duration of activities: | 11/10/2014 – 10/10/2017 |
| Contact: | Karl Giacinti, karl.giacinti@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The Investigative Journalism Award scheme, announced in the EU Enlargement Strategy 2014-15, aims at celebrating and promoting outstanding achievements of investigative journalists as well as improving the visibility of quality investigative journalism in the Western Balkans and Turkey. National contests and award ceremonies are planned in 2015, 2016 and 2017 in all IPA countries. Investigative stories contributing to transparency and reporting on societal issues related to abuse of power and fundamental rights, corruption and organized crime that otherwise would not have been brought to the public's attention will qualify for the award.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

Operational Manual with rules and procedures for the regional scheme of EU awards for investigative journalism in Western Balkans and Turkey was updated in order to further elaborate award criteria and other administrative rules, taking into account the lessons learned from the first year of the EU award scheme implementation in 2015. The additional award category was introduced – for young investigative reporter in each country.

Seven separate EU award contests were organised in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey based on joint criteria and procedures. Independent juries appointed by EU Delegations selected three investigative stories for the award in each country, including the best stories by young journalists. In total, 247 nominations were processed in seven countries, 52 more than in 2015. Seven award ceremonies were organised to deliver awards and celebrate the winners. The award ceremony in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was attended by Mr Christian Daniellson, Director General of the DG NEAR, who awarded the winners. Web site of the SEE Media Observatory was used for presentation and promotion of the regional EU award scheme. Regional press release summarizing the EU award contests' results was distributed to target audiences.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016):

24 investigative stories were awarded in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey. The awarded stories covered a wide range of topics: from petroleum concessions, shady business deals and mismanaging of public resources such as funding or police force, to life threats faced by Roma, femicide and child abuse in imprisonment.

Altogether 35 journalists were awarded; in many cases more than one journalist contributed to the awarded story. Among winning journalists, 13 were female and 22 male. BIRN was featured prominently – 13 of its journalists took home 5 awards, including the awards in Albania, Serbia (2 awards), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo.

Winning journalists received a total of 75,000 euro. Individual prizes ranged between 3,000 and 5,000 euro.

Hundreds of media reports with news about the EU award winners were published across the region. Regional press release with summary of the regional EU award scheme results in 2016 was republished by several regional and European communication platforms including the web site and social networks of the European Commission, DG NEAR.

Five young journalists, EU award winners, participated in the Western Balkans Youth Conference held on 4 July 2016 in Paris, in the margins of the Western Balkans Summit.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Ongoing activities to promote the EU award winners in each country through events, lectures at the universities etc. Use of the web site and newsletter of the SEE Media Observatory for further promotion of the winners. Interim reporting and evaluation of the project activities realized in 2016. Revision of the Operational Manual to further improve the

procedures in the 2017 call for the EU award nominations which will be announced at the beginning of 2017 aiming to reward the journalistic achievements in 2016.

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|--------------------------------|---|
| Programme reference: | The Civil Society Facility and Media Programme for the years 2014-2015, allocation 2014 (2014/ 031-605) |
| Project title: | Building Trust in Media in South East Europe and Turkey |
| EU contribution: | EUR 1.5 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans and Turkey |
| Type of contract: | PAGODA with UNESCO |
| Contract reference: | CN 2015/367-802 |
| Duration of activities: | 01/01/2016 – 31/12/2018 |
| Contact: | Karl Giacinti, Karl.GIACINTI@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The project Building Trust in Media in South East Europe and Turkey aims to strengthen freedom of expression, access to information, and free, independent and pluralistic media, ensuring that journalists and media organizations in South East Europe and Turkey are key drivers for democratic, sustainable and peaceful development in the region. Its implementation started in January 2016.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY - JUNE 2016)

Activities aimed to strengthen media self-regulation, to increase media good governance and Media Information Literacy are under way in all countries covered by the project (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey and Kosovo). Contracts have been signed with three co-beneficiaries and a number of other partners. Following key activities were held:

- On 21 April 2016, UNESCO organized in Paris a [Project briefing for Representatives of Permanent Delegations from South East Europe and Turkey](#),
- The first meeting of the [Labour Rights Expert Group](#) (LAREG) of the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ) with new participants from South East Europe and Turkey took place on 4 April 2016 in Brussels.
- Representatives of press councils from South East Europe and Turkey were invited to take part in the World Press Freedom Day celebrations in Helsinki, 2 May 2016. [One side-event about their ethical challenges in the online world](#) was organized for the Project Participants.
- [One Regional training seminar about online media ethics](#) for representatives of press councils in South East Europe and Turkey in Konjic in June 2016, Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- One meeting for the Working Group for Media Self-regulation in Montenegro together with OSCE, EU and COE has been organized in Podgorica, 14 June 2016 to discuss the upcoming Project activities in the country.

- The press councils in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo organized various capacity-building activities and awareness-raising activities as defined in their work plan and ranging from public debates on TV, [training seminars](#), organization of [consultations](#).
- EJM conducted its first consultations to perform ethical audits, in Kosovo and Serbia and select the in-country partners.
- National consultations on Media Information Literacy have started in Serbia and Albania, mapping the stakeholders and research in the field.
- The Social Media Strategy MILCLICKS is to be launched in Serbia following the creation of a communication strategy, engaging content and visual components in Serbian language.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY - JUNE 2016)

- Increased visibility and capacity of press councils in SEE and increased connections between representatives of press councils from the whole region (including Turkey and Albania) through participation in international and regional events.
- Adoption of a Memorandum of Understanding for the Working Group for Media Self-regulation in Montenegro in June 2016 which laid ground for representatives of the Media Council of Self-Regulation, and ombudsmen of Dan and Vijesti to cooperate in raising awareness regarding media self-regulation and developing joined capacity-building activities.
- [Creation of the LAREG+ Group on media labour rights](#) that includes representatives from South East Europe and Turkey.
- First draft of the media ethical audits to be performed in the SEE region has been delivered.
- Creation of a UNESCO [webpage](#) about the Project and communication about the Project using social media #TrustInMediaSEE.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- Sponsoring the participation of representatives of press councils in South East Europe and Turkey to the next AIPCE meeting to take place in October 2016.
- Organization of the second LAREG + meeting in Zagreb in October 2016.
- Organization of the seminars on media good governance in Serbia and Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244)
- National MIL events will be held in September in Serbia and in October in Tirana (Albania) as part of the consultation programmes.

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Programme reference: | Civil Society Facility Programme, IPA 2012/023-324 |
| Project title: | Civic Response to Clientelism in Media – MEDIA CIRCLE |
| EU contribution: | EUR 0.55 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans |
| Type of contract: | Grant Agreement |
| Contract reference: | CN 2013/332-758 |
| Duration of activities: | 30/11/2013 – 29/11/2017 |
| Links: | http://www.fairpress.eu/ |
| Contacts: | Karl Giacinti, karl.giacinti@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

Aim of the project is to establish independent, sustainable, multi-layered, cross-country mechanisms for active media policy monitoring, advocacy and emergency response in South East Europe. This will be done through establishing mechanism for monitoring Media Clientelism and Politicisation Index and implementation of activities directed to enhancing cross-sector cooperation between journalists, public institutions and NGOs, as well as protection of journalists.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

- Media Clientelism Index was presented in Brussels on a press conference titled Media Clientelism Index: Measuring the Reality, held on March 7, 2016;
- Detailed regional advocacy plan and research for Media Clientelism Index 2016 workshop was held in Bjelašnica (Bosnia and Herzegovina) from 16 to 18 May 2016;
- Country specific reporting on the state of media clientelism and politicisation through Fairpress portal (continuously).

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

- Detailed plan for data collection for Media Clientelism Index 2016 designed;
- 277 analytical articles written and published on national languages of the countries participating in the project;
- 88 analytical articles written and published on central portal in English;
- 628 articles media related articles were republished from other media outlets;
- 135.549 Fairpress.eu sessions; 199.508 Fairpress.eu pageviews; 90.354 Fairpress.eu users; 16.645 Fairpress.eu Facebook Page likes; 1.700.598 people reached on Facebook.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- Advocacy action;
- Repeating the research for new measurement of Media Clientelism Index.

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Programme reference: | Civil Society Facility Programme, IPA 2012/023-324 |
| Project title: | South-East European Partnership for Media Development |
| EU contribution: | EUR 0.6 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans |
| Type of contract: | Grant Agreement |
| Contract reference: | CN 2013/332-771 |
| Duration of activities: | 30/11/2013 – 29/11/2017 |
| Links: | http://www.seenpm.org/south-east-european-partnership-for-media-development/ http://www.cji.ro/?p=5268 |
| Contact: | Karl Giacinti, karl.giacinti@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE:

To support the development of independent and accountable media in the Western Balkans. The focus is on creating the capacity of media organisations in Western Balkans to influence the policies regarding employment conditions and education needs of the journalists in 5 IPA countries: in the project Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – JUNE 2016):

- Launching of reports on "Time Zero of the Digital Switchover in SEE" (5 national reports + Romania and Bulgaria) + a regional overview. An event in Brussels, in January, by invitation of the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP), Rise Project and EurActiv Romania, as part of their debate Who are the gatekeepers of the internet? . The report is available at <http://seenpm.org/report-time-zero-digital-switchover-see/>;
- Preparation of the third wave of FoE reports on "Non-media gatekeepers of freedom of expression;
- Advocacy campaigns at national level (Serbia: sexist remarks of the Defence minister, minister dismissed; creation of a new journalists association; Albania: A hearing session with the Parliamentary Commission on Media focused on labour relations; the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: coalition building to protect media freedom; Bosnia and Herzegovina: protection of PBS; Romania: independence of PBS, freedom of the Internet; media standards);
- Launching of the second wave of research – Media Literacy and Education. Research began in January 2016, final editing by September;
- Communication of the program in the participant countries and to possible partners or donors. Posts on SEENPM website/ FB page;
- Participation in the global advocacy for freedom of expression (IFEX campaigns, IFEX board; supporting journalists in Turkey).

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016).

- 7 country reports on digitization + 1 regional report ;
- 5 country reports on media literacy prepared (to be launched starting October 2016).

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER:

- Launching of the second wave of research – Media Literacy and Education. (5 national reports);
- Five national workshops on Media Literacy and Education (October-December 2016);
- Five national courses in advocacy for media literacy (October-December 2016);
- Release of the third FoE report (5 national reports + Romania and Bulgaria) + a regional overview on "Non-media Gate Keepers of Freedom of Expression";
- Preparation of the fourth wave of FoE reports - topic to be decided;
- Freedom of expression and of media monitoring. Participation in the global advocacy networks (IFEX campaigns, IFEX Board, Global Forum for Media Development Summit Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Romania will participate in panels related to freedom of expression, media literacy and Internet freedom).

CHAPTER 7: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The strategic documents identify the support of reforms and regional cooperation in education as one of the priorities for IPA assistance. Support is mainly provided through established programmes such as “Erasmus Mundus” and “Tempus”, as well as the new “Erasmus+” programme (2014-2020). Good education accessible by all 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

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|--------------------------------|---|
| Programme reference: | IPA 2011/SI2.596555, IPA 2012/SI2. 615827, 2013/SI2.645034 |
| Project title: | Tempus: Trans-European Mobility Scheme for University Studies |
| EU contribution: | IPA 2011/SI2.596555, EUR 15.3 million IPA 2012/SI2.615827, EUR 14.9 million IPA 2013/SI2.645034, EUR 11.7 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans (except Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) |
| Type of contract: | The programme is implemented by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) |
| Contract reference: | n/a |
| Duration of activities: | n/a |
| Links: | http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/tempus/ |
| Contact : | Katja de Sadeleer, katja.de-sadeleer@ec.europa.eu |

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.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY - JUNE 2016)

Tempus activities during the January-July period consisted mainly in monitoring on-going Tempus projects and closing a certain number of them (15 projects were closed during this semester). Approximately 53 Tempus projects are still operating in the Western Balkans.

As regards the Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE) action, 33 projects are currently operating in the region. Since the beginning of the year, a total of 26 field monitoring visits of 18 finalised Tempus projects and 59 on-going Tempus projects and 16 field monitoring visits of 32 on-going Erasmus+ CBHE projects in the Western Balkans were carried out by the National Erasmus+ Offices (NEOs) and EACEA staff. A summary report with the main conclusions and findings from the field monitoring campaign 2015 was prepared and disseminated to the Commission services, EU Delegations, the NEOs and the National Agencies in the EU.

In 2016 the field monitoring strategy was further developed and new elements were introduced, such as risk based monitoring, performance assessment based on indicators and two new types of monitoring events, institutional visits and thematic cluster meeting in Partner Countries.

A meeting of the selected project coordinators under the first Call was organised on 27-28 January 2016 in Brussels. The purpose of the meeting was to brief new grant holders on the contractual requirements and implementation modalities of their projects (notably the financial rules). The meeting also provided networking opportunities; best practice and advice on how to manage a project were exchanged. Back to back to this event, EACEA organised a networking meeting of National Erasmus+ Offices (NEOs) in the Partner Countries on 29 January 2016. Participants were briefed on recent developments in the Tempus and CBHE field monitoring strategy and presented the 2016 HERE (network of Higher Education Reform Experts) activities.

The second Call for proposals for the CBHE action was launched at the beginning of October 2015, with a deadline on 10 February 2016. The overall number of applications were 736 out of which a 147 were recommended for funding including 109 applications covering the Western Balkan Regions out of which 18 were eventually funded.

The network of Higher Education Reform Experts (HEREs) in the former Tempus regions continues to be supported under the Erasmus+ programme. Three main activities were organised during the reporting period: a seminar in Novi Sad (Serbia) on 17-18 March about "Joint degrees and programmes" and two study visits in Tallinn (Estonia – 18-19 April) and Malmö (Sweden – 30 May to 1 June 2016) respectively on "Learning outcomes and student-centred-learning" and "Capacity building in Doctoral education". Moreover, an activity report of the HEREs activities 2015 was prepared which shows the main achievements of the HEREs in the Partner Countries.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY - JUNE 2016)

The participation of Western Balkan institutions in the second Call for Proposals of CBHE has increased in comparison to the participation of institutions from the region in the first Call for proposals CBHE. Indeed, 109 out of 736 submitted applications cover the region, which

represents 15% of all applications received in the second Call (in comparison to 13% in the first Call). This fact demonstrates an increased interest in the Region CBHE.

The available budget for the Western Balkan region in the second CBHE Call for Proposals was EUR 13.2 million and four Structural Projects and 14 Joint Projects were selected. This corresponds to an average success rate of 16.5% for the region as a whole. 11 Projects are coordinated by institutions from the region and two projects involve an additional Mobility component. The latter plan to fund 60 student mobility flows within the Western Balkans.

The most popular projects are in curriculum development (61%). The top three disciplines covered in the 11 curriculum development projects are 'Natural environments and wildlife', 'Environmental protection technology' and 'Community sanitation'.

A study on the achievements of the Tempus IV programme in the development of student support services at universities in the Western Balkans was finalised with the support of an external expert. The results of this series of regional thematic studies that look at the impact of the programme in key areas of reform will help further develop capacity-building activities in the Erasmus+ programme.

The HEREs activities organised during the reporting period were highly successful and provided an excellent opportunity for discussion and exchange of practice. Participants reported on the high quality of the events and the interest of the topics for the modernisation process in their countries. The Report on the HERE activities shows the relevance of this activity in the current reform process in the Partner Countries.

A complete set of statistics on the results of the first Call for Proposals, covering the different regions and countries, types of activities and content/priorities addressed by the projects is available at: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/library/statistics-for-capacity-building-in-field-higher-education-selection-call-eaca042014_en.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- A coordination meeting of all NEOs-ICPs will be organised between 28 and 30 September 2016 in Brussels to discuss the implementation of Tempus and Erasmus+.
- As far as Erasmus+ is concerned, the third call for proposals for the Capacity Building Higher Education action is foreseen in the autumn with a deadline in February 2017.
- Three major events addressing the HERE network are foreseen for the second semester 2016: A seminar in Warsaw, Poland, from 19-20 September on "Qualifications frameworks: What are they, how do they work, what is their impact?", a seminar in Lviv, Ukraine, from 19-20 October on "The European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ESG) in practice – implications for HEIs and higher education systems" and the annual HERE conference in Barcelona, Spain, from 12-13 December on "HEREs and their mission – implementing higher education reform".
- Under the Erasmus+ budget, the NEO agreements will be renewed for the period 2018-2020.

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Programme reference: | Multi-beneficiary Programme under IPA Transition Assistance and Institution Building Component for the year 2013, IPA 2013/935 |
| Project title: | Erasmus Mundus Action 1 and Action 2 |
| EU contribution: | Action 1: EUR 8.0 million – 2015 and 2016: n/a Action 2: EUR 12.0 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Erasmus Mundus Action 1: (2014) Western Balkans (except Croatia) and Turkey Erasmus Mundus Action 2: Western Balkans |
| Type of contract: | The programme is implemented by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) |
| Links: | http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/ http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/actions/key-action-1-learning-mobility-individuals/erasmus-mundus-joint-master-degrees_en http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/programme/action2_en.php |
| Contact: | Katja de Sadeleer, katja.de-sadeleer@ec.europa.eu Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency EACEA-EPLUS-JMD@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The Erasmus Mundus programme's objective is to promote European higher education, to help improve and enhance the career prospects of students and to promote intercultural understanding through cooperation with third countries, in accordance with EU external policy objectives, in order to contribute to the sustainable development of third countries in the field of higher education.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

Erasmus Mundus Action 1

In accordance with DG EAC's Erasmus+ Annual Work Programme 2016 and the related call for proposals EAC/A04/2015, EACEA.A.3 has selected 27 Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees (EMJMD) projects for funding (Grant Award Decision on 13/07/2016).

60 on-going Erasmus Mundus Master Courses (EMMC) and 18 Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorates (EMJD) selected under the former Erasmus Mundus programme were involved in the yearly allocation of scholarships/fellowships, whose Grant Award Decision was signed on 2 May 2016. Since 2014 these projects implement their cohorts under E+ Key Action 1.

For the above mentioned actions, there is no specific window for Western Balkans under the Heading 4 funds. Student and scholars applicants from this region will compete with others from all over the world for scholarships/fellowships awarded under Heading 1.

Erasmus Mundus Action 2

Under Action 2, Erasmus Mundus Partnerships bring together HEIs from Europe on the one hand and those from a particular region in the world on the other. These partnerships manage mobility flows between the two regions for a range of academic levels – undergraduate, master, doctorate, post-doctorate – and for academic staff. They assure visibility of the Programme in the region, have the possibility to share best practices and to explore further opportunities for cooperation. More concretely, most of the partner HEIs involved in the partnerships are concluding bilateral agreements in order to continue cooperation between European and Western Balkan HEIs.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

Erasmus Mundus Action 1

For the 27 EMJMD projects selected in 2016, the grant amount committed under the Heading 1 budgetary envelope from which Western Balkans students and scholars can potentially benefit amounts to EUR 59.984.490 corresponding to 1.564 scholarships. Under the same budgetary envelope, a grant amount of EUR 38.295.000 was committed for the ongoing EMMCs and EMJDs, corresponding to 804 scholarships/fellowships.

Erasmus Mundus Action 2

Between February and March 2016, three partnerships selected in 2013 submitted their third progress report. These partnerships had selected 735 mobilities (600 non-EU and 135 EU).

February 2016 was also the deadline for the other four projects selected in 2014 to submit their second progress report. These partnerships implemented the selection of the first cohort of students and are carrying out the selection of the second cohort of students. One more selection round is foreseen until the end of the projects.

The assessment of the progress reports received shows that projects' activities resulted in strong links, better relations and cooperation between the HEIs of the partnerships. They raised the visibility and contributed to the internationalisation, capacity building and mobility management of the participating universities.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

In October 2016 an invitation to apply for scholarships/fellowships involving 30 ongoing EMMCs and eight ongoing EMJDs as well as a call for proposals for the selection of around 35 new EMJMDs will be published.

The EMJMDs selected in 2014 and 2015, as well as the running EMMCs and EMJDs, will start their 2016 cohort.

The EMJMDs selected in 2016 will start their preparatory year. A coordinators' meeting for their representatives will take place in November 2016 at the EACEA premises.

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Programme reference: | Multi-beneficiary Programme under IPA Transition Assistance and Institution Building Component for the year 2014, IPA 2014/SI2.692592.09 |
| Project title: | Erasmus+ Youth in Action – Western Balkans Youth Window |
| EU contribution: | EUR 3.0 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans |
| Type of contract: | The programme is implemented by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) |
| Contact: | Katja de Sadeleer, katja.de-sadeleer@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The European Union shares with the Western Balkans ambitious objectives for smart, inclusive and sustainable growth with a view to delivering high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion. Investing in human and social capital is an essential condition to achieve those growth targets.

The Western Balkans Youth Window reinforces the levels of participation of the Western Balkans in Erasmus+ by:

- Increasing the number of Erasmus+ non-formal learning projects involving the participation of organisations and participants – especially young people and youth workers – from the Western Balkans;
- Allowing organisations from the Western Balkans to be project coordinators and apply directly for an EU grant within the framework of Erasmus+.

Projects aim at capacity building in the field of youth at international level. More specifically, they have the aim to:

- Promote strategic cooperation between youth organisations and public authorities;
- Foster cooperation between youth organisations and organisations in the education and training fields as well as with representatives of the business and labour market;
- Raise the capacities of youth councils, youth platforms and local, regional and national authorities dealing with youth in Western Balkan countries.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

A plan of monitoring visits for funded Western Balkan Youth Window projects was established by EACEA. Eight organisations in Serbia were visited during the 1st semester.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

The 1st deadline of 2016 for the Western Balkan Youth Window managed at centralised level under the Erasmus+ Programme - Key-Action 2, Capacity Building in the field of youth - was on 2 February 2016.

Organisations from Western Balkan countries submitted 176 applications with a total grant request of EUR 8,474,378.18 (average grant request EUR 48,150.00). Serbian organisations submitted almost 54% (104) of the applications. 29 applications were submitted by organisations based in Albania, 13 by Bosnia and Herzegovina, 20 by Montenegrin organisations and 10 by Kosovo.

The Evaluation Committee proposed to fund a total number of 38 projects representing a total grant request of EUR 1,834,896.23. Among the organisations funded there are: 22 beneficiaries from Serbia, 7 from Albania, 5 from Bosnia and Herzegovina, 3 from Montenegro and 1 from Kosovo.

Selection results were published in May 2016. The establishment of grant agreements and the launch of pre-financing payments started in June 2016.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

The 2nd deadline for the Western Balkan Youth Window managed at centralised level (Erasmus+ Programme – Key-Action 2 - Capacity Building in the field of youth) will be on 1 July 2016.

The number of monitoring missions for funded Western Balkan Youth Window projects is due to increase in the second half of the year.

7.4 EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

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|--------------------------------|---|
| Programme reference: | Multi-beneficiary Programme under IPA Transition Assistance and Institution Building Component for the year 2014, IPA 2014/038-054.11 |
| Project title: | Employment and Social Affairs Platform (ESAP) |
| EU contribution: | EUR 3 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans |
| Type of contract: | Grant agreements with the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) |
| Contract reference: | VS/2016/0054 (RCC) and VS/2016/0002 (ILO) |
| Duration of activities: | 01/03/2016 – 28/02/2019 (RCC) 01/04/2016 – 31/03/2019 (ILO) |
| Contact : | Kiril Kiryakov, kiril.kiryakov@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The overall objective of the Employment and Social Affairs Platform is to assist the Western Balkan countries with the employment and social policy reforms in their pre-accession process. The action will help improve the regional cooperation in employment and social policy-making, labour market governance, working conditions and social dialogue.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

Both RCC and ILO set up their project management structures and started the implementation of the project during the second quarter of 2016.

Wide-scale consultations with all relevant stakeholders (ministries, public employment services, social partners) were held to discuss the work programmes.

The ESAP was officially launched in a kick-off conference on 29 June 2016 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, which focused on the issues of youth employment and labour market governance in the region.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

Two inception reports were drafted with a detailed framework and timelines for the activities within the first year of the Platform implementation.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

An Annual Employment Report for 2015 will be prepared between October and December 2016.

A regional meeting for the Economic and Social Councils (ESCs) is foreseen to be held in Becici, Montenegro, on 3-4 October 2016. The meeting will validate the Terms of Reference for the peer reviews and include training of ESCs.

A first annual meeting of the network of agencies for peaceful settlement of disputes will be organised in Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, at the end of October 2016. The meeting will include tailored training sessions on selected topics and case management.

7.5 CULTURAL HERITAGE

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|--------------------------------|--|
| Programme reference: | Preparatory actions for preserving and restoring cultural heritage in conflict areas in the Western Balkans for 2012, CARDS 2012/023-867 |
| EU contribution: | EUR 3.0 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans |
| Type of contract: | Single works contracts; Evaluation: Service Framework contract |
| Contract reference: | n/a |
| Duration of activities: | till 08/11/2018 |
| Contact: | Olga-Elena Fimin, olga-elena.fimin@ec.europa.eu |

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 following three projects were selected:

- Rehabilitation of the Franciscan Monastery in Bač, Serbia;
- Reconstruction of the Kastel Fortress, "Cultural centre with auxiliary services", Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Rehabilitation of the Monastery of St. Mary for museum use and landscaping of the archaeological site of Apollonia, Fier, Albania.

ACTIVITIES

- Contract for works at the Franciscan Monastery in Bač was signed on 30 March 2016 for the amount of EUR 685,468.96.
- Works on Reconstruction of the Kastel fortress, "Cultural Centre with auxiliary services" started on 11 May 2015 and was completed in March 2016 with issuing Provisional Acceptance Certificate. The guarantee period will last for 12 months e.g. March 2017. Supervision contract signed with SAFEGE BOSNIA KONSALTING INZINJERING PROJEKTOVANJE DOO SARAJEVO (BiH) on 26 September 2014. Contract Value EUR 98,000. Works Contract signed with PRIVREDNO DRUSTVO ZA IZGRADNJU, OBNAVLJANJE I REKONSTRUKCIJU GRADEVINSKIH OBJEKATA KOTO DOO (Serbia) on 24 March 2015. Contract Value EUR 948,108.31.
- As for the rehabilitation of the Monastery of St. Mary and landscaping in Apollonia Park, the works and supervision contracts, both started on 5 January 2016, for a duration of 2

years (including 1 Year Defect Liability Period). The ongoing works are in line with the working programme and no delays are expected.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Continuation of works.

CHAPTER 8: OTHER HORIZONTAL ACTIONS

8.1 EU AGENCIES

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|--------------------------------|---|
| Programme reference: | Multi-country Programme, IPA 2014/031-603 |
| Project title: | Preparatory measures for the participation of candidates and potential candidates in EU Agencies |
| EU contribution: | EUR 4.46 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans and Turkey |
| Type of contract: | Grant contracts |
| Contract reference: | 11 contracts signed in 2015 |
| Duration of activities: | Q32015 – Q1 2018 |
| Contact: | Agnieszka Iwanowska-Biel, agnieszka.iwanowska-biel@ec.europa.eu |

List of Agencies, duration of activities and total amounts:

| CRIS | Agency | Duration | Amount (EUR million) |
|---------|--|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 360-343 | European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions | 30/06/2015 – 29/09/2016 | 0.3 |
| 361-042 | European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control | 30/06/2015-29/06/2017 | 0.35 |
| 362-071 | European Institute for Gender Equality | 30/06/2015 – 31/12/2017 | 0.2 |
| 361-490 | European Aviation Safety Agency | 01/07/2015 – 30/06/2017 | 0.5 |
| 361-979 | European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction | 01/07/2015 – 30/06/2017 | 0.6 |
| 361-049 | European Chemicals Agency | 01/09/2015 – 28/02/2018 | 0.3 |
| 361-733 | European Food Safety Authority | 02/10/2015 - 30/11/2017 | 0.6 |
| 364-928 | European Maritime Safety Agency | 24/10/2015 - 23/04/2018 | 0.3 |
| 367-495 | European Agency for Safety and Health at Work | 01/12/2015 – 30/11/2017 | 0.41 |
| 368-133 | European Railway Agency | 01/01/2016-31/12/2017 | 0.3 |
| 367-323 | European Environment Agency (EEA) | 01/02/2016-31/01/2018 | 0.6 |

PURPOSE

The programme supports EU Agencies to 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 EU *acquis*.

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 IPA II 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 (JANUARY - JUNE 2016)

The Agencies carry out preparatory measures comprising interactive working sessions, trainings and workshops, aiming at capacity building, transfer of knowledge and development of skills that should lead to the creation of the necessary administrative structures, compliance of the national legislation with the EU *acquis*, application of the standardised methodologies in the field of expertise of respective agencies, or establishment of effective networks. Activities also cover preparation and translation of documents and implementation of surveys. Given the large number of contracts, a comprehensive presentation of each project would go beyond the scope of this report. Therefore only some examples are presented which do not indicate an order of priority.

EMCDDA

EMCDDA representatives visited Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo, to discuss and prepare for major national data collection activities. Two training sessions took place covering the future implementation of a general population survey. An experts' support was provided to review implementation of Treatment Demand Indicator in Serbia.

Representatives from five IPA beneficiaries attended the 16th Annual meeting of the Reitox Early Warning System (EWS) Network meeting in May. Eight representatives of the IPA beneficiaries attended the annual expert meeting on Drug-related Infectious Diseases (DRID) and/or the annual expert meeting of the Treatment Demand Indicator (TDI). In both meetings, a special session for the IPA beneficiaries was organised.

EASA

A comprehensive fact finding mission was concluded to one of the WB countries as regards the European Common Aviation Area related transposition and implementation of European rules. Two highly specialised courses were developed and delivered for the line/middle and senior management of civil aviation authorities to strengthen the civil aviation managerial oversight capacity. Several on-the-job (OJT) training sessions were conducted with the support of advanced civil aviation oversight authorities of the EU covering a long range of the aviation safety spectrum. A workshop was delivered with main focus on runway safety.

ECHA

During the reporting period, the beneficiaries took part in four EU level scientific and regulatory events: 1) ECHA's REACH(ing) the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) 2020 goals Workshop (27-28.01); 2) ECHA's Topical Scientific Workshop on New Approach Methodologies in Regulatory Science (19-20.04); 3) ECHA's 11th HelpNet Steering Group Meeting and HelpNet workshops (5-6.04); and 4) ECHA's 11th Stakeholders' Day on REACH and Classification, labelling and packaging (CLP) (25.05) and Helsinki Chemicals Forum (26-27.05). Additionally, a Study Visit to the Danish Environmental Protection Agency was organised on 15.06 for two beneficiaries (Serbia and Turkey).

EIGE

Serbian authorities together with EIGE and the EU Delegation successfully launched their Gender Equality Index in a high-level regional conference in Belgrade. With this development Serbia became the first non-EU country to produce a national Gender Equality Index.

EIGE, in cooperation with the Statistics Sweden Balkan Projects Office, organized a regional workshop on the Gender Equality Index and the Gender Statistics Database for all Western Balkan countries and Turkey. The workshop aimed at facilitation of Index production in the region and improving IPA country coverage in the Database. In the reporting period EIGE also launched its Gender Statistics Database, which includes data not only on EU-28, but also on all IPA countries.

IPA country participants also participated in several events, most notably, Workshop on Gender Statistics co-organized by the UN Economic Commission for Europe and EIGE, and an EIGE's conference "Gender equality and sport: towards a level playing field for women". The Institute also kept regional stakeholders informed about significant developments at EIGE.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

EMCDDA

As a result of the activities, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro decided to launch their first nationwide General Population Study on drugs.

Treatment system maps (standardised information on the existing drug-related treatment services) have been drafted by each IPA beneficiary, which is a step towards a consolidated treatment monitoring system.

The Roadmaps for participation in the EMCDDA were updated and shared with the stakeholders.

EASA

Activities undertaken have helped the beneficiaries to strengthen and to acquire new skills and knowledge on aviation safety with particular focus on EU rules and requirements

ECHA

The abovementioned activities enabled the participants to (1) explore the ways of improving the implementation of the REACH/CLP processes to better align with the WSSD 2020 goals; (2) learn about the potential regulatory benefits arising from combining multiple lines of evidence to predict the hazardous properties of a substance with new tools and techniques

that provide data for regulatory needs; (3) get the updates on the REACH, CLP and Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR) topics and strengthen the ability of the Serbian national helpdesk to provide advice to their industry and stakeholders; and (4) learn about latest preparations for the 2018 REACH registration deadline, hear the updates from ECHA, European industry associations and NGOs as well as broaden their expertise in chemicals policy and regulatory aspects.

EIGE

Serbia launched its national Gender Equality Index in February 2016 in Belgrade during a regional conference. The event served as impetus for other IPA countries to intensify work on their own national Gender Equality Index.

In April 2016 EIGE launched its Gender Statistics Database. Besides all EU Member States, the database also covers IPA countries, but the level of coverage varies: compared to the EU-28 data availability, Turkey has 69.4% of the same indicators, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – 47.5%, other IPA countries coverage varies between 3 and 20%.

The May workshop on the Gender Equality Index and the Gender Statistics Database resulted not only in knowledge and skills transfer to the National Statistics Institutions of all IPA countries, but also produced snapshots of the countries coverage in the Database and readiness to produce national Gender Equality Indices. Following the evaluation carried out during the workshop, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Montenegro have the highest probability of producing a national Index by end of 2016 or early 2017.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

EMCDDA

A project coordination meeting, gathering all countries representatives, will take place in Montenegro end of September.

The Agency will support the implementation of the first national General Population survey in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and in Montenegro. A data collection exercise related to the assessment of drug seizure data will be launched. Further support to the development of the treatment monitoring system, in cooperation with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and World Health Organisation will continue. The representatives from the beneficiary countries will be invited to attend the EU Expert meetings on drug use, general population studies, drug related deaths and drug-related infectious diseases, as well as the Reitox Week, all being organised at the EMCDDA headquarters in Lisbon.

EASA

Continuation of aviation oversight related on-site and on-the-job support activities. This includes the area of aerodrome, safety management system, licencing, medical, safety analysing.

ECHA

The focus of project activities during the current semester is on organising the IPA Workshop and up to three study visits to the Member States as well as continuing the participation of the beneficiary representatives in relevant EU level events.

During the second half of the year we foresee participation of the beneficiaries in ECHA's Biocides Stakeholders' Day (September); IPA Workshop on Enforcement for all beneficiaries (September) and an invitation to all the beneficiaries to take part in ECHA's Enforcement Forum Open Session (November) followed by two study visits on enforcement to the member states (October-November); participation of the Serbian representatives in HelpNet REACH, CLP and BPR workshops (October); and a study visit on Biocides (November). All beneficiaries will be offered an e-learning opportunity on toxicology. We will also assess the needs in the beneficiaries for publishing selected ECHA publications in local language.

EIGE

In the next semester, EIGE expects to have several technical assistance missions to IPA countries that will start their work on the Gender Equality Index. EIGE will also finalize a handbook on quality assurance and contribution of data to the Gender Statistics Database. Upon completion and distribution of the handbook to IPA countries, they can start providing more data to the database and improve national and overall IPA coverage.

EIGE will also organize the annual meeting of representatives from the government institutions responsible for advancement of gender equality. The meeting will seek input to EIGE's next 2017-2019 IPA project, and also introduce IPA partners to several new outcomes of EIGE's work. Implementation of these in IPA countries could be supported as part of the next cooperation phase until 2019.

8.2 REGIONAL COOPERATION COUNCIL

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Programme reference: | Multi-beneficiary Programme under IPA Transition Assistance and Institution Building Component for the year 2013, IPA 2013/024-091 |
| Project title : | Contribution to the activities of the RCC Secretariat with a focus on South East European 2020 Strategy |
| EU contribution: | EUR 7.15 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans and Turkey |
| Type of contract: | Contribution Agreement with RCC |
| Contract reference: | CN 2014/352-550 |
| Duration of activities: | 01/01/2015 – 31/12/2016 |
| Links: | http://www.rcc.int/ |
| Contact : | Agnieszka Iwanowska-Biel, agnieszka.iwanowska-biel@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The purpose of this project is to provide financial assistance to the functioning of the RCC Secretariat and contribution to the activities of the RCC in 2015, as foreseen in its 2014 - 2016 Strategy and Work Programme, in particular implementing the SEE 2020 strategy.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY - JUNE 2016)

Skills and Mobility : preparations for negotiating regional mutual recognition agreements of selected professional qualifications under RCC's auspices have been underway. The process will facilitate achieving the progressive liberalisation in trade and in services and gradual opening of services markets across the CEFTA region by reducing the barriers in temporary movement of natural persons (GATS Mode 4). At the 3rd meeting of the Working Group on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications held on the 14th of April 2016 in Sarajevo, a political consensus has been reached to prioritize the health and engineering sectors as sectors of interest. Studies on the regulatory framework for recognition in the WB in the four professions (doctors of medicine and dentists; architects and civil engineers) and its compatibility with EU regulation and practice have been launched by RCC to provide a Roadmap for Negotiations on Recognition of Professional Qualifications.

Connectivity: the focus of RCC's work under this flagship has been on highlighting market integration, competitiveness and sustainability aspects of the regional "soft" connectivity agenda. RCC commissioned a regional assessment of industries, intra-regional trade and industrial linkages, services integration, etc. along the SEE corridor routes. In addition, in cooperation with SEETO, RCC commissioned analytical studies targeting the objective of improved border management; enhanced regional air connectivity; establishing a register of auxiliary infrastructure along the core corridors, as well as assessment of climate impact and resilience of transport corridors. In the related area of environment, the reporting period has seen successful organization of the Ministerial meeting on Responding to Climate and Environmental Challenges in SEE and the adoption of the "Podgorica" Declaration, and the continuation of work on the Regional Environment Working Group. In information society and electronic communications sphere, RCC supported: establishment and convening of the first meeting of the inclusive Regional Roaming Platform; launching a Regional Roaming Study, so as to examine the legal, regulatory, institutional and market impact aspects of the Regional Roaming Agreement (RRA) and the roaming policies in WB; as well as convening of the first meeting of the Regional Broadband Platform.

Competitiveness - the activities were focused on: development of the regional investment reform agenda through the Joint Working Group on Investment; initiating joint work on regional industrial policy with the first meeting of the Working Group on Industrial Policy; sectoral work, particularly in tourism, where agreement was reached to establish an SEE electronic tourism platform in cooperation with the USAID. The meetings of the respective working groups were held during the reporting period in each of the indicated areas.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY - JUNE 2016)

Main outputs during the reporting period include:

- An agreement to prioritize the health and engineering sectors as sectors of interest for mutual recognition of professional qualifications and focus on doctors of medicine, dentists, architects and civil engineers as priority professions for negotiations;
- Enhanced capacity in understanding and implementing the Acquis on broadband;
- Generated detailed regional overview of the state of play and challenges regarding the adoption of the Cost reduction Directive;

- Facilitated inclusive regional roaming policy dialogue frameworks and improved pre-conditions for the long term, viable and market-based implementation of RRA;
- Generated systematic analysis of the data on market impact of the RRA, as well as of the institutional, legal and regulatory frameworks underpinning the regulation of roaming policies in the entire WB6 region;
- Enhanced regional cooperation in the areas of environment and climate change and strengthened integration of environment and climate change aspects into other policy sectors (e.g transport);
- Donor financial pledges secured for: supporting monitoring and verification processes in environment in WB; climate proofing of infrastructure investments; and food, water, energy Nexus approach;
- Enhanced regional cooperation in the area of investment reforms, with the agreement on the final draft of the regional programme on investments;
- Enhanced regional cooperation in the area of industrial policy (re)design and in concrete sectors of priority;
- Creation and promotion of the joint regional product in tourism, through the establishment of a regional tourism electronic platform.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Key activities planned for the next semester include:

- Follow up on the findings of studies on mutual recognition at the 4th meeting of the Working Group on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications (to be held in December 2016);
- Finalization, validation and follow up to the findings and recommendations of the analytical studies currently under way, through RCC, CEFTA, SEETO -relevant platforms;
- Commencement of the regional investment policy review; implementation of the electronic system for issuing construction permits; setting the standards for business friendliness certification of municipalities across the region; and initiation of discussion on legal instruments for formalization of the investment reform agenda in the region;
- Establishment of the electronic platform for promotion of the regional tourism products and policy reforms in the sector;
- Start of implementation of industrial policy reform proposals throughout the region; The activities will be subject to deliberations of the respective working groups, review by the plenary SEE Investment Committee, and final endorsement by the SEE Investment Committee Ministerial Meeting, planned at the end of 2016.

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Programme reference: | Multi-Country Action Programme 2014/031-603 |
| Project title: | Cross-border Institution Building – CBIB+ Phase II |
| EU contribution: | EUR 2 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans |
| Type of contract: | Service contract with GIZ International Services (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH) |
| Contract reference: | CN 2015/368-298 |
| Duration of activities : | 01/12/2015 – 30/11/2018 |
| Links: | www.cbibplus.eu |
| Contact: | Jlenia Destito, jlenia.destito@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

This project aims at enhancing regional coordination and harmonisation of approaches and mechanisms, as well as promoting a culture of best practice and sharing of experience in the field of cross-border cooperation (CBC) at intra-Western Balkans borders in line with EU frameworks and guidelines in the area of territorial cooperation. It also supports a smooth transition from the IPA to the IPA II programme in CBC, particularly in those countries operating under indirect management, and the launch of two new CBC programmes between Serbia and Kosovo and between Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY - JUNE 2016)

- Coordination of a technical working group in charge of the full revision of the manual of procedures of the Joint Technical Secretariats (JTS).
- Support and training to the Beneficiary Countries on the management of technical assistance service contracts.
- Implementation of 4 training courses for grant beneficiaries under CBC programmes.
- Preparation of a training module for assessors under the programme the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia –Albania.
- Support to the Operating Structures in Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Yugoslavia in developing the new bilateral CBC Programme.
- Support in the definition of a Guidance package for CBC Calls for Proposals under IPA II.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY - JUNE 2016)

- Revised manual of procedures of the JTS.
- First draft of a strategy for exploiting lessons learnt and synergies to measure the impact of CBC programmes.
- Reinforced capacity of the OSs' and JTSs' staff to manage service contracts.
- Enhanced capacity of grant beneficiaries under CBC programmes to meet the requirements of their contracts.

- Publication of the contest package on EU-funded prizes for CBC research papers in the WB.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- Organisation of the fourth CBC Regional Consultative Forum in December 2016 in Skopje, in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
- Launch and coordination of a technical working group on the closure of 2007-2013 IPA CBC programmes.
- Support to the Beneficiary Countries for the finalisation of the IPA II CBC programme Serbia – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
- Upgrade of the strategy for exploiting lessons learnt and synergies on CBC impact measurement.
- Organisation of different sets of training sessions for programme structures and grant beneficiaries in line with the requests received from key stakeholders.
- Circulation of the monthly flash news and preparation of the first issue of the newsletter 'Yellow&Blue' under this phase of CBIB+.
- Development of a training module for the improvement of regular relations between the Operating Structures and media.

8.4 FOSTERING REGIONAL COOPERATION

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| Programme reference: | Multi-country Action Programme for 2014 - part NEAR |
| Project title: | Fostering regional cooperation and balanced territorial development of Western Balkan (WB) countries in the process towards EU integration – Support to the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in South-East Europe |
| EU contribution: | EUR 1.0 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans |
| Type of contract: | Grant Contract with the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in South-East Europe |
| Contract reference: | CN 2015/359-331 |
| Duration of activities: | 02/06/2015 – 31/05/2017 |
| Links: | http://www.seerural.org/ |
| Contact : | Jlenia Destito, Jlenia.DESTITO@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The project aims at fostering regional cooperation among institutions and stakeholders in the agriculture and food sector, as well as to facilitation of the process of balanced territorial development of the Western Balkan countries in the progression towards EU integration.

The objective of the project is to strengthen the networking and cooperation among the public institutions and stakeholders, as well as with other relevant regional bodies in order to accelerate the EU accession process of the WB candidate and potential candidate countries in the field of agriculture and rural development.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

- Support to the preparation of fourteen project applications under different calls for proposals, in the cross-border regions “Drina - Tara”, “Drina - Sava”, “Prespa”.
- Organisation of nine “People to People” (P2P) events and five public events on rural development and agriculture.
- Continuation of the cross-border cooperation and dialogue among the local stakeholders in the cross-border regions “Drina - Tara”, “Drina - Sava”, “Prespa” and “Shara”, as well initiation of the Area Based Development (ABD) process in three additional cross-border regions.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

- Increased cooperation and enhanced partnership and networking among the relevant stakeholders in the cross-border regions “Drina-Tara”, “Drina-Sava”, “Prespa” and “Sharra”.
- People-to-People actions in all four cross-border regions promoting the cultural, traditional, natural heritage and economic potential of the regions.
- Enhanced project drafting and management skills of local stakeholders and finalisation of fourteen project proposals.
- Preparation of a baseline analysis and strategic planning focusing on economic development for three new cross-border regions “Pcinja”; “Prokletije – Bjeshket e Nemuna”; “Neretva”, using the ABD methodology.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- Organisation of the 10th Ministerial Meeting – Ministries of Agriculture from South-East European countries.
- Organisation of the Agriculture Policy Forum 2016.
- Organisation of different working group meetings, conferences, and forums related to agriculture and rural development.
- Organisation of SWG assembly sessions.
- Finalisation of the baseline analysis and strategic planning for the three new cross-border regions.

8.5 MONITORING

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| Programme reference: | Support Measure – Monitoring Programme 2014 - 2014/031-607 |
| Project title: | Multi-country Results Oriented Monitoring (ROM) - Western Balkans & Turkey |
| EU contribution: | EUR 3.48 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans and Turkey |
| Type of contract: | Service Contract with Particip GmbH |
| Contract reference: | 2015/361-031 |
| Duration of activities: | 03/6/2015 – 02/06/2017 |
| Contact : | Petra Schlueter, petra.schlueter@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The contract provides an external independent Results-Oriented Monitoring (ROM) service for national IPA programmes and the multi-beneficiary programmes in the Western Balkans region. The purpose of ROM is to support the results monitoring activities of programmes (including budget support) and projects by the Operational Managers in the EU Delegations and at EC Headquarters. The scope of ROM covers on-going and ex post ROM reviews and end-of-project results reviews, all performed in accordance with the ROM Handbook.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

The 2015 (May 2015 to April 2016) ROM Workplan, consisting of 82 review missions, was completed and the 2016 ROM Workplan is in progress. A total of 57 National ROM missions and 2 Regional ROM missions were made in the semester covering problematic, innovative, or not visited programmes or allocations where specialist sector knowledge is required.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

Each of the 59 missions delivered a ROM Report in a standard format which includes conclusions and recommendations. The reports addressed performance issues in Albania (11), Bosnia and Herzegovina (9), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (13), Kosovo (6) Montenegro (6), Serbia (12) and Regional programmes (2).

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

The 2016 ROM Review Workplan has identified 133 candidate ROM Review missions to be made up to April 2017. Approximately 60 ROM Reviews are expected to be made in the next semester.

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| Programme reference: | Multi-beneficiary Programme under IPA Transition Assistance and Institution Building Component for the year 2013, IPA 2013/024-091 |
| Project title: | Enhancing the regional dimension of the pre-accession assistance by the improved visibility of IPA Multi-country projects |
| EU contribution: | EUR 0.357 million |
| Beneficiary region: | Western Balkans and Turkey |
| Type of contract: | Specific Contract under Framework Contract with JCP Srl |
| Contract reference: | CN 2014/350-489 |
| Duration of activities: | 01/12/2013 – 31/05/2017 |
| Contact: | Agnieszka Iwanowska-Biel, agnieszka.iwanowska-biel@ec.europa.eu |

PURPOSE

The global objective is to increase the visibility of the IPA MB Programme in the framework of overall IPA visibility, specifically of the communication campaigns ran by the Information and Communication unit of DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations for the visibility of EU pre-accession funds.

It will in particular focus on production of success stories, identification of synergies between programmes and projects, drafting communication guidelines and providing training seminars on its application, providing support and advice to staff on communication policy and events.

ACTIVITIES (JANUARY - JUNE 2016)

- Desk research and interviews for success stories (20)
- Drafting, redrafting and editing success stories (10)
- Media relations capacity building civil society (TACSO event)
- Assistance in preparing WBIF communication materials.

OUTPUTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2016)

4 success stories (re)submitted.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- Research and draft success stories (26)
- Translation and editing of stories with final approval
- Draft and finalise communication Guidelines
- Draft concept for training on use of Guidelines.

LIST OF 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 |
| BPR | Biocidal Products Regulation |
| CAB | Conformity Assessment Bodies |
| CAN | Capacity Needs Assessment |
| CBC | Cross-Border Cooperation |
| CBIB | Cross-border Institution Building |
| CC | Climate Change |
| CCW | Climate Change Window |
| 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 |
| CLP | Classification, labelling and packaging |
| CN | Contract |
| CO | Coordination Office |
| CoE | Council of Europe |
| CoP | Community of Practice |
| CSF | Civil Society Facility |
| CSF | Classical Swine Fever |
| CSO | Civil Society Organisation |
| CSP | Country strategy paper |
| CSR | Country Strategy Report |

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| CVO | Chief Veterinary Officers |
| DG | Directorate General |
| DRR | Disaster risk reduction |
| EACEA | Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency |
| EAMLA | European Accreditation multilateral agreement |
| EBRD | European Bank for Reconstruction and Development |
| EBU | European Broadcasting Union |
| 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 |
| EE(FE) | Energy Efficiency Finance Facility |
| EEA | European Economic Area |
| 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 |
| EMMA | European Multi-services Meteorological Awareness |
| ENEF | Enterprise Expansion Fund |
| ENER | Energy |
| ENIF | Enterprise Innovation Fund |
| ENIF | Enterprise Innovation Fund |
| ETF | European training Foundation |
| EU | European Union |
| EUBEC | EU Platform for Blending in External Cooperation |

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| EUD | European Union Delegation |
| EUI | European University Institute |
| EUMETNET | European National Meteorological network |
| EURAMET | European Association of National Metrology Institutes |
| FAD | Fiscal Affairs Department |
| FPA | Framework Partnership Agreement |
| GB | Governing board |
| GF | Guarantee Facility |
| GGF | Green for Growth Fund |
| GHG | Green House 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 |
| IPSAS | International Public Sector Accounting Standards |

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| 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 |
| MCSP | Multi-country strategy paper |
| 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 |
| NEAR | Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations |
| NICO | Northern Ireland Cooperation Overseas |
| NIPAC | National IPA Coordinator |
| NSI | National Statistics Institute |
| NTB | Non-Tariff Barriers |
| NTOs | National Tempus Offices |

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| 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 |
| P2P | People to People |
| PADOR | Potential Applicant Data Online Registration |
| PAG | Platform Advisory Group |
| PAR | Public Administration Reform |
| PB | Partner bank |
| PC | Partner country |
| PCA | Post clearance audit |
| 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 |
| QA | Qualitative Assurance |
| R&D | Research and Development |
| RCC | Regional Cooperation Council |
| RCI | Regional Competitiveness Initiative |
| RE | Renewable energy |

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| RECOM | Regional Committee for Truth and Reconciliation |
| REEP | Regional Energy Efficiency Programme |
| REG | Regional |
| REACH | Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals |
| RENA | Regional Environmental Network for Accession |
| 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 |
| SEEIC | Southeast Europe Investment Committee |
| SEETO | South East Europe Transport Observatory |
| 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 |
| TADAT | Tax Administration Diagnostic Assessment Tool |
| TAXUD | Directorate General Taxation and Customs Union |

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| 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 |
| USKOK | Office for the Prevention of Corruption and Organized Crime |
| VAC | Violence against Children |
| VAT | Value Added Tax |
| VIND | Vinca Institute Nuclear Decommissioning |
| WB | Western Balkan |
| WBG | World Bank Group |
| WBIF | Western Balkans Investment Framework |
| WeBSEDF | Western Balkans Sustainable Energy Direct Financing Facility |
| WeBSEFF | Western Balkans Sustainable Energy 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 |
| WPU | Witness Protection Unit |
| WSSD | World Summit on Sustainable Development |
