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D - REGIONAL COOPERATION & ASSISTANCE; TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY
D.3 - REGIONAL COOPERATION AND PROGRAMMES

MULTI-BENEFICIARY PROGRAMMES ACTIVITY REPORT

July – December 2013

Contents

Contents	- 2 -
Contact	- 4 -
Introduction	- 5 -
1 Public administration reform sector	- 7 -
1.1 Support for Improvement in Governance and Management (SIGMA).....	- 7 -
1.2 Regional school of public administration (ReSPA)	- 8 -
1.3 Public finance management.....	- 10 -
1.4 Land administration – Geospatial Data.....	- 12 -
1.5 Statistics.....	- 13 -
1.6 Customs and taxation	- 17 -
2 Justice and home affairs, including fundamental rights and vulnerable groups sector	- 19 -
2.1 Justice, freedom and security	- 19 -
2.2 Human rights, respect and protection of minorities.....	- 27 -
3 Transport and energy infrastructure, including nuclear safety sector	- 34 -
3.1 WBIF – Socio -Economic Development.....	- 34 -
3.2 WBIF – Infrastructure Projects Facility.....	- 38 -
3.3 WBIF – Municipal Window	- 40 -
3.4 Energy efficiency.....	- 43 -
3.5 Nuclear safety and radiation protection	- 48 -
4 Private sector development	- 56 -
4.1 Access to finance.....	- 56 -
4.2 Competitiveness	- 62 -
4.3 Trade.....	- 68 -
5 Environment and climate change sector	- 73 -
5.1 Environmental Protection.....	- 73 -
5.2 Disaster risk reduction	- 74 -
5.3 Food safety, veterinary and phyto-sanitary policy.....	- 77 -
6 Support to civil society sector	- 78 -
6.1 Civil society facility	- 78 -
7 Social development sector	- 93 -

7.1	Tempus	- 93 -
7.2	Erasmus Mundus	- 95 -
7.3	Youth in action	- 97 -
7.4	Cultural heritage – Ljubljana process, history	- 99 -
8	Other.....	- 107 -
8.1	Preparatory measures for the participation in EU agencies.....	- 107 -
8.2	Regional strategy for Research and Development	- 109 -
8.3	Support to parliamentary cooperation.....	- 111 -
8.4	Support to the Regional Cooperation Council.....	- 112 -
8.5	Cross-border cooperation	- 114 -
8.6	Monitoring	- 115 -
8.7	Participation in the Union for the Mediterranean.....	- 117 -
8.8	Strengthening European integration	- 119 -
8.1	Administrative and technical assistance facility	- 124 -
8.2	Travel, accommodation and conference facility	- 125 -
9	Annexes	- 126 -
9.1	List of SEI projects under IPA decision 2013/024-091.....	- 126 -
9.2	DG ELARG Unit D3, organisation chart as of 1st April 2014	- 128 -
9.3	Acronyms	- 130 -

Contact

For any comments or suggestions on this Activity Report, please contact us by sending an e-mail to the following general inbox: ELARG-REGIONAL-PROGRAMMES@ec.europa.eu

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 unit D3.

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

Links and contact

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

Contact : Gabriela Köhler-Raue; Gabriela.KOEHLER-RAUE@ec.europa.eu
 Head of sector, Sector for Horizontal Coordination and Support
 Carine Hénoque, Carine.HENOQUE@ec.europa.eu
 Programme Manager in charge of the Activity Report

Introduction

This report covers the activities of all on-going Multi-beneficiary projects which are the responsibility of Unit D3 of the Directorate General for Enlargement of the European Commission. It covers the period 1st July – 31 December 2013.

Highlights

Programming and implementation of Multi-beneficiary (MB) IPA programmes has been managed according to plan. The MB programme 2013 which was adopted on 15 February for an amount of EUR 100.5 million, was amended in November by adding EUR 20.71 million. Two amendments to the Regional Housing Programme have been processed, adding a total of EUR 28 million to the 2013 allocation.

A MB coordination meeting took place on 19-20 November in Belgrade with the objective to discuss the second draft of the Multi-country strategy paper (MCSP). NIPACs were invited to focus in the discussions on identified needs for regional/horizontal support in their country strategy papers (CSPs). The meeting was also the first of its kind under the new Head of Unit D.3, Mr Morten Jung, following the departure of Mr Yngve Engström who is now posted in the EU-Delegation to Albania.

Among the various projects the Unit is implementing, the following events deserve to be highlighted:

The Assembly of Donors for the Regional Housing Programme approved 10 housing projects, amounting to more than EUR 72 million for more than 2.200 individuals in all four Partner Countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia). The housing solutions include construction of apartment buildings, pre-fabricated houses and provision of building materials for assistance with reconstruction of existing dwellings / living accommodation and purchase of village houses. The implementation of the housing projects started in Q4 2013 with the launching of information campaigns and the selection of the first beneficiaries. By the end of the year and despite the fact that the grant agreements for the approved projects have not been yet signed, the Partner Countries have made significant progress by setting up Project's Implementation Units, preparing country feasibility reports and Framework Agreements with the Council of Europe Development Bank, who is the manager of the programme.

The 9th Steering Committee (SC) of the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) was held on 4 December and hosted by the EBRD. The meeting considered in particular important political, economic and social changes and trends affecting the socio-economic development of the Western Balkans and their accession path; the interim report of the Task Force established following the Athens SC meeting that has examined the status of the current pipeline of investment projects supported by the WBIF; as well as the potential for the WBIF to increase the use of public private partnerships (PPPs) to realise investments in the Western Balkans; and issues arising with WBIF structures and procedures. The SC approved 9 grants with a total value of EUR 6.18 million to support the development of strategic investments in energy, environment, transport and social sectors in the Western Balkans.

In November, Kosovo* was admitted as full member of the Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA).



Multi-beneficiary meeting, 19-20 November 2013, Palace of Serbia, Belgrade



1 Public administration reform sector

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

1.1 Support for Improvement in Governance and Management (SIGMA)

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

1.1.1 Project information

Support for Improvement in Governance and Management (SIGMA) in the Western Balkans and Turkey

IPA 2013/024-091, EUR 10 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans and Turkey

Type of contract: Contribution agreement with OECD, CN 2013/319-423

Duration of activities: 01/07/2013 – 30/06/2015

Purpose

SIGMA supports the Public Administration Reform (PAR) in Western Balkans and Turkey. SIGMA provides assistance to beneficiary countries to strengthen their legal frameworks and their administrative capacities and processes for sound implementation of the EU *acquis*. SIGMA areas of intervention are: i) Policy Making, ii) Public Administration Reform Co-ordination, iii) Civil Service and Public Administration Organisation and Functioning, iv) Public Finance Management and Audit, and v) Public Procurement.

Activities

SIGMA provided analysis, advice and on-the-job-assistance to Beneficiaries for reviewing and strengthening legislation frameworks (first and/or second level legislation) in the 5 SIGMA areas, in particular: Law on Civil Service (LCS) in Albania and Bosnia Herzegovina; Public Procurement Law (PPL) in Bosnia Herzegovina; Law on Auditor General and National Audit Office in Kosovo; as well as Law on General Administrative Procedures (LGAP) in Montenegro and Serbia. SIGMA also provided assistance to beneficiaries for strengthening their new strategies and action plans by supporting the development of: a monitoring framework and a set of indicators for the new National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI) in Albania; the new HRM Policy Framework in Bosnia Herzegovina; the new National Programme for Accession in Montenegro; the 2014 Government Annual Work

Plan in Kosovo; PAR strategy in Albania, Kosovo, and Serbia. Moreover, SIGMA drafted a paper on how to enhance interaction and communication among the Turkish Court of Accounts, auditees and the Turkish Grand National Assembly, and organized several seminars and workshops on public procurement in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro, as well as on PFM and PAR coordination in Serbia and on a framework for risk and impact assessment in Montenegro. Further SIGMA supported Croatia in the development of its Operational programme for TA and a financial management training programme. Finally, SIGMA developed a new analytical framework to be used for assessments (PAR principles), agreed on country priorities for SIGMA 2014 Assessment and assisted DG Enlargement preparing and in carrying on PAR Special Groups in Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo and Montenegro.

Outputs

- Drafted or reviewed laws (LCS, LGAP and PPL);
- Trainings, workshops, conferences and on-the-job-assistance on public procurement, PFM, auditing, Regulatory Impact Assessment and PAR;
- New analytical framework for SIGMA 2014 assessment;
- Support to PAR Special Groups.

Activities and events planned for next semester

Following country priorities as defined in the SIGMA Annual Action Plans, SIGMA will continue to operate in the Beneficiaries for i) strengthening legal frameworks, ii) improving institutional organization, administrative capacities and processes, iii) enhancing communication among ministries and related public bodies and iv) boosting consultations with external stakeholders and v) improving planning and implementation capacities for sound implementation of the *acquis*. With this objectives, SIGMA will provide advice, analysis and on-the-job assistance in areas such as Law on Civil Services, Law on Public Procurement, Law on Public Service, Law on Access to Public Information, Law on General Administrative Procedures, Law on Internal Audit, Law on PPPs/Concessions, Law on Public Internal Financial Control NSDI 2013-2020, public procurement Strategy, Strategy for the certification of internal auditors, Action Plan for Public Procurement, HRM Policy Framework, PAR Strategy and 2014-2020 Cohesion Policy programmes.

Moreover SIGMA will organise seminars, workshops and trainings in order to contribute to strengthen competences, expertise and analytical skills that are needed for implementing public administration reforms, including policy making process, budget formulation and execution, public procurement and use of centralised procurement and framework agreements, quality of public services delivery, internal and external audit, parliamentary oversight function, risk management.

Finally SIGMA will continue to support PAR Special Groups in Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia and will carry out its 2014 Assessment in all beneficiaries (except Croatia).

Links and contact

Website: <http://www.sigmaweb.org/>

Contact: Alberto Costa Alberto.COSTA@ec.europa.eu

1.2 Regional school of public administration (ReSPA)

The principal aim of ReSPA is to help improve regional cooperation in public administration among the Western Balkan countries; to strengthen administrative capacities as required by

the European integration process; and to develop human resource capacities in line with the principles of the European Administrative Space.

ReSPA supports the creation of accountable, effective and professional public administration systems for the Western Balkans on their way to EU accession.

Alongside the core training and other capacity-building activities of ReSPA, the exchange of good practices is organised through networking events. These foster knowledge transfer related to strategic development and positioning of ReSPA in the Western Balkans and beyond.

In particular, ReSPA focuses on the strategic needs of all its members, supporting those aspects of Public Administration reform that benefit from cross-country learning and development.

1.2.1 Project information

ReSPA Phase 2 - Running of ReSPA and organisation of ReSPA activities

IPA 2012/022-966, EUR 3.5 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans (Location of ReSPA: Montenegro)

Type of contract: Grant Contract to ReSPA, CN 2013/331-241

Duration of activities: 25/11/2013 – 25/11/2015

Purpose

The direct Grant supports the development of ReSPA's capacity to become an umbrella organisation which is driving and contributing to the progress and development in PAR in the Western Balkan in the framework of EU accession, with an overall objective to strengthen the democratic public governance systems, professionalisation and modernisation in line with the European Administrative Space.

Activities

Four workshops were organized related to policy issues, anti-corruption/integrity management and HRM. A networking event for ethics and integrity, took place in Sarajevo, where the publication 'Income and Assets Declarations in Practice' was also launched. The second phase of the impact assessment of ReSPA activities was finalised with a draft report produced, followed by Training of Trainers and visibility activities (Newsletter covering the period April-September 2013). In addition, the database of experts and trainers and a platform for networking activities (Moodle) have been set up.

Outputs

The training workshops and the networking events contributed to upgrade the knowledge and skills of participants and to provide guidelines for strategic planning in the area of HRM/HRD, ethics and integrity:

- ✓ **Quality management** - Increased understanding of the different aspects of customer satisfaction and its measurement of it in the public sector
- ✓ **PPP** - Increased knowledge and skills required for trainers role in the domain of PPP
- ✓ **HRM/HRD** - better understanding of the key components of an effective Pay and Reward Strategy, framework and comprehensive Strategy development
- ✓ **Ethics and integrity** - cognitive and organisational skills in the area of anti-corruption measures improved

- ✓ **Visibility** - The newsletter reaches out to the participants at training/networking events, conferences.

Activities and events planned for next semester

1. Seminars will focus mostly on eGovernment and Strategic Planning in public administration, HRM strategies, ICT, and anticorruption strategy
2. eGovernment networking event in OECD, Paris
3. Meeting of network on the General Administrative Procedures Act (GAPA) in Zagreb, February 2014 – exchange of regional GAPA experiences.
4. Ethics and Integrity network – March 2014, EU Integration network – April, Public Procurement network – May or June 2014
5. RCC related activities – March / May 2014 – contribution to the initial activities related to the 5th pillar of the SEE 2020
6. Upgrade of the eGovernment regional comparative study
7. Policy coordination - Comparative Study on the current trends of Government Reforms in Western Balkans in the light of the EU integration process – April 2014
8. Development of first draft of integrated training for "Leadership and Change Manager" – May 2014
9. Summer School on the law of the European Union and its implementation Luxembourg - 30/06-11/07/2014,
10. Coaching programme with Governing Board (GB) – June 2014 – more alignment with programmatic issues for the next programming period
11. Launch of integrated social networking campaign – June 2014 – raise awareness and visibility.

Links and contact

Website: www.respaweb.eu

Contact: Konstantina Maragkou, Konstantina.MARAGKOU@ec.europa.eu

1.3 Public finance management

All countries in the region have been increasingly placing emphasis on the improvement in the management of public finance. This means working towards efficient, effective and accountable public finances through improved budget planning, allocation, implementation and review. All Beneficiaries face similar challenges when designing and implementing financial regimes. In this situation, sharing information can save countries time and money.

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

1.3.1 Project information

Improving Public Financial Management in the Western Balkans

IPA 2010/022-028, EUR 1.0 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Administration Agreement with the World Bank, CN 2011/258-142

Duration of activities: 21/12/2010 – 30/11/2014

Purpose

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

Activities

All funds have been transferred to the World Bank Trust Fund in accordance with the Administration Agreement. A total of seven projects have been approved and seven funded, including at least one project in each beneficiary jurisdiction, except Kosovo and Serbia.

Four projects have been completed (Albania PEFA, Albania draft PFM Strategy, regional examination of approaches to addressing the fiscal impact of structural adjustment and Montenegro PEFA). Draft PEFAs have been prepared for Bosnia and Herzegovina, incorporating one each for Republic of Srpska, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Bosnia and Herzegovina State and Brčko District.

Activities and events planned for next semester

All remaining projects will be completed, including PEFA assessments in Bosnia and Herzegovina (four assessments for the country as a whole), PEFA assessments of local authorities in Croatia, and modernisation of the Croatia financial management system, and the Albania municipal public financial review.

Outputs

The completed PEFA assessment in Montenegro is being used as a basis for developing public financial management reform actions.

Croatia financial management system components have been completed and testing and training is underway. Survey data has been collected and is now being analysed.

Links and contact

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

1.3.2 Project information

Strategic Planning and Budgeting (SPB)

IPA 2012/022-966, EUR 1.0 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans and Turkey

Type of contract: Direct Grant to Center of Excellence in Finance (CEF),
CN 2012/310-295

Duration of activities: 20/03/2013 – 19/03/2015

Purpose

The purpose of the project is to strengthen beneficiaries' governance for growth. It provides a comprehensive approach to develop their capacities in preparing medium-term macro-fiscal frameworks. It supports strengthening of countries' policy-making practices and, where possible, encourages the incorporation of good practices and standards into them; helps strengthen regional cooperation among policy-making authorities; and deepens dialogues with the EU and international financial institutions.

Activities

After concluding the initiation phase in May, the CEF started delivering the training and networking activities, targeting first at beneficiary institutions in charge of SPB processes (mainly ministries of finance). Three activities were delivered before the summer: a high-level seminar on Building Fiscal Institutions to Meet Post-Crisis Challenges; and workshops on Medium-Term Budgeting, as well as Programme Budgeting, Evaluation and Spending Review. The two activities delivered in the July to December period are a high-level policy dialogue on Strategic Planning and Budgeting, and a workshop on Capital Budgeting. The first Steering Committee meeting in May set the stage for further discussion of committee members by written correspondence to conclude the Inception Report, which got approved in July.

Outputs

Delivered activities raised awareness among top-level officials of institutions coordinating medium-term macro-fiscal frameworks about the need and opportunities to improve those frameworks. Capacities of Public administration officials' preparing those frameworks were strengthened, and experience and good practices shared; networks among officials created.

Activities and events planned for next semester

Workshops on Macroeconomic Policy Analysis, and Macroeconomic Forecasting will be delivered in cooperation with the Joint Vienna Institute. These two workshops, as well as a workshop on Training-of-Trainers, will be hosted by ReSPA. With a workshop on the Integration of Structural Reforms in Fiscal Programming, and the second delivery of workshops on Medium-Term Budgeting, and Programme Budgeting, activities will also include budget users (in particular budget-intensive line ministries) and, to some degree, central planning authorities, central banks, and macroeconomic research institutes. Moreover, the CEF will start delivering an e-learning course on Budget Formulation.

Outputs for next semester

Capacities will be further strengthened and knowledge exchange facilitated in preparing medium-term macro-fiscal frameworks. More networks among officials involved in preparing those frameworks will be created. Experts from beneficiary countries will be identified, trained, and involved in capacity development, and policy coordination processes among institutions coordinating and contributing to those frameworks will be improved.

Links and contact

Link: www.cef-see.org/bcpdi/spb

Contact: Konstantina Maragkou, Konstantina.MARAGKOU@ec.europa.eu

1.4 Land administration – Geospatial Data

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

1.4.1 Project information

Inspiration: Spatial Data Infrastructure in the Western Balkans and Turkey

IPA 2010/022-028, EUR 1.438 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Service contract with GFA - Consulting Group GmbH in consortium with Conterra, Umweltbundesamt Austria, GisData, CN 2011/281-381

Duration of activities: 01/01/2012 – 31/12/2013

Purpose

The specific aim was to promote Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) and further coordinate its implementation in the Western Balkans with a view to preparing Beneficiaries to meet the objectives of the EU “Inspire” Directive. This included specific country analyses and tailor-made recommendations for each of the beneficiaries. A series of regional training and workshop sessions were organised.

Activities

Several awareness-raising films were produced, as well as leaflets, which demonstrate the importance of geospatial and interoperable data for investment facilitation, infrastructure building, disaster prevention and relief.

Outputs

By the end of the project the National Mapping and Cadastre Offices of the Western Balkans were able to provide more and more accurate data. All stakeholders in the Balkans were considerably more aware of the necessity for spatial data information for issues of the rule of law and security of ownership. The beneficiaries are now better prepared to implement structural and pre-accession policies. The growth potential of the Western-Balkan economies was fostered by enhancing the technical basis for investments.

At the wrap-up meeting the beneficiaries confirmed their commitment to continue regional co-operation on geospatial data beyond the life of the project. The project has thus had a sustainable impact.

Follow-up

The Swedish Development Co-operation Agency (SIDA) ensured immediate further support for the development of Geospatial Data in the Western Balkans and the beneficiaries will continue their regional co-operation.

Links and contact

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

1.5 Statistics

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

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

1.5.1 Project information

Statistical Cooperation for the Western Balkans, Iceland and Turkey

IPA 2011/023-176, EUR 8.2 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans, Turkey, Iceland

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

Duration of activities: July 2012 – June 2014

Purpose

To take further the process of progressively integrating the National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) of the beneficiaries into the European Statistical System (ESS) by strengthening the institutions of the NSIs and their co-ordinating role in the statistical system of the country.

To continue to support sustainable capacity building of the NSIs to enable them to better meet the needs of their customers by providing data that is accurate, reliable, timely and compiled in full compliance with the *acquis*. The project upgrades and strengthens the statistical systems of the beneficiary National Statistical Institutes by improving the availability, quality, comparability and timeliness of statistical data, in particular in macro-economic, price, external trade, agricultural, demographic and social and business statistics. Additionally, it will reinforce confidence in methods and professionalism, thus providing policy makers and the international community with unquestionable statistical data.

Activities

Data analysis was continued with support from experts. Technical assistance missions were carried out. Pilot projects are on-going and for several of them on-line technical support was provided in preparing survey questionnaires with support via a Helpdesk. The templates for the national methodological reports were drafted. Preliminary data analysis was completed. The data on crops and short methodological reports and summary of the data quality report were submitted. Quality reports from several pilot projects were prepared and submitted to Eurostat. One study visit was carried out on Animal Production Statistics and two others on Annual Crop Statistics. This study visits provided a very good overview of experiences, administrative and statistical sources. New knowledge used in planning methods applied to the statistical system in the pilot projects was acquired. Guidelines to establish quality procedures based on pilot projects were produced.

Implementation of data collection projects under the IPA 2011 grant contracts is on-going. The following activities were carried out for all beneficiary countries:

Existing data sources and methods were analysed, the new working methodology according to recommendations of ESA 2010 methodology was set up, data sources used for the various estimations were checked and analysed, according to new methodological solutions first estimates were drafted, report on weaknesses and quality of data sources and methods was submitted, data were produced based on improvements made in different statistical domains and data collection system, data flow and data quality were improved,

Annual national publications were prepared and published, data validation was clarified, cooperation between responsible national bodies was developed, all available data sources were identified,

IT infrastructure was further developed in various statistical domains, methodological guidelines for quality management were drafted, fine tuning of existing IT tool for production of statistics was finalised,

Technical assistance activities and progress on data collection projects are reported on a quarterly basis. Reporting requirements are correctly followed by the beneficiaries.

All beneficiaries participated in working group meetings, study visits, ad hoc consultancies and workshops.

Statisticians from the beneficiaries participated in traineeships at Eurostat and in some of the EU NSIs for 3.5 months from September to December 2013 and a new round of traineeships will run from January to June 2014. Trainees were actively involved in regular and development tasks of official statistics. The knowledge, experiences and good practices improved by the traineeship will be fully implemented in the NSI to realise sustainable working methods. From 9 September to 20 December 2013 six trainees started training at Eurostat units and at NSIs in the EU.

The Policy Group for Statistical Cooperation met in Skopje in October 2013. The cornerstones of a multi-annual strategy for statistical cooperation for the next programming period 2014-2020 were discussed with a view to agreement on the baselines for statistical cooperation under IPA II.

1.5.2 Project information

Statistical Cooperation for the Western Balkans and Turkey

IPA 2012/023-625, EUR 9.29 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans, Turkey

Type of contract: Service contract with GOPA Consultants, EUR 4.4 million
Grant to Central Bureau of Statistics of Croatia, EUR 1.42 million
Grant to State Statistical Office of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, EUR 1.21 million
Grant to Statistical Office of Serbia, EUR 1.34 million
Grant to Turkish Statistical Institute, EUR 0.94 million.

Duration of activities: For the service contract: December 2013 – November 2015
For the grants: January 2014 – November 2015

Purpose

See above

Activities and events planned for next semester

Eurostat evaluated the offers and grant applications under IPA 2012 and signed the service and grant contracts during the 4th quarter 2013. Assessment of strengths and weaknesses will be done, including a clear strategy for further improvements. Advice will be given to the contract beneficiaries, including recommendations on how further improvements of statistics areas can be achieved. The upcoming start-up workshop and the expected contributions of the beneficiary countries will be discussed.

Under the service contract, the overall management kick-off meeting took place on 4 December 2013. Individual kick-off meetings of the pilot projects will be carried out in the beginning of 2014.

The implementation of grants will start at different times, allowing each one to overlap with the finalisation phase of the IPA 2011 programme.

[Links and contact](#)

Links: <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu>

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

1.5.3 Project information

Statistical Cooperation for Iceland

IPA 2010/022-876, EUR 1.0 million

Beneficiary region: Iceland

Type of contract: Grant to Hagstofa Íslands

Duration of activities: April 2011 – April 2013

[Purpose](#)

See above

[Activities](#)

Component 1 - Population and Housing Census was intended to support the first two years out of planned three years of Census work at Statistics Iceland. Statistical tables have been produced by the end of 2013 and early 2014, with final transmission of data in March 2014.

Component 2 - Agriculture statistics, first results of the Farm Structure Survey 2010 were published in October 2012 on the Statistics Iceland web page. The results revealed a lot of new information which had never been published before on Icelandic agriculture. For the next Farm Structure Survey (FSS 2013) Statistics Iceland will build on that experience. The work under this component of the IPA 2010 grant has led to a more effective, trustworthy and accurate statistics on Icelandic agriculture. The outcome is seen as positive from both the government's side (the ministry responsible for agricultural matters) and the farmers' side

Two publications were released, in October 2012 on Agriculture 2010-2012 where first results from the Farm Structure Survey 2010 and statistics on crop production and animal production were published and secondly in February 2013 with data on Economic Agricultural Accounts 2007-2011.

The publications are open to everyone on the Statistics Iceland web page where they can be downloaded in PDF format.

[Links and contact](#)

Links: www.statice.is

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

1.6 Customs and taxation

1.6.1 Project information

Maintenance of the Systematic Electronic Exchange of Data system in the Western Balkans (SEED Maintenance)

IPA 2012/22-964, EUR 0.50 million and IPA 2013/024-091, EUR 0.25 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans (except Croatia)

Type of contract: Service contract with Agenzia delle Dogane, Italy,
CN 2012/300-108 amended under ref. CN 2013/317-729

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

Purpose

Support the customs administrations of the Beneficiaries to continue to use the SEED platform by providing regional coordination and maintenance of the existing SEED infrastructure. Improvement of the SEED software, based on the Beneficiaries' requests, within the current business objectives: automatic data matching and alarm module on pre-arrival data.

Support the customs administrations of those Beneficiaries using INES+ software to further improve it. Support the customs administrations of the Beneficiaries which currently are not using INES+ but have showed the intention to develop it.

Support the customs administrations of the Beneficiaries to further expand on a voluntary basis the scope of functionality of the SEED platform, based on a common agreement of two and more Beneficiaries, given that this would not require significant IT development on both national CDPS and SEED system.

Support the customs administrations of Serbia and Kosovo to establish electronic data exchange via middle server located at the premises of Italian Customs Agency in Rome.

Activities

Development, testing and installation of the SEED software for the "Middle Server" and installation of the supporting communication equipment and secure communication links for data exchange between Serbia and Kosovo, at the premises of Italian Customs Agency in Rome;

Writing of the new version of the User Manual for SEED Web application, in accordance with the software version 4.2.0;

Update of the "Exit Strategy" Report, on basis of the conclusions of the Steering Committee Meeting (mid-September);

Update of the INES+ software on the basis of the collected COPIS functional specifications;

Organised:

- SEED Maintenance Steering Committee Meeting – 5th July 2013 (Venice, Italy);
- SEED Technical Meeting in Rome, with the participation of the representatives of the Customs Administrations of Serbia, Kosovo and Italian Customs Agency;
- Second SEED Maintenance Regional Meeting – 2nd October 2013 (Ohrid, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia);

- Meeting with the COPIS Business and IT Managers in Brussels – 27th November 2013;
- Presentation of the new INES+ system for the Indirect Tax Authority of Bosnia Herzegovina and collection of the User Requirements for the system amendment;
- Delivering of the on-site training to the SEED end users at the Customs Houses and Border Customs Offices in Serbia;

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

The new version (V.5.0) of the SEED2 software, will be deployed to all 6 SEED servers in region.

Installation of the latest version of the INES+ software for the Beneficiaries that express the interest (so far – Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania and Montenegro);

The third regional event of the SEED maintenance project will be organised at the end of the February/beginning of March.

[Outputs](#)

SEED data exchange between Serbia and Kosovo, via the Middle Server placed in Rome is established. It represents a concrete achievement of the political dialogue between the Parties which is supported by the European External Action Service;

Updated User Manuals in local languages for SEED Web application will lead to the more efficient use of the latest SEED software release;

Second version of the “Exit Strategy” Report produced. This document specifies the activities to be followed by the Beneficiaries (sequence of steps) for securing of the possible continuation of the maintenance activities of the SEED system in Western Balkan Region ;

INES+ system is updated and improved on the basis of the technical documentation received from the COPIS Business and IT Experts;

National, regional and local training will lead to proper operational use of the SEED software at all user levels in Serbia;

[Links and contact](#)

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

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

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

2.1 Justice, freedom and security

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

Field: Fight against organised crime and corruption

2.1.1 Project information

Cooperation in Criminal Justice: Witness Protection in the Fight against Organised Crime and Corruption (WINPRO II)

IPA 2012/022-966, EUR 7.0 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Delegation Agreement with Northern Ireland Cooperation Overseas (NICO), CN 2012/305-554

Duration of activities: 01/12/2012 – 29/11/2015

Purpose

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

Activities

Training/seminars/study organised:

- September 2013: Joint WINPRO/UNDP/ICITAP conference on ‘Challenges of Justice Security in Bosnia and Herzegovina’, with the aim to promote witness protection programmes across the country;
- September 2013: First meeting of the Balkan Network;

- Start of a comprehensive training programme for Witness Protection Units and other stakeholders with a ‘Train-the-Trainers’ course;
- November 2013: 3-day seminar for existing witness support units from across the region, held in Croatia.

Work on harmonisation of WP legislation in the region is ongoing. In Bosnia and Herzegovina political issues are causing a significant delay in adoption of the witness protection legislation by the Parliament.

Guidelines on procedural and non-procedural protection measures for the judiciary and prosecution in Serbia are in the final stages of approval. A comparative analysis of procedural and non-procedural protection measures in all beneficiary countries has been carried out and will be published and circulated to all relevant organisations in 2014.

A review of the inter-agency co-operation between WPU and prison administrations as well as protection of the collaborators of justice and protected witnesses with prison systems across the Western Balkans has been completed and recommendations for improvements and training issued.

Further assistance has been given to the EU Office in Kosovo in drafting technical specifications for procurement of equipment (including IT, telecoms, video-conferencing, counter-surveillance and security equipment as well as vehicles).

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

April 2014: WINPRO II team will assist the beneficiary WPU with arranging their attendance at the annual EUROPOL conference on witness protection.

Further drafting and finalisation of Guidelines on procedural and non-procedural protection measures for the judiciary and prosecution services.

Further harmonisation of legislation in the region will continue.

Further work on organisational and operational structures, as well as human resources management will continue across the region.

Training/seminars/study visits to be organised:

- April 2014: WINPRO II Regional Meeting and Judicial Conference;
- March 2014: Second meeting of the Balkan Network;
- WINPRO II training programme for stakeholders will continue in 2014. It will include further training for Judicial Police in Bosnia Herzegovina, training on counter- and anti-surveillance for special units in high security prisons in Serbia, client (witness) assessment courses for prosecutors in Kosovo and Montenegro, client (witness) assessment courses for investigators in Kosovo and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, supervision training course for WPU in Croatia as well as general stakeholders’ awareness courses in Bosnia Herzegovina as well as the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;
- WINPRO II training programme for WP units will continue in 2014. It will include further training on close protection (advanced), counter and anti-surveillance (new recruits and advanced), medical skills (new recruits and advanced), IT systems and databases, risk assessment, operational planning and legend building. Practical skills of the units will be tested during desktop and live exercises;

- Study visit to UK on special, secure units for collaborators of justice and protected witnesses serving sentences in prisons for Heads of WPU and Heads of Prison Administrations;
- A series of country specific seminars regarding media handling and public relations will be organised for police press offices, WPUs, prosecutorial and court press services.
- Secure radio communication equipment for WPUs will be delivered and installed.

Outputs

Through support of the project to the Balkan Network initiative regional co-operation, information sharing and exchange of experience between WPUs have been enhanced.

Links and contact

Link: www.nico.org.uk

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

2.1.2 Project information

Fight against organised crime and corruption: Strengthening the Prosecutors' Network

IPA 2010/022-028, EUR 5.0 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Grant Contract with GIZ GmbH, CN 2011/271-284

Duration of activities: 15/11/2011 – 30/04/2014

Purpose

This project strengthens the operational capacity and capabilities of the General/State Prosecutors' Offices in the Beneficiaries to prosecute and investigate cross-border organised crime and linked cases of economic and financial crime and corruption. It promotes the institutionalisation of the Western Balkan Prosecutors' Network and increases cooperation with international and European judicial networks and agencies.

Activities

On-the-job training and support through the seconded prosecutors of EU Member States and the national legal officers; supporting the set-up of Joint Investigation Teams and promoting mutual legal assistance; involvement in the re-drafting/amending of Criminal Procedure Codes; organisational development of the Beneficiaries prosecutors' offices.

Training organised:

- One training per beneficiary on "European Legal Instruments for Cross-Border Cooperation in Organised Crime and Corruption Cases" (Judicial cooperation in criminal matters);
- Four regional trainings (on JITs, Financial Investigations, Money Laundering and cross-border investigation techniques);
- One study tour to Switzerland.

In-depth analysis on organisational development measures for the prosecutors' offices in the beneficiaries has been prepared and first recommendations are being implemented.

Further strengthening of the cooperation with European judicial networks.

Activities and events planned for next semester

Procurement and installation of IT equipment (including training) for secure communication between prosecutors' offices.

Finalisation of training plan with the national Judicial Training Centres and ReSPA.

Study Tour to Austria, Czech Republic, to Seepag/Selec in Bucharest, and to Eurojust in The Hague for members of prosecutors' offices.

Assisting amendment and re-drafting of national legislation (criminal procedure codes as well as mutual legal assistance laws).

Joint publication and workshop with Eurojust on data protection.

Organisation of the Final Conference in The Hague, the Netherlands, on 14-16 April 2014.

Outputs

National and regional trainings, internships/job-shadowing, and study tours will lead to increased human capacities within the prosecutors' offices. Increased human capacities will lead to further mutual legal assistance and better cross-border cooperation.

Data protection measures have been introduced within the prosecutors' offices.

Formal Joint Investigation Teams with various EU Member States have been set up and supported, focussing on human trafficking and document forgery.

New tools for international cross-border cooperation have been introduced and implemented.

Cooperation has been increased between national prosecutors' offices and those of the EU Member States as well as with European agencies and networks.

Links and contact

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

2.1.3 Project information

Assessment of Corruption and Crime affecting the Business Sector in the Western Balkan, Corruption Surveys

IPA 2011/022-964, EUR 0.45 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Contribution Agreement with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in association with Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative, CN 2012/276-036

Duration of activities 13/01/2012 – 31/12/2013

Purpose

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

Key achievements

Based on the comparative analysis of the full dataset from the business surveys in the seven Beneficiary States, conducted on over 12,700 businesses, the project produced one regional report ('Business, Corruption and Crime in the Western Balkans. The impact of bribery and other

crime on private enterprise’) and seven national reports specific to each Beneficiary country (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia as well as the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). The reports contain detailed analytical and policy-relevant results on corruption and crime in the business sector of the Western Balkans and of each project country. The outcome of the work will be a better understanding of the scope and nature of corruption and crime that contribute to better, and more targeted anti-corruption and crime prevention efforts in the region and the project countries.

Activities

The regional report was launched in a public event and press conference in Brussels on 24 October 2013. The five national reports were progressively launched in public events/press conferences in the capitals of the project countries in November and December 2013.

All national reports as well as promotional material were translated into the national language(s) and disseminated during the launch events. Electronic copies of the reports in English and local language(s) are available at the website of UNODC. All launch events drew extensive media coverage and wide publicity.

Outputs

One regional and seven national reports.

Links and contact

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

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

Field: War crimes

2.1.4 Project information

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

IPA 2012/022-966, EUR 0.95 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Contribution Agreement with the ICTY, CN 2012/296-002

Duration of activities: 15/08/2012 – 31/12/2014

Purpose

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

Key achievements

The Office of the Prosecutor of the ICTY - Transition Team supported the Visiting National Prosecutors from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia during searches for investigative material.

In September 2013, the third group of 9 young legal professionals started their internship. The feedback on their work from the respective teams and supervisors continues to be positive.

The participants in the EU ICTY Training project are respected for their high level of professionalism and assistance provided to the OTP trial and appeals teams.

Activities

Visiting National Prosecutors from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia continued their work in the OTP.

The new Liaison Prosecutors from Serbia commenced his term in the OTP in September.

The OTP Transition Team supported the Visiting National Prosecutors during searches for investigative material.

Outputs

Visiting National Prosecutors and Visiting Young Professionals increased specialist knowledge regarding the ICTY material in members of regional legal community;

Visiting National Prosecutors and Visiting Young Professionals familiarised with international legal standards and best practice;

Increased awareness of the EU ICTY Project among the regional judicial authorities;

Better prosecutions of war crimes in the region.

Activities and events planned for the next semester

The third group of Visiting Young Professionals will end their term in February 2014. The fourth group will start its term immediately after that.

Either new or the current Liaison Prosecutors will continue their participation in the project as of March 2014.

Impact

Extended network of trained prosecutors and professionals;

Contribution to increased acceptance of international legal standards and best practice in the region (“ripple effect”);

Increased support for regional legal cooperation and for EU as donor;

Challenging the politics of impunity, important contribution to the rule of law.

Links and Contact

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

2.1.5 Project information

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

IPA 2013/024-091, EUR 0.2 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Grant Contract with SENSE News Agency, CN 2013/316-563

Duration of activities: 01/06/2013 – 31/01/2015

Purpose

To inform the public on the functioning of the international courts in The Hague, in particular the work and mission of the ICTY, and to raise public support for cooperation with the ICTY and the domestic prosecution of war crimes.

Key achievements

SENSE reports provided victims and wider audience with reliable information on the way ICTY prosecuted and tried those responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in former Yugoslavia.

SENSE reporting is contributing to raising public awareness of the need to end impunity and prosecute persons responsible for war crimes both in front of the ICTY and in regional courts.

SENSE documentaries have been broadcast numerous times on all major TV networks in the region and all over the world and they have been screened on numerous international film festivals.

Activities

Daily reporting on trials and other Tribunal proceedings: more than 500 reports in Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian and English. Production of 23 weekly TV updates entitled “The Tribunal”, focusing on trials and other developments at the ICTY.

Extensive coverage of trials on the controversial acquittals of general Momcilo Perisic, former Chief of Staff of Yugoslav Army and former chiefs of Serbian secret service Jovica Stanisic and Franko Simatovic. SENSE journalists provided in-depth analyses of court proceedings and judgments.

Extensive coverage of Harhoff affair that emerged after the private letter of judge Harhoff was published in Danish media; coverage of Tribunal's activities related to its 20th anniversary as well as the activities concerning the launch of the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT).

Continued digitalization of SENSE audio-visual trial archive.

Activities and events planned for next semester

Coverage of three remaining major war crimes trials (Karadzic, Mladic and Hadzic);

Trial Chamber Judgment in the case of Vojislav Seselj.

Coverage of seven Appeals Chamber Judgments: two judgments for crimes against Kosovo Albanians in 1999; two on the appeals in two Srebrenica cases, one against two former chiefs of the Serbian State Security Service, and one against erstwhile Republika Srpska (two) police officials. Finally, one case against six former Bosnian Croat officials.

Digitalization of SENSE audio-visual trial archive.

Outputs

SENSE website is a reference for international justice and human rights “watchers”, journalists, lawyers, academics, diplomats and general public.

SENSE documentary films are used by many NGOs, Institutes, Universities and individual researchers all around the world in the course of lectures, conferences, seminars and symposiums on international criminal justice. SENSE documentaries were also added to the research material at King’s College London, Yale, Colombia, and Florence University.

[Links and contact](#)

Links:

Editions of TV Tribunal program: http://senseagency.com/tv_tribunal/tv_tribunal.15.html

SENSE News Agency website: http://sense-agency.com/tv_tribunal/tv_tribunal.9.html

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

2.1.6 Project information

ICTY Outreach programme 2013/2014 - International War Crimes Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia

IPA 2013/024-091, EUR 0.5 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Grant Contract with ICTY, CN 2013/316-547

Duration of activities: 01/05/2013 – 30/04/2014

[Purpose](#)

The overall objective of the ICTY Outreach programme is to cement the Tribunal's legacy and to ensure that people from the former Yugoslavia have access to, understand and foster this legacy. This relates in particular to the Tribunal's pioneering contribution to the fight against impunity, the development of the rule of law and the establishment of facts about the conflicts of the 90s, in order to ensure the Tribunal's potential role in contributing to reconciliation and long lasting peace in the region is fully realised.

[Key achievements](#)

Increased awareness and debates among regional journalists and in general public on legacy of ICTY.

Reaching out to the young people in the region about the work and legacy of the ICTY continued and expanded, and the transfer of these activities to local actors initiated.

[Activities](#)

Activities organised :

- 4 workshops for legal experts & NGOs, ahead of launch of The Hague branch of Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT);
- 10 high school presentations and 11 university lectures on the work and achievements of ICTY delivered to students in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Serbia and Croatia;
- ICTY 20th Anniversary exhibition in Sarajevo and a two-day conference with more than 200 participants from the region;
- Essay writing competition on war crimes trials for 130 pupils of high schools in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- A one-week study visit of 8 journalists from the former Yugoslavia to the ICTY;
- Meeting of the working group for the establishment of Information Centres in the countries of the former Yugoslavia;

Production of a documentary on ICTY cases related to Central Bosnia has been initiated;

A documentary 'Through their Eyes' about the role of victims-witnesses in ICTY trials was produced & premiered at the 20th Anniversary Conference in Sarajevo.

Two brochures published expressing the views of young people in the former Yugoslavia regarding the ICTY and the process of transitional justice.

Activities and events planned for next semester

To be organised:

- At least 10 high school presentations and 5 university lectures on the work and achievements of the ICTY to be delivered in the countries of the former Yugoslavia;
- A workshop for NGO activists in the region, on delivery of effective presentations about the work and achievements of the ICTY to high school students;
- Screening of the new documentary 'Through their Eyes';
- Round of meetings about the establishment of information centres.

Production of a documentary on ICTY cases related to Central Bosnia to be completed.

Continue production of a documentary on ICTY cases related to war crimes in Višegrad.

Annual Outreach Report for 2013 to be published.

Outputs

ICTY 20th Anniversary exhibition, Annual Outreach Report for 2012 published, documentaries and brochures published.

Links and contact

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

2.2 Human rights, respect and protection of minorities

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

Field: Human rights and minorities

2.2.1 Project information

Promoting human rights and minority protection in South East Europe

IPA 2011/022-964, EUR 3.6 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Contribution Agreement with the Council of Europe (CoE)
CN 2011/277-251

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

Purpose

The objective is to improve respect for human rights, particularly minority protection in practice, by enhancing the capacities of the relevant national bodies and the regional coherence of their activities.

Activities

No activities, because of temporary suspension from 15 July to 30 November 2013 due to lacking results.

Activities and events planned for next semester

Fully revised project has been launched to generate tangible results directly benefitting members of minority communities. In the interim, ad hoc advice on legislative acts relating to minority rights will be provided and an event organised on the ratification of the European Charter on Regional or Minority Languages.

Links and contact

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

2.2.2 Project information

Best Practices for Roma Integration

IPA 2010/022-28, EUR 3.0 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Contribution Agreement with OSCE/ODIHR CN 2012/275-960

Duration of activities: 01/01/2012 – 31/03/2014 (no-cost extension approved)

Purpose

The project contributes to improve the quality of life and access to rights of the Roma communities in the Western Balkans by offering combined structural and immediate support.

Activities

The third meeting of the Self-Governance Working Group on Roma integration gathered over 100 municipal and NGO representatives to exchange practices in the field of data collection and monitoring of local policy implementation. Roma researchers from throughout the Western Balkans presented studies on the gap between national policies and the real situation in Roma settlements, where services and infrastructure are often inaccessible.

Continued support was offered to 13 municipalities in 5 countries in regard to developing Local Action Plans for Roma Integration. 11 Local Action Plans have already been adopted by the municipal assemblies. Following the best practice example from Serbia, Local Action Plans are developed with participation of Roma communities and used as an advocacy mechanism for improving their position with the help of the local government.

With the participation of Roma, 20 small grant projects were implemented at the local level. Most projects addressed light infrastructure (i.e. improvement of roads, extension of sewage and water systems into the Roma settlements, introduction of street lighting, etc) while a few also provided education assistance for Roma children and helped improve access to services through a municipal Roma Co-ordinator.

The programme of 25 Young Roma Professionals continued with the young professionals receiving the opportunity to participate to various international human rights fora and receiving training opportunities. After completing the five-month placement in OSCE field operations in the Western Balkans, they started their five months term in government offices or NGO. The Young Roma Professionals Programme is helping to expand their knowledge of policy making and project implementation, in the hope that they will contribute to Roma integration through their careers and education.

In co-operation with Open Society Institute, the project hosted the second meeting of Roma MPs in Budapest, Hungary. The MPs discussed ways to advocate for Roma integration in the parliamentary assemblies of the CoE, OSCE and EU.

Organised:

- Regional training of teachers on combating discrimination in primary schools;
- Second regional training of Young Roma Professionals;
- Regional seminar of National Human Rights Institutions on ethnically based discrimination;
- Third working group meeting on data collection and monitoring of local policies;
- Second meeting of Roma MPs in the Western Balkans;
- Regional roundtable for recipients of small grants.

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

Second regional roundtable on upgrading, legalisation of Roma settlements and social housing and closure of project.

[Outputs](#)

National and regional trainings, young professionals programme, and study tours have led to increased human capacities needed to promote Roma integration. Regional networking and exchange of experience helped to improve cross-border co-operation in this field. Good practices promoted through regional events such as the Self-Governance Working Group on Roma Integration.

Municipal governments developed and are in the process of adopting Local Action Plans for Roma Integration in co-operation with Roma communities. Living conditions and access to services of Roma have improved in 20 settlements through the small grants programme.

[Links and contact](#)

Links: <http://bpri-odihr.org/> and <http://www.osce.org/odihr/91077>

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

2.2.3 Project information

Regional support for Inclusive Education

IPA 2012/022-966, EUR 4.6 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Contribution agreement with the Council of Europe (CoE)
CN 2013/308-048

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

[Purpose](#)

The project drives efforts to enhance social inclusion and social cohesion in the education sector within the region. In order to achieve the objective, the project promotes the concept of inclusive education as a reform principle that respects and caters for diversity amongst all learners with a specific focus on those who are at a higher risk of marginalisation and exclusion.

[Activities](#)

After the selection of the 49 Pilot schools (3 primary, 2 secondary general and 2 secondary vocational per Beneficiary) in June, five member teams were appointed in each school, and

the regional Inclusive School Network composed of 245 representatives was established. The role of the network is to enable mutual learning and sharing of experience supported by a relevant web-platform. An NGO has been selected to offer day-to-day guidance to the schools.

Complementing the work in the selected schools, a network of teachers, the so-called TeacherNet, was established creating a platform for exchange.

The regional Policy Network for policy dialogue and policy learning with multi-stakeholder and multi-level composition was created with assistance from the Steering Board members and includes 70 members (10 participants from each Beneficiary).

In order to raise visibility on the need to advance on inclusive education, a number of activities were undertaken including development of project identity and key message/slogan, a project website, a multilingual informative leaflet, a Facebook page and the first project newsletter which was disseminated to 300 target recipients.

Organised:

- Regional Conference on Inclusive Education
- Steering Committee Meeting
- A Policy Expert Meeting to analyse the state of play with regard to inclusive education policies and existing good practices.

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

Network of Education Policies Centers (NEPC) - a regional platform of local organisations experienced in school based projects will provide day-to day-support to pilot schools and assist them in developing projects which will be supported by small-scale grants up to EUR 9.500.

Seven Policy meetings will be organised to identify 3 priority issues and challenges in inclusive education in each Beneficiary.

The first Regional PolicyNet meeting for all 70 members will be organised in Sarajevo on 6 March to address further outputs from Beneficiary Policy meetings, and members to continue their work in multi-beneficiary thematic groups.

Region to region - exchange education experience for 42 participants (seven pilot schools and 7 policy makers) will take place from 16 to 21 March in Grande region (France, Germany, Luxembourg). 21 members of TeacherNet will participate to the Council of Europe Pestalozzi Programme Conference and meet in a separate event at a regional workshop;

Baseline survey aiming to assess level of awareness on inclusiveness will be carried out in the 49 pilot schools in February by the London School of Economics Enterprise (LSE).

[Outputs](#)

Regional Inclusive SchoolNet has led to enhanced commitment of 49 pilot schools to promote the concept of inclusive education. Schools signed a joint commitment and reconfirmed their engagement to make their school “inclusive school”.

Regional PolicyNet has opened dialogue among policy makers on Beneficiary level in identifying priority challenges in inclusive education which will be further addressed on a regional level.

Regional TeacherNet has initiated discussion among 245 teachers across the region to improve teachers competencies needed to promote inclusive education.

The project team visited 73 institutions/organizations, met with more than 100 officials and attended 13 conferences/working groups which all contributed to effectively advocating the need to advance on developing policies and practices for social inclusion and social cohesion in schools.

Effective communication channels, confidence and good cooperation with the Steering Board and beneficiaries of the project were created. Active involvement and participation of Steering Board members in the implementation of the Project activities was attained.

Commitment of government will likely lead to introduction of new policies and practices in inclusive education in the region.

[Links and contact](#)

Link: <http://pjp-eu.coe.int/web/inclusive-education>

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

Field: Refugee housing

2.2.4 Project information

Regional Housing Programme (RHP) - phase I

IPA 2011/023-537, EUR 7.8 million

Regional Housing Programme (RHP) - phase II

IPA 2012/024-133 and 2013/024-134, EUR 104,2 million

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

RHP - EU Contributions to the RHP Fund

Type of contract: Adherence Agreement with the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB), CN 2012/307-562 (EUR 5.0 million)
Contribution Agreement with the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB), CN 2013/325-468 (EUR 49.45 million),
CN 2013/325-470 (EUR 29.5 million)

Funds committed under the abovementioned contracts are direct contributions to the RHP Fund and will be spent on investment, i.e. housing solutions financed through Grants to the Partner Countries. Grants are approved by the Assembly of RHP Donors. Between April 2013 and December 2013 10 housing projects were approved in the four Partner Countries for a total amount of EUR 60.9 million (in the form of Grants). The RHP Fund is a multi-donor Fund. The EU who is the main Donor is contributing about 90% to the Fund's resources.

RHP – contracts related to the implementation of the RHP investment commitments

Type of contract 1: Contribution Agreement with CEB, Phase I (EUR 1.6 million),
CN 2012/297-405

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

Type of contract 2: Contribution Agreement, Phase I (EUR 1.2 million) with UNHCR,
CN 2012/ 305-516

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

Type of contract 3: Contribution Agreement to the RHP Fund (EUR 5.0 million earmarked for Bosnia and Herzegovina) CN 2013/314-991

Type of contract 4: Contribution Agreement with CEB, Phase II (EUR 25.25 million), CN 2013/314-991

Duration of activities: 19/06/2012 – 30/11/2017

[Purpose](#)

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

The RHP will consist of four Country Housing Projects (CHPs), one in each country, and will assist about 27,000 households or 74,000 individuals. The total budget of this housing programme is estimated at EUR 584 million with a planned duration of 5 years. This programme is financed mainly through donor contributions by the international community. A multi-donor Trust Mechanism will provide grants to CHPs. The Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) has been selected to be the Manager of the multi-donor Trust Mechanism. UNHCR and OSCE are responsible for monitoring the beneficiary selection process and to check that the implementation of the programme is providing durable and sustainable solutions and provides for access to socio-economic rights.

At the donors' conference in April 2012, the EC pledged EUR 230 million, while other international donors pledged EUR 31 million with another EUR 30 million likely to follow in the coming years.

During 2013, Donors committed EUR 85.3 million to the RHP Fund and paid-in EUR 48.8 million. The majority of the Funds committed to the RHP Fund come from the European Commission (EUR 84 million). Out of these, EUR 40 million were paid-in in the Fund in September 2013. The remaining Funds will be paid- in in 2Q 2014.

[Activities and events](#)

In 2013, the Assembly of Donors approved twelve grant applications for a total amount of EUR 60.9 million as follows:

Bosnia and Herzegovina: 2 grant applications for a total amount of EUR 14.7 million;

Croatia: 4 grant applications for a total amount of EUR 11.6 million;

Montenegro: 3 grant applications for a total amount of EUR 10.1 million;

Serbia: 3 grant applications for a total amount of EUR 24.5 million.

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

The implementation of the first wave of projects is expected to start in April 2014 in all four countries. Before the projects can kick start, the Partner Counties need to conclude the Grant Agreements (one per project); prepare tender dossiers with the support of the Technical Assistance. The Technical Assistance is also supporting the countries with the preparation of

the implementation manuals that will provide guidance in the way projects should be implemented. Moreover, the Project Implementation Units should successfully complete a verification process that will guarantee a regular and transparent implementation (expected finalisation of the verification process is March 2013).

Countries have been advised to produce one project application in 2014 for the assessment by the Assembly either in its summer session (24 June 2014) or in the autumn (20 November).

Next Technical Committee meeting: 4 March 2014

Next Assembly of Donors: 27 March 2014

Next Regional Coordination Forum: 6 May 2014

[Links and contact](#)

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

3 Transport and energy infrastructure, including nuclear safety sector

As one of the priorities for IPA assistance, the MB MIPD 2011 – 2013 has identified 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 and of increasing their access to investment finance in priority infrastructure projects in the region, with particular attention given to regional initiatives. Close coordination with International Financial Institutions (IFIs) is essential.

3.1 WBIF – Socio -Economic Development

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

To date, the WBIF Steering Committee has approved 178 grants with a total value of approximately EUR 302 million. These grants are used for project preparation, implementation and co-financing of investments in infrastructure for which financial support is provided by the partner IFIs; EIB, EBRD, CEB as well as KfW, with the World Bank as an associated IFI. Grants approved to date will support investments for a value of approximately EUR 13 billion for which IFIs intend to provide loans worth EUR 6.5 billion.

The largest grant contribution to the WBIF comes from the EU budget. The European Commission has so far set aside approximately EUR 230 million. Bilateral donors have contributed more than EUR 45 million and the partner IFIs have set aside EUR 10 million each in grant contributions.

Either the IFIs or the European Commission implement the grant assignments. For the implementation of the EU grants, the Commission has awarded technical assistance contracts under the Infrastructure Project Facility (IPF), which was the forerunner of WBIF, and has signed contribution agreements with the IFIs for implementation of the Municipal Window.

Grants provided to the WBIF from bilateral donors and from the IFIs are implemented directly by the IFIs through various technical assistance assignments. The EC also provides support to enhance coordination between the WBIF stakeholders with respect to policies and strategies in the different sectors. Given the success of the initiative to date, the challenging economic climate, the status of the accession process and the expected evolution of EC's assistance to the region under IPA II, this component is of increasing importance.

Purpose

The WBIF has three objectives:

- 1 - to create a one-stop-shop, where a request for support can be presented and screened, and be provided with the required financing for its implementation,
- 2 - to pool different sources of funding (IFIs, the EC and Member States/bilateral donors) and work out an appropriate blend of grants and loans for various actions,

3 - to strengthen the coordination of actions by multiple donors and investors that addresses the strategic priorities for the region. These socio-economic priorities are accession-driven and relate to the alignment of the candidate countries and potential candidates with the EU acquis. WBIF activities are supported by the EC-financed IFI Coordination Office – see below for a more detailed description of its activities.

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

Activities

Key issues under the WBIF work programme for 2013 included in particular the 10th call for proposals for WBIF support the introduction of a “climate change window”; future consultancy support for the WBIF structures; the discussions on the possible evolution of WBIF; the participation of Croatia following its accession to the EU on 1 July 2013; the handover of the co-chair of the Project Financiers’ Group (PFG) from the EIB to the EBRD; and the SC meeting on 4 December 2013.

- In June 2013, the call for projects round 10 was launched and 22 project applications were received. A Project Financiers Group (PFG) meeting took place in November 2013 to screen and assess the projects.
- The 9th Steering Committee (SC) meeting of the WBIF in December 2013, hosted by EBRD, co-chair of the PFG. Based on the recommendations of the PFG, the SC approved 9 WBIF grants requested for a total of approx. €6.18 million. All of the applications approved are for technical assistance grants. The SC also cancelled 3 grants leading to €1.69 million to be returned to WBIF grant resources.
- The SC reviewed the macro-economic environment in which the WBIF operates and welcomed the fact that a recovery appears to be underway. However, this is extremely fragile and the region continues to be heavily influenced by developments in the EU. The importance of enacting structural reforms to improve overall competitiveness and to create additional fiscal space was noted.
- The SC agreed that the WBIF projects should be clearly linked to agreed sector strategies and that they should be part of one single project pipeline of priority investments, supported by all stakeholders and identified in the forthcoming Country Strategy Papers for IPA II.
- The SC agreed that it is necessary to enhance the current handling of project preparation and implementation and has asked the Secretariat to undertake a detailed review of the current pipeline to assess the status of each project and, where there are delays, to outline if and how such obstacles could be addressed.
- The Task Force established following the Athens SC meeting presented the interim report to the SC in which it examined the status of the current pipeline of investment projects supported by the WBIF; the potential for the WBIF to increase the use of public private partnerships (PPPs) to realise investments in the Western Balkans; and issues arising with WBIF structures and procedures.

Activities and events planned for next semester

The SC took note of the indicative work programme planned for 2014, the key feature of which is the recommendations on the future evolution of the WBIF that will be submitted by the Task Force and debated by the SC at its meeting in June. A limited call for proposals

(round 11) will be launched early 2014, with priority given to existing projects in the pipeline where a new pledge could make a substantial contribution to realising the investment. However, new projects will also be eligible. These proposals however, must have a regional dimension. It is intended that the screening and assessment phase of the review of applications will be able to take the results of the detailed review of the pipeline into consideration, which is to be presented in March. The deadline for the 11th call for proposals is 11 March 2014.

The next SC meeting will take place on 11-12 June 2014 and will be held in Berlin, hosted by Germany, the current co-chair of the SC (succeeding Greece). The next PFG will be held in Brussels in May 2014.

Links and Contact

Link: www.wbif.eu

Contact: Olav Reinertsen: Olav.REINERTSEN@ec.europa.eu and elarg-wbif@ec.europa.eu

3.1.1 Project information

Horizontal Support to Coordination with the International Financial Institutions - IFI Coordination Office

IPA 2008/020-300, EUR 4.0 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Service contract with Project Management Limited, CN 2009/225-073

Duration of activities: 27/01/2010 – 26/03/2014 (following addendum)

Purpose

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

The IFI Coordination Office provides a range of technical, management and communication services to support cooperation and coordination among all WBIF stakeholders. It delivers research and analytical services regarding EC, IFI and bilateral cooperation in the main WBIF sectors to facilitate better programming and planning of assistance including investments.

The Office supports WBIF structures, particularly the WBIF Secretariat and the WBIF Steering Committee (SC) and has developed a range of WBIF related communication activities including the WBIF website. It also provides assistance to the main regional sectoral organisations such as the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) Energy Community Secretariat, the South East Europe Transport Observatory (SEETO) and the South East Europe Investment Committee. It is developing relations with the newly established EC financed Environment and Climate Regional Accession Network (ECRAN).

Activities

Support to WBIF Structures:

- Follow-up of the 8th WBIF Steering Committee (SC) held in Athens in June 2013 under the direction of the Co-Chairs, EC and the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs and preparing for the 9th WBIF Steering Committee (SC) in London in December 2013

- Preparation and establishment of the Task Force on the Evolution of the WBIF launched by the WBIF SC in Athens.
- Technical, managerial and administrative support to the Task Force including: preparation of a preliminary paper on the use of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs); review of the current guidelines for application of support under the WBIF and identification of key issues arising in WBIF structures and procedures; organisation and delivery of the 1st meeting of the Task Force and drafting of the interim report on the Task Force submitted to the WBIF SC.
- Contribution to papers for internal ELARG discussions on future evolution of WBIF.
- Participation in various EUBEC meetings and preparation of comments and inputs to EUBEC papers from WBIF perspective.
- Contribution to the preparation and delivery of the Policy and Strategy component of the WBIF Project Financiers Group (PFG) meeting with participation of the heads of NIPAC offices in November 2013.
- Contribution to preparation and delivery of the 4th annual NIPAC workshop in Tirana.
- Contribution to review of the Practical Guidelines for Applications for WBIF Support.
- Contribution to the implementation of the WBIF communications strategy, including development and maintenance of the WBIF website & meetings with EUDs and NIPAC offices.
- Organisation of WBIF Secretariat coordination meetings.
- Assistance to DG ELARG for organisation of meeting with IFIs on IPA II Strategy Papers and assistance to DG ELARG for preparation of High Level Meeting between Commissioner Füle and senior management of the IFIs

IFICO has carried out several sector-based activities in energy, environment, transport and the socio-economic sectors.

Finally, IFICO has developed and managed a database of investment flows to the Western Balkans and carried out several communication activities.

Activities and events planned for next semester (to 26 March – end date of current contract)

- Support preparation and delivery of WBIF related meetings.
- In-depth consultations with EC and IFIs and preparation of draft report on potential to promote greater use of PPPs under the WBIF including recommendation for specific activities.
- Preparation of draft report on review of WBIF structures and procedures with recommendations on possible changes to be approved by the WBIF SC to enhance WBIF effectiveness based on experience to date and the changing environment including the instigation of the IPA II programming process.
- Contribution to internal ELARG discussions on future evolution of WBIF.
- Preparation of updated information on macro-economic environment and implications for the WBIF.
- Support for ELARG participation in EU Platform on Blending Mechanisms for External Cooperation.

- Ad hoc support to RCC for further development of SEE 2020 Strategy and Action Plan.
- Sector focused activities include research and analysis and seminars/workshops on specific topics within sectors of relevance for EC, IFI cooperation in the Western Balkans.
- Organisation and/or participation in sector specific workshops/seminars.
- On-going update and maintenance of the WBIF website and databases of investment and IPA flows.
- Preparation of final report and handover documents.

Links and contact

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

3.2 WBIF – Infrastructure Projects Facility

The Infrastructure Projects Facility (IPF) in Western Balkans refers to consultancy service contracts awarded by DG Enlargement to assist beneficiary institutions in the Western Balkans with the identification, preparation and execution of projects for priority investments in transport, environment, energy and the social infrastructure within the WBIF.

The core task of the IPF teams is to carry out the implementation of the projects approved by the WBIF Steering Committee and which are allocated as IPF projects (i.e. EU-funded).

3.2.1 Project information

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

CARDS 2005/017-628, EUR 7.0 million

CARDS 2005/017-886, EUR 3.0 million

CARDS 2006/018-474, EUR 5.122 million

IPA 2010/022-028, EUR 15.121 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Service contracts with WYG International Limited, CN 2008/157-799; CN 2008/157-807; CN 2008/158-121; CN 2010/241-182

Duration of activities: 18/06/2008 – 30/06/2014

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

IPA 2008/020-300, EUR 14.891 million

IPA 2011/022-964, EUR 14.891 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Service contract with COWI AS, CN 2009/224-490, CN 2011/273-396

Duration of activities: 27/11/2009 – 27/06/2014

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

IPA 2011/022-964, EUR 12.422 million

IPA 2012/022966, EUR 10 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans, Iceland

Type of contract: Service contract with Mott MacDonald Limited, CN 2012/293-208 and CN 2013/331-494

Duration of activities 20/06/2012 – 19/06/2018

Purpose

The IPF facilities provide technical assistance and capacity building for project identification, preparation and implementation by delivering feasibility studies, designs and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA).

Activities

In addition to the implementation of projects, IPF1 is mandated to provide support to the WBIF Secretariat, including the preparation of meetings of the Project Financiers Group and communication and visibility activities, such as the preparation of WBIF Annual Reports and the WBIF Monitoring Report. IPF1 is also in charge of upstream activities on projects in support of NIPACs and Beneficiaries in preparing project applications for the WBIF. Similarly, IPF1 is responsible for preparing the terms of reference.

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

With the December 2013 Steering Committee approval of 9 grants the WBIF portfolio now comprises of 169 grants (excluding cancelled projects). Out of the 92 IPF allocated grants (also excluding cancelled projects), 46 are completed, 33 are being implemented, 12 have their terms of reference in preparation and one is on hold.

The following IPF activities have been undertaken in the last semester:

- Support to Beneficiaries with the preparation of grant applications for the Round 10 of the WBIF.
- Continued development of projects approved by WBIF SC and increased awareness of progress achieved via regular update of WBIF/projects website and awareness events organised in beneficiaries
- Continued development of a Management Information System to support the selection of new projects within the WBIF, the monitoring of on-going projects and the implementation of IPF projects.

Activities and events planned for the next semester:

- Support to beneficiaries on identification and preparation of new grant applications for Round 11 of the WBIF to be submitted by NIPACs by 11 March 2014.
- Support to the preparation of the PFG meeting planned for 13 May 2014 in Brussels and the WBIF SC meeting planned for 11-12 June in Berlin.
- Continuation of IPF active sub-projects.

- Expected completion of all ongoing IPF 1 and IPF 2 projects by contractual deadline in June 2014.
- 2013 Annual Report, 2013 Compendium.

Links and contact

Link: www.wbif-ipf.eu

Contact: Elodie Loppé: Elodie.LOPPE@ec.europa.eu

3.3 WBIF – Municipal Window

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

3.3.1 Project information

WBIF - Municipal Window

IPA 2008/020-300, EUR 13.2 million

Beneficiary region: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia

Type of contract: Contribution Agreement to CEB-KfW, CN 2009/216-156

Duration of activities: 11/08/2009 – 31/12/2015

Purpose

The project covers the following:

Albania: Water supply and sewage Gjirokastra, Fier; Wastewater system Pogradec

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Water supply and sewerage collection Banja Luka

Serbia: Water supply and sewerage systems for 8 municipalities

Activities

The Loan and Financing Agreements for the sub-projects in Gjirokstra and Fier in Albania were signed in December 2010. Since September 2011, one consultant has been on-site to support the water utilities to improve their performance, to develop a tariff adjustment plan and to draft business plans. Though the municipality has to consolidate their performance, Gjirokastra has met the second milestone set by the consultant, allowing the municipality to tender the construction services, and will most likely meet the third one, allowing them to award the contracts. Fier cannot start tendering as the municipality does not meet the second milestone yet.

As regards the sub-project in Pogradec, the Loan and Financing Agreement was signed in December 2010 with the Government of Albania and the Project Executing Agency. The implementation consultant started in September 2011 and submitted the final inception phase report in March 2012 and the final design and tender documents in July 2012. The original project needed to be revised during the inception phase due to the bad state of existing

infrastructure and local soil conditions. Contracts were awarded in Q2 2013. Completion of the project has been postponed to Q2 2015.

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

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

[Links and contact](#)

Contact: Elodie Loppé: Elodie.LOPPE@ec.europa.eu

3.3.2 Project information

WBIF - Municipal Window

IPA 2008/020-300, EUR 16.0 million

Beneficiary region: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia

Type of contract: Contribution Agreement to EIB, CN 2009/225-383

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

[Purpose](#)

The project covers the following:

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

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

Serbia: Reconstruction of two roads in the city of Belgrade

[Activities](#)

As regards the Bosnia and Herzegovina sub-project, part of a larger WATSAN project, it covers the six municipalities of Bosanska Krupa, Bosanski Petrovac, Siroki Brijeg, Tomislavgrad, Orasje, Velika Kladusa. The inception report was finalised in March 2011 and construction contracts were signed in Bosanski Petrovac and Siroki Brijeg municipalities in 2013.

Regarding the Montenegro sub-project, the inception report was provided in September 2011 but the municipalities faced significant delays when preparing the design documents. For the municipalities of Pljevlja, Bijelo Polje and the Old Royal Capital of Cetinje, tendering for construction works is ongoing. Main design is still to be completed for the municipality of Ulcinj. The municipality of Plav is still facing unresolved problems.

The Serbia sub-project is well advanced. Works on Boulevard Kralja Alexandra were completed in August 2010. Early results show that the traffic flow has improved and the travel time for tramway passengers has decreased, resulting in a significant increase of the number of tramway users. Regarding the second road, Vojvode Stepet, after finalising all preparatory activities in 2012, construction works are ongoing and planned to be completed in Q4 2014. Due to considerations involving the general urban reorganisation of the city, works on Karadjordjeva's street have been postponed resulting in its removal from the scope of the grant. The funds foreseen for this road were reallocated to Vojvode Stepe's street.

[Links and Contact](#)

Contact: Elodie Loppé: Elodie.LOPPE@ec.europa.eu

3.3.3 Project information

WBIF - Municipal Window

IPA 2008/020-300, EUR 3.0 million

Beneficiary region: Bosnia and Herzegovina

Type of contract: Contribution Agreement to EBRD, CN 2009/225-824

Duration of activities: 30/11/2009 – 31/12/2015

[Purpose](#)

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

[Activities](#)

The implementation of this project is progressing again after a period of inactivity due to a change of contractor for the construction of the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). Works should be completed in the first half of 2015.

[Links and Contact](#)

Contact: Elodie Loppé: Elodie.LOPPE@ec.europa.eu

3.3.4 Project information

WBIF - Municipal Window

IPA 2008/020-454, EUR 25.0 million

Beneficiary region: Kosovo

Type of contract: Delegation Agreement to KfW, CN 2009/221-084

Duration of activities: 11/12/2009 – 31/12/2015

[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

The water and sanitation sub-project in Pristina is implemented with some delay as the ratification of the loan agreement by the Kosovo Parliament has taken considerable time, but has eventually been secured. The consulting contract was signed and the consultant has taken up his assignment at the end of 2011. The inception report was completed in March 2012. Works and supply contracts were signed in 2013 and construction works have now begun and are expected to be concluded by end of April 2015.

Concerning the Pristina district heating sub-project, detailed studies on the component cogeneration showed that investment costs for cogeneration were higher than originally expected. In order to cover them, the scope for the project has slightly changed as compared to the Contribution Agreement – the district heating system will only be rehabilitated and upgraded, but will not be extended. The consultant responsible for overseeing implementation started his assignment in April 2012. Though the tender bids evaluation was completed, no contract was signed until the Governments of Kosovo and Germany reached, in June 2013, an agreement guaranteeing sustainable heat supply after the decommissioning of Kosovo B. Contracts were eventually signed in June and December 2013. Completion of the sub-project is expected for Q4 2014.

Links and Contact

Contact: Elodie Loppé: Elodie.LOPPE@ec.europa.eu

3.4 Energy efficiency

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

3.4.1 Project information

Horizontal programme on the Energy Efficiency Finance Facility

IPA 2007/019-340, EUR 34.7 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans and Turkey

Type of contract: Contribution Agreements with EBRD CN 2008/163-440,
EIB CN 2008/163-442, CEB/ KfW CN 2008/163-444

Duration of activities: 28/11/2008 – 31/12/2016

Purpose

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

Activities

The EBRD credit line of EUR 60 million is fully allocated through 8 PBs – three 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.

Under the Western Balkans Sustainable Energy Finance Facility (WeBSEFF), 132 projects have been signed, out of which 105 have been verified for a total incentive amount of more than EUR 6.4 million at end of December 2013.

The Turkey component of the EIB credit line counts 16 sub-projects for a total grant amount of EUR 5.1 million. At the end of 2013, 11 sub-projects have been positively verified. Under the Croatian component, 6 sub-projects are allocated for a total grant amount of EUR 1.3 million and as at the end of 2013, 2 sub-projects have been verified.

Following bilateral discussions with EIB, the time mismatch between the investment costs and the sub-project signatures was rectified by an amendment to the Contribution Agreement signed on 22 October 2013. This allowed EIB to make the first disbursements of grants to participating banks and sub-project promoters for a total amount of EUR 2.6 million (EUR 2.2 for Turkey and EUR 0.4 million for Croatia).

The Steering Committee of the Facility was held at EIB premises on 24 October 2013.

The KfW credit lines (partly refinanced by CEB) continued to advance in Serbia with 6 sub-projects confirmed as eligible. Three sub-projects have already been positively verified. The first IPA grant payment was disbursed in 2013 and two more should be disbursed in Q1 2014.

There are no more project proposals to approve, as the facility is fully allocated (i.e. all loan agreements have been signed and are under implementation).

Activities and events planned for next semester

Continued development of pipeline and sub-project verification;

On EIB's Turkey component the consultant will continue to verify the remaining projects in the portfolio. Following the first grant disbursements the participating banks have regained confidence in the programme and will resume implementation and pipeline development. With the EIB loan being fully utilized, the EEFF 2007 will be included under new project agreements with the participating banks.

On EIB's Croatian component the consultant will continue sub-project identifications and verifications according to sub-project progress.

On KfW's Serbian component the consultant will continue to verify the remaining projects in the portfolio as well as pipeline development.

Links and Contact

Link: www.webseff.com

Contact: Davor Kunc; Davor.KUNC@ec.europa.eu

3.4.2 Project information

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

EU Contribution to the Technical Assistance (TA)

Facility of the Green for Growth Fund (GGF)

IPA 2009/021-373, EUR 20.0 million

IPA 2010/022-471, EUR 5.0 million

IPA 2010/022-028, EUR 0.264 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans and Turkey

Type of contract: EU Mandate (Trusteeship agreement) to European Investment Fund (EIF) CN 2009/228-006, CN 2009/228-008, CN 2011/267-146 for fees and subscription to shares; CN 2010/257-202 and CN 2010/257-207 for TA facility

Duration of activities: 17/12/2009 – 17/11/2015 (Participation in GGF);
21/12/2010 – 21/11/2015 (TA Facility)

Purpose

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

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

In 2012 GGF expanded to the European Neighbourhood region, and has now the mandate to invest also in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine.

Activities

The GGF's total volume of capital commitments by the end of September 2013 reached EUR 220 million in SEE and ENR, of which EUR 133.7 million were invested in Partner Institutions. 86% of this was spent in SEE (EUR 115.2 million).

A ROM mission was completed for GGF and GGF TA with successful results.

GGF hosted the 6th Balkan Energy Finance Forum in October in Zagreb.

Activities and events planned for next semester

Continued development of pipeline of investments and technical assistance;

GGF Semi-annual meeting between EIF and EC scheduled for first half of 2014;

Release of the GGF Annual Report 2013.

Links and contact

Link: www.ggf.lu

Contact: Davor Kunc; Davor.KUNC@ec.europa.eu

3.4.3 Project information

Regional Energy Efficiency Programme for the Western Balkans

IPA 2013/022-966, EUR 20 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia)

Type of contract: Contribution Agreement with EBRD CN 2013/311-406

Duration of activities: 24/06/2013 – 31/12/2019

Purpose

REEPWb aims to realise the energy efficiency potential of the Western Balkans by providing a combination of financing instruments, technical assistance and policy support to create a sustainable market for energy efficiency in the region. REEP supports energy efficiency for both private and public sectors, and encourages the public sector to take a leadership role as stipulated in the countries' National Energy Efficiency Action Plans (NEEAPs). REEP is supported by the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF), with a EUR 20 million allocation from the EC and an additional EUR 3.35 million from bilateral donors through the European Western Balkans Joint Fund.

The programme is built on the success of two forerunners: the Western Balkans Sustainable Energy Direct Financing Facility (WeBSEDF) and the Western Balkans Sustainable Energy Financing Facility (WeBSEFF). Both these previous programmes successfully combined investment financing, technical assistance and investment incentives to foster a strong portfolio of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

They also benefited from a comprehensive institutional capacity building component, providing targeted consultancy support to address specific weaknesses in the regulatory framework for renewable energy. This led to a significant improvement in the investment environment for renewable energy across the whole region. The new REEPWB seeks to benefit from this experience by replicating the model while modifying it to best support the participating countries to achieve their sustainable energy objectives as set out in their NEEAPs. REEPWB is made up of three complementary windows of work: policy dialogue, credit line facility (WeBSEFF II), and direct financing facility (WeBSEDF).

Activities

- 1. Policy dialogue window

A total of EUR 6 million for technical assistance has been set aside for this window which will facilitate intensive policy dialogue with all the authorities in the region. The work aims to enhance the regulatory frameworks and overcome market barriers to encourage investment in energy efficiency and allow the Energy Service Company (ESCO) markets to emerge.

- 2. Credit line facility window (WeBSEFF II)

It consists of a EUR 75 million credit line framework. The credit lines will be extended to local financial institutions for on-lending to smaller scale energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. This finance is accessible for both, public and private sector borrowers. In addition, the WBIF provides EUR 11.5 million grant funding for technical assistance and investment incentives.

- 3. Direct financing facility window (WeBSEDF)

A total of EUR 50 million has been allocated to replenish WeBSEDFFF funding. It will be invested in both, medium scale renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements in industrial enterprises. Furthermore, the facility intends to provide financing to ESCO projects. Grants up to the amount of EUR 6.35 million will fund technical assistance and investment incentives.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- 1. Policy dialogue window

Theme 1:

ESCO legal assignments have kick-started in July in Serbia, Montenegro, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Good progress has been made in Serbia and Montenegro to date with procurement and contracts planned to be prepared in Q2/2014.

Little progress has been made so far in Bosnia and Herzegovina due to a lack of ownership of the respective Ministries. The team continues to work with the authorities to identify the competent ministry.

Linked to this, additional TA for project preparation will be made available to support first pilot projects and prepare them for financing. The first call-off (Serbia) will be launched in Q1/2014. Potential financing options will be discussed with WeBSEFF II partner banks and WeBSEDFFF team as appropriate.

Theme 2:

General priorities for the general dialogue on energy efficiency in each beneficiary country have been identified and selected consultants have begun the follow-up technical policy assignments addressing the transposition of the EU's Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) in Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; reforms to energy tariffs, metering and billing (Croatia, Bosnia Herzegovina – Republika Srpska; as well as public procurement rules and guidelines for the purchase of EE goods, works and services (Montenegro and Serbia).

The first assignments are expected to be completed in Q2 2015.

- 2. Credit line facility window (WeBSEFF II)

WeBSEFF II has been launched in October 2013 and since then five local financial institutions have been extended credit lines in Croatia, Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina for a total of EUR 51 million. Three to four additional Banks are expected to join in Q1 2014.

All banks have a good private sector pipeline with potentially eligible projects which is currently being assessed by the project consultant. First projects with municipalities (mainly street lighting projects) are currently under discussion. Additional support from Window 1 ESCO project preparation is likely to be sought to support municipalities in technical aspects and tendering of ESCO projects which will provide further comfort to the banks to finance these projects.

- 3. Direct financing facility window (WeBSEDFFF)

With the additional allocation to WeBSEDFFF, two Small Hydro Power Projects (in Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and one biomass co-generation project in Bosnia and Herzegovina, worth EUR 13.4 million of loans have been financed to date. Another four projects are in the advanced pipeline and are expected to be realized early 2014. The current business development focus is on ESCO projects (most likely street lighting) supported by the ESCO project preparation assignment under Window 1.

Progress Report Steering Committee meeting scheduled in Q2 2014.

Links and Contact

Link: www.webseff.com.

Contact: Davor Kunc; Davor.KUNC@ec.europa.eu

3.4.4 Project information

Field: Strategy and policy support, Support to the Energy Community

Purpose

The budget of the Energy Community is financed inter alia by IPA funds, transferred to a special budget line managed by DG ENER. For the 2013 budget of the Energy Community, EUR 3.4 million have been transferred to DG ENER. The EU contribution is fixed at 94.54% of the total budget.

The Energy Community Treaty provides for the creation of an integrated and stable energy market in the Western Balkans, Moldova and Ukraine. As contracting parties to the Energy Community Treaty, all countries have undertaken to implement the relevant EU acquis in the area. The countries are in the process of developing national legislation on energy efficiency and have developed National Energy Efficiency Action Plans (NEEAPs), as well as the first National Renewable Energy Action Plans (NREAPs). They have also committed to implementing awareness campaigns. As part of the horizontal coordination with the Energy Community, DG Enlargement works closely with the Energy Efficiency Coordination Group to raise awareness on ongoing EE financing and improve the effectiveness of financial support for EE.

Activities

Workshop on options for financing NEEAPs organised by the IFI Coordination office in Skopje;

Brochure entitled Financing Energy Efficiency Options in the Western Balkans issued in May 2013, with stocktaking of EE financing mechanisms;

Active participation in the meetings of the Energy Efficiency Coordination Group (former Energy Efficiency Task Force) meetings, held in November 2013, particularly support for implementation of energy directives and Regional Energy Efficiency Programme.

Activities and events planned for next semester

In-country workshop on options for financing NEEAPs implementation planned in Q1 2014 in Tirana;

Continuation of active participation within the Energy Community's EE Coordination Group;

Links and contact

Link: www.energy-community.org

Contact: Davor Kunc, Davor.KUNC@ec.europa.eu

3.5 Nuclear safety and radiation protection

Full transposition of the EU acquis remains an objective for most of the IPA beneficiaries in nuclear safety and radiation protection. This transposition requires the full operability of the

national regulatory bodies, which for some has not yet been accomplished. IPA assistance will also support the construction, fitting-out and/or upgrading of facilities involving the handling and management of radio-nuclides according to best EU practices.

3.5.1 Project information

Establishment of a calibration laboratory for ionising radiation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

IPA 2008/020-350, EUR 0.4 million

Beneficiary country: Bosnia and Herzegovina

Type of contract 1: Service contract with COWI AS, CN 2012/280-420

Duration of activities: 01/02/2012 – 27/11/2013

Type of contract 2: Supply contract with Canberra Packard, CN 2012/298-495

Duration of activities: 01/02/2012 – 30/09/2013

Purpose

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

Activities and events planned for next semester

This project is under implementation. The service component of this project will be completed in January 2014 (maximum duration of Framework contracts is 2 years). The equipment is ready to be shipped but delivery depends on the refurbishment of the laboratory, an action undertaken by the beneficiary country.

3.5.2 Project information

Strengthening the system of dosimetry control for occupationally exposed workers and patients in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo

IPA 2009/021-640, EUR 0.6 million

Beneficiary region: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo

Type of contract: Service contract with Canberra Packard, CN 2011/275-203

Duration of activities: 15/11/2011 – 14/11/2013

Purpose

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

External exposure in selected working places will be measured; then Diagnostic Reference Levels for radio-diagnostic examinations and procedures for evaluation of patient doses will be established; and lastly, an educational programme for personnel in charge of patient dosimetry in diagnostic radiology will be delivered. The service component also provided the technical specifications for the delivery of detectors, dosimeters and readers. The call for tender was launched in December 2012.

Activities and events planned for next semester

This project was completed in November 2013.

Links and contact

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

3.5.3 Project information

Reduction of Medical and Professional Exposure in Mammography in Bosnia and Herzegovina

IPA 2009/021-640, EUR 0.4 million

Beneficiary country: Bosnia and Herzegovina

Type of contract 1: Service contract with MWH S.A, CN 2011/268-888

Duration of activities: 23/05/2011 – 14/09/2013

Type of contract 2: Supply contract with ICEBERG International, CN 2013/314-147

Duration of activities: 20/03/2013 – 14/09/2013

Type of contract 3: Supply contract with MEDIT D.O.O., CN 2013/313-444

Duration of activities: 25/03/2013 – 22/08/2013

Purpose

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

Activities and events planned for next semester

All these components of this project have now been successfully completed.

Links and contact

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

3.5.4 Project information

Strengthening technical capacities in monitoring radio-nuclides in the environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina

IPA 2009/021-640, EUR 0.3 million

Beneficiary country: Bosnia and Herzegovina

Type of contract: Service contract with COWI AS, CN 2011/268-709

Duration of activities: 15/09/2011 – 14/09/2013

Type of contract 2: Supply contract with Baltic Scientific Instruments, CN 2013/315-863

Duration of activities: 27/03/2013 – 24/08/2013

Purpose

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

Activities and events planned for next semester

A liquid scintillator spectrometer (Lot 2) has now been delivered (supply component). Lot 1 of the supply component failed to attract bids and was therefore not contracted. The service component of this project was also completed in November 2013.

Links and contact

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

3.5.5 Project information

Strengthening the system of dosimetry control for occupationally exposed workers and patients in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo, Lot 1, Lot 2 and Lot 3, equipment IPA 2009/021-640, Lot 1, 2 & 3: EUR 0.189 million; Lot 4: EUR 46.800; Lot 5: EUR 94.563

Beneficiary region: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo

Type of contract: Supply contracts with INEL doo Mostar, Lot 1-3: CN 2013/315-914; with Derby Trade doo Lot 4: CN 2013/315-647; with Canberra Packard C.E. GmbH Lot 5: CN 2013/315-925

Duration of activities: 29/03/2013 – 26/08/2013

Purpose

The project provides for the purchase of equipment, its installation and related staff training to improve dosimetry control of workers and patients exposed to ionising radiation in medical establishments in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Kosovo.

Activities

Originally it had been planned that the equipment be delivered in the beginning of the second semester 2013. Due to lengthy import procedures which were beyond the control of the contractor, the delivery of the equipment was however delayed until the end of the year 2013.

Activities and events planned for next semester

After the installation and testing of the equipment, the contractor will provide training to the personnel.

Completion of project, establishment of the Final Acceptance Certificates.

Outputs

Delivery of equipment to beneficiary institutions with respective training of staff

Reduction of the radiological risks in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo

Links and contact

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

3.5.6 Project information

Management of sealed radioactive sources, including lightning rods in Montenegro IPA 2009/021-640, EUR 0.454 million

Beneficiary region: Montenegro

Type of contract: Grant contract with the Centre for Eco toxicological Research (CETI),
CN 2013/314-540

Duration of activities: 30/03/2013 – 29/03/2014

Purpose

The overall objective of the project is the practical removal, transport, processing and storage of sealed radioactive sources, including all radioactive lightning rods in Montenegro according to the EU acquis and EU best practices. The conditioned sealed radioactive sources are stored in the “Centre for Eco toxicological Research” (CETI). Located in Podgorica, CETI is the national storage facility for radioactive waste licensed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Montenegro.

Activities

- Countercheck inventory of radioactive sources through site visits
- Approval of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) by the Montenegrin Environmental Protection Agency
- Purchase/rental of some specific equipment needed to perform the foreseen activities
- Start of field work: removal, transport and storage of radioactive sources
- Visibility and information campaign: press conference in Podgorica on 30.09.2013

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Completion of the fieldwork

Outputs

- Improvement of management practices regarding the handling and storage of sealed radioactive sources, establishment of related regulations
- Dismantlement, transport and storage of radioactive sources to a licensed processing/storage facility
- Personnel of the nuclear regulatory bodies in Montenegro trained on radioactive waste management issues
- Reduction of the radiological risks in Montenegro

Links and contact

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

3.5.7 Project information

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

Beneficiary country: Serbia

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

Duration of activities: 23/07/2010 – 27/07/2014 (VIND part II)

Purpose

This project includes 5 sub-projects/activities:

- the conditioning and secure storage of disused sealed radioactive sources in Serbia
- the decommissioning of the degraded waste storage hangar No. 1
- a radioactivity survey
- the characterisation and conditioning of radioactive waste
- the strengthening of radiation safety capabilities and infrastructure.

Activities

Radioactive survey of the Vinca site in order to determine the radiation and contamination levels; preparation of the survey plan.

Activities regarding the operation of the radioactive waste processing facility and the decommissioning of waste storage hangar No. 1 have not started yet, as some works are still needed before the waste processing facility can be operated.

Links and contact

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

3.5.8 Project information

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

IPA 2008/020-350, EUR 1.2 million

Beneficiary region: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo

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

Duration of activities: 20/03/2011 – 19/03/2014

Purpose

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

Activities

The following tasks were completed:

- Assessment of the regulations on radiation and nuclear safety currently in force;
- Assistance in drafting specific licensing procedures for Serbia;
- Reports on Emergency Preparedness Review.

This project is expected to be completed before the end of 2014 (an extension of the initial duration is underway).

Links and contact

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

3.5.9 Project information

Further steps to approximate the Albanian legislation and regulations in accordance with the EU *acquis* in the field of radiation protection, nuclear safety and security

IPA 2010/022-503, EUR 0.2 million

Beneficiary country: Albania

Type of contract: Framework contract COWI AS, CN 2013/328-365

Duration of activities: 21/10/2013 – 14/04/2015

Purpose

The project aims at performing further steps forward to the approximation of the Albanian legislation and regulations with the EU *acquis* through three specific activities:

- Completion of the activities concerning the full approximation of the Albanian legislation and regulations with the EU *acquis* that were implemented in a previous IPA funded project
- Reviewing of procedures for the application of regulations in order to be in full compliance with the EU *acquis*
- Establishment of quality control (QC) standards and procedures for X-ray machines in Albania

Activities

Kick off meeting in Vienna with the representative of the Albanian Radiation Protection Office (RPO), the beneficiary of the project

Inventory of the Albanian regulatory documents

Preliminary analysis of the Albanian regulatory documents.

Activities and events planned for next semester

Review meeting at RPO in Tirana (10-14 February 2014), for analysis of Albanian regulations

Scientific visit of 2 Albanian regulators to AKH Hospital in Vienna (17-21 February)

Completion of analysis of Albanian regulations against the applicable EU directives and IAEA standards

Proposal for correction measures to fill the gaps identified during the analysis of Albanian regulations

Technical mission to RPO in Tirana, to work together with Albanian regulators in amending the regulations identified.

Outputs

- draft regulations and amended regulations, aiming to improve the regulatory framework governing the radiation protection in Albania
- increased knowledge of RPO staff on the relevant EU *acquis*, regulatory techniques and QC testing of medical radiological equipment

Links and contact

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

4 Private sector development

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

4.1 Access to finance

4.1.1 Project information

Western Balkan Enterprise Development and Innovation Facility (WB EDIF)

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

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Contribution agreement with OECD, CN 2012/295-825
Contribution agreement with EIF (coordination), CN 2012/306-154;
Contribution agreements with EIF (Guarantee Facility), CN 2012/306-653; CN 2013/319-472
Delegation agreement with EIF (ENEF), CN 2012/306-667 and CN 2013/333-444;
Delegation agreement with EIF (ENIF), CN 2013/318-776
Contribution agreement with OECD (TA), CN 2013/331-504

Duration of activities: 05/12/2012 – 30/11/2025

Purpose

The Western Balkan Enterprise Development and Innovation Facility (WB EDIF) promotes emergence and growth of innovative and high-potential companies, as well as creating a regional Venture Capital market. It was launched on 5 December 2012 back-to-back with the WBIF 7th SC hosted by the Council of Europe Development Bank in Paris.

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

WB EDIF will provide:

- early-to-development stages equity financing in innovative SMEs by a newly created Enterprise Innovation Fund (ENIF) to be managed by a private sector Fund Manager selected in an open call for expression of interest;
- development and expansion capital to established high-growth potential SMEs by a newly created 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) to be implemented by EIF;

- 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 a Support Services Facility, with coordinated inputs from OECD, World Bank, EBRD and other competent partners.

Activities

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

The EC mandated EIF with the role of the Guarantee Facility manager and transmitted the full amount of the guarantee (financed by MBP IPA 2011 and 2013) to the EIF special account, thus allowing it to launch this EDIF component. In April 2013, EIF launched a Call for Expression of Interest to financial intermediaries in the region. Quality banking groups have expressed interest and EIF approved the first three transactions which should result in 2014 in approximately 400 loans disbursed in Albania, 160 in Bosnia and Herzegovina and 250 in Kosovo of an approximate value of EUR 20 million of each of the three portfolios (or 60 million in total). The next batch of applications came from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Croatia and Serbia and were being examined by EIF. In the future the funds available could be increased for the region and/or for individual countries to make the most out of this regional Facility.

The EC mandated EIF with the role of a trustee for the EU funds in the Enterprise Expansion Fund (ENEF). At the same time, EBRD has undertaken to incorporate the Fund under the Luxembourgish law. The EU funds (financed by MBP IPA 2011) were put at the EIF disposal in the first half of 2013. The investment logistics and infrastructure are ready and work on the pipeline development has started. The ENEF legal "filing package" was submitted to the Luxembourgish authorities in December 2012 and ENEF is expected to launch operations in early 2014. The preliminary pipeline consists of some 12 projects of a total value of some EUR 40 million in various sectors and evenly distributed around the region. Since an additional amount of EUR 40 million of equity is available from EBRD in the form of a co-investment facility, the total initial amount available to launch operations is EUR 80 million.

The EC mandated EIF with the role of a trustee for the EU funds in the Enterprise Innovation Fund (ENIF). Furthermore, based on the Call for Expression of Interest published in April 2013, EIF proposed a Fund Manager to the PAG in December. ENIF will be incorporated in one of the EU Member States in early 2014. The pipeline is estimated at some 20+ technology SMEs around the Western Balkans with investment needs between 300,000 and EUR 1.5 million, although some seed (smaller value) investments are also envisaged. First investments in SMEs in the region will be made in 2014.

Work on the development of a TA/support services package continued based on the OECD-assisted preparatory policy context work. First batch of assistance projects was designed by OECD and the World Bank addressing first three out of four main intervention areas identified: (1) investment readiness of SMEs, (2) innovation capacities of SMEs, (3) regulatory environment for Venture Capital operations and (4) licencing. These projects will be launched in early 2014.

The EDIF TA component will include the continuation of the Small Business Act (SBA) Process (recently financed under a separate agreement from IPA 2010/022-028, EUR 0.3

million). In an effort to streamline assistance under IPA and organise it around the key strategic objectives, the SBA process will now not only assess the overall quality of the SME environment in Western Balkans and Turkey but will also pay special attention to the obstacles to emergence and growth of innovative and high-potential SMEs.

The third PAG meeting held on 5 December in London also confirmed the inclusion under the EDIF umbrella of the World Bank REPARIS programme and gave the green light to bringing under EDIF of the EBRD Small Business Support programme, thus providing for a greater coordination of direct assistance to SMEs in the region with other, complementary, activities under EDIF.

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

The first half of 2014 should importantly see various EDIF activities and components become operational and visible on the ground in the Western Balkan countries. First equity investments will be made around the region and a number of countries will see new bank lending reaching the SMEs. Meanwhile, the governments will take their reform efforts further supported by technical assistance delivered by OECD and the World Bank.

These activities will be supported by a number of public relations events, such as the Guarantee Facility launching in the first beneficiary countries (Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, and Kosovo).

The 4th PAG meeting will take place in June 2014 in Berlin. It will be organised back-to-back with the WBIF Steering Committee, as agreed, due to a largely overlapping participation and so as to facilitate the travel arrangements of the beneficiary country participants.

[Links and contact](#)

Link: Please note the EDIF website is now operational at <http://www.wbedif.eu/>

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

<http://www.oecd.org/investmentcompact/enterprise-development-innovation-western-balkans.htm>

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

4.1.2 Project information

European Fund for Southeast Europe (EFSE)

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

European Commission Net Asset Value by 30 June 2013, approx. EUR 110 million

Beneficiary region: 14 countries including Western Balkans and Turkey

Type of contract: European Investment Fund (EIF), 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

[Purpose](#)

EFSE is a public-private-partnership, attracting private capital and thereby leveraging public donor funds. EFSE extends loans to local commercial banks and micro-finance institutions in the Western Balkan, Turkey and Eastern Neighbourhood (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine) for on-lending to micro and small enterprises and households.

Some key figures :

EFSE sub-loan figures as of Q2/2013:	
1. Total Invested Portfolio	EUR 774.5 million of which EUR 569.6 million in SEE
3. % Share of Senior Loans	79.3%
2. Number of current Partner Lending Institutions	69
4. Type of Partner Lending Institution	68% Commercial Banks, 25% Microfinance Institutions
5. Reached End Borrowers since inception	410,827
5. Average sub-loan outstanding	EUR 5,994
5. Disbursed sub-loans since inception	EUR 2.8 billion

Activities

The Annual Meeting 2013 of EFSE took place from 5 to 7 June 2013 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Full information can be found on the EFSE website.

The next Annual Meeting is planned to take place in Armenia in June 2014.

Links and Contact

Link: <http://www.efse.lu/>

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

4.1.3 Project information

Private Sector Support Facility for Turkey- Crisis Response Package

IPA 2009/021-373, EUR 22.5 million

Beneficiary Country: Turkey

Type of Contract: Contribution Agreement with EBRD, CN 2009/228-868

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

Purpose

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

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

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

Non-financial technical assistance: Includes the Small Business Support Programme (SBS) with the Enterprise Growth Programme (EGP) and Business Advisory Services (BAS) which is to strengthen SMEs and improve their capacity for innovation, while developing local SME support networks including business advisory services.

Activities

MSME Finance Window: The Facility is now fully invested in the MSME sub-loans and Denizbank's agricultural loan is also almost fully invested.

Within the framework of the SBS programme, since the beginning of the programme, EGP has started 14 projects. Out of these, 7 projects are completed. Four projects have been started between July and December 2013.

BAS started 113 projects, out of which 15 are currently on-going and 98 have been completed. Out of these completed projects, 22 have been evaluated one year after completion.

Activities and events planned for next semester

MSME Finance Window: capacity building with PFIs on agricultural lending processes through technical assistance and monitoring the sub-loan portfolio against the requirements of the first loss cover.

Energy Efficiency Window: Actively engage with Akbank to allocate their extension loan to sub-projects, thus completing the disbursement of all TurSEFF funds. Continue to encourage the development of MidSEFF sub-projects from non-mainstream renewable technologies.

Another EGP project is planned to be started in 2014. BAS plans to continue the implementation of BAS projects as well as market development activities (MDAs).

Links and contact

Link: <http://www.turseff.org>, <http://www.midseff.com/>, <http://www.msmeturkey.com/>

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

4.1.4 Project information

Private Sector Support Facility for the Western Balkans - Crisis Response Package

IPA 2009/021-373, EUR 31.5 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of Contract: Contribution Agreement with EBRD, CN2009/229-273

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

Purpose

The Private Sector Support Facility (PSSF) provides loans supported by grants (Direct Lending) and technical assistance to the Western Balkans for (i) industrial investments necessary for SMEs to align with the EU *acquis*, and (ii) energy efficiency investments in the private sector.

The PSSF consists of three windows:

- the SME Competitiveness Support Window (SME-CSF) of EUR 21.5 million
- the Energy Efficiency Window (SEFF) of EUR 5 million, as well as
- the EBRD Small Business Support Programme Window of EUR 5 million.

Activities

The second half of 2013 saw significant progress with the implementation of most projects. Five projects were completed throughout the year, which triggered the verification process. The Verification Consultant (Exergia, Greece) submitted its final verification reports for four

additional projects (in Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo), in addition to one submitted in the first half of 2013 to the EBRD.

Small Business Support

Within the SBS Programme, EGP has started 41 projects in the region and 1 sector development activity, of these 23 have been completed, 10 have been cancelled and 42 are under implementation, including the sector development. 3 projects were started (Croatia and Montenegro) and 2 projects were completed (Nissal and Gomex in Serbia) between July and December 2013.

BAS delivered 290/ projects, out of which 4 are currently on-going, 43 have been completed and 16 have been cancelled. The vast majority of projects, 227, have already been evaluated one year after completion. 86 of those have been evaluated during the reporting period.

Activities and events planned for next semester

Under the CSF-SME and SEFF window, activities will focus on the disbursement of the signed loans and financial incentives.

SBS plans to start 5 more EGP projects in 2014 in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro and will continue implementing BAS activities under the WB PSSF where applicable.

Links and contact

Links: <http://www.sme-finance.mk/>, <http://www.cropssf.hr/>, <http://www.webpssf.com> - under development

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

4.1.5 Project information

SME Recovery Support Loan for Turkey - Crisis Response Package

IPA 2009/021-373, EUR 30.0 million

Beneficiary Country: Turkey

Type of Contract: Contribution Agreement with EIB and two Intermediary Banks - Akbank and Halkbank, CN 2009/228-929

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

Purpose

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

Activities

The two facilities were fully disbursed between October 2010 and April 2011. The impact of the Facility on employment is substantial, with an estimated total number of more than 4,000 jobs created.

A Results Oriented Monitoring (ROM) visit took place at the end of 2013. The participants were an EC Consultant, an EIB representative and the participating banks. 4 Sub-Project visits were also arranged. The findings have not yet been communicated as at the date of this report.

Activities and events planned for next semester

Continued monitoring the payment defaults from the final beneficiaries.

A discussion regarding the reutilisation of the funds will take place at the next Steering Committee in 2014.

Links and contact

Links to EIB website: <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: Massimo d'Eufemia; m.deufemia@eib.org and Bo Caperman,
Bo.CAPERMAN@ec.europa.eu

4.2 Competitiveness

4.2.1 Project information

Support to the South East Europe Investment Committee

IPA 2011/022-507, EUR 0.8 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of Contract: Grant Contract with RCC, CN 2011/276-682

Duration of activities: 1/1/2012 – 31/12/2013

Purpose

This project provided the necessary resources to the RCC Secretariat to enable it to resume management and coordination of the work of the South East Europe Investment Committee in accordance with the mandate received from the RCC Board. It supported regional cooperation in investment policy reform in South East Europe and promoted an environment conducive to business and investment. Importantly, it helped RCC undertake its coordination role of the SEE2020 Strategy.

Activities

Following the adoption of the 11 Headline Targets of the SEE 2020 Strategy, activities in 2013 continued with the development of the comprehensive SEE 2020 Strategy, involving the RCC/SEEIC team, Country Economic Teams of the SEEIC, representatives of national administrations from various ministries and agencies related to the respective pillars of the Strategy, and a number of relevant regional partners. The process of announcing a public call, selection and appointment of the external assistance in the development of the SEE 2020 Strategy has been completed, where Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies was engaged in July 2013.

In the process of developing the SEE 2020 Strategy, three drafts were produced before the document was finalised in October, and a number of consultations were held with the Governments and other partners. The consultations with the Governments were structured through the SEEIC meetings and working groups (13th SEEIC meeting held on 19 June 2013, 14th meeting held on 26 September 2013, SEEIC Working Group on Competitiveness, held on 16 September 2013, and a number of other technical-level workshops held with various line ministries) as well as through a series of in-country workshops.

Seven national workshops were held in the Western Balkans capitals throughout September 2013 engaging more than 300 representatives of the public and private sectors, the civil society and the academia. Finally, a number of direct consultations were held with the government representatives in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia. The consultations with the regional organisations were structured through the work of the SEE 2020 Coordination Board, whose 2nd meeting was held on 18 July 2013, and through a collaborative on-line platform set-up by the RCC during July. In total, more than 1,800 representatives of the public sector, business community, civil society and regional and international organisations were consulted over the course of the SEE 2020 Strategy development.

Following internal consultations in each of the Western Balkans Participants and the adoption of the SEE 2020 Strategy in the government procedure, the Strategy was endorsed at the SEEIC Ministerial held in Sarajevo on 21 November 2013 by the Ministers in charge of the economy. The Ministerial Statement adopted at the meeting further reiterated the RCC's mandate in monitoring the SEE 2020 implementation and pointed to two sectors of regional importance - food & beverages and tourism – that will be used to prioritise the implementation of SEE 2020 measures across the five pillars (see Next Generation Competitiveness project for further details).

Following the adoption of the Strategy, RCC took part in two national-level meetings in Albania (16 December 2013) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (24 December 2013) to identify the main milestones in the preparation of SEE 2020 National Action Plans. Following the extension of the project, this type of work would be extended to other countries and would continue until the end of the first half of 2014.

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

Originally scheduled to end on 31 December, 2013, the project was extended, with no additional cost, until 30 June 2014 with an intention of providing direct assistance to the national authorities and the regional organisations in the development of the national and regional action plans. The SEEIC has been fully transferred to the RCC and will continue to function as part of the RCC Secretariat structure in the following period. Further support will be continued through other arrangements, such as the Next Generation Competitiveness Initiative described below.

[Links and contact](#)

Link: <http://www.seeic.rcc.int> and <http://www.see2020.rcc.int>

Contact: Bo Caperman, Bo.CAPERMAN@ec.europa.eu and Inga Stefanowicz, Inga.STEFANOWICZ@ec.europa.eu

4.2.2 Project information

New Generation Competitiveness Initiative (NGCI)

IPA 2013/024-091, EUR 4.9 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Contribution Agreement with OECD, CN 2013/316-772

Duration of activities: 22/04/2012 – 21/04/2016

[Purpose](#)

Improve the competitiveness of the Western Balkan economies by assisting with the implementation of the South East Europe (SEE) 2020 Strategy by:

- developing an open, sector-based, regional network of Western Balkan businesses and government officials to promote competitiveness and sharing of best practices;
- transferring a set of policy tools and actions which will enhance the competitiveness of key sectors in the Western Balkans economies;
- developing a transparent and publicly-accessible monitoring process to ensure the SEE 2020 Vision is being implemented.

Activities

SEE 2020 Sector specific capacity building actions: The First Meeting of the SEEIC Working Group on Competitiveness was held at the OECD headquarters in Paris on 16 September 2013. A key objective of the meeting was to identify the sectors in the Western Balkans with the potential for value chain development. The OECD IC presented the work on sector selection, based on the analysis of revealed comparative advantage (RCA), growth of demand and of exports, employment, knowledge content and other criteria. Two sectors were chosen: food and beverage processing and tourism. In view of establishing an Expert group, Country Economic Team leaders were asked to nominate members.

SEE 2020 monitoring actions: The OECD team initiated the development of an assessment framework covering 13 of the 16 policy dimensions of SEE 2020. The indicators for the various policy dimensions are being developed in co-operation with all relevant parts of the OECD, bringing the best practice in policy assessment. The quantitative and outcome indicators will be used in annual monitoring cycles, while the qualitative indicators will be the basis for the SEE2020 Competitiveness Outlook, a publication which will be finalised in 2015.

The monitoring per policy dimension will be carried out by a regional organisation in charge of that policy area.

Support to the elaboration of SEE 2020 national action plans: Beneficiaries were asked to commit to the elaboration of National action plans, and were offered assistance from the OECD under the NGCI project in the elaboration of short term reform priorities (so-called “Quick wins”). By the end of the year such assistance was requested by Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Montenegro.

Activities and events planned for next semester

SEE 2020 Sector specific capacity building actions: Expert group meetings will conduct an initial SWOT analysis as well as an initial scan along the policy dimensions of the SEE 2020 strategy in order to identify the policy areas where significant barriers to competitiveness exist.

Based on these initial findings, the team will review international good practices in addressing key constraints to sector development.

SEE 2020 monitoring actions: The OECD will hold a workshop on 10 March 2014 to discuss the first set of indicators to monitor the implementation of SEE 2020 with relevant regional organisations, as well as OECD experts. The regional organisations will be asked to collect the necessary data for the quantitative indicators by 1 April 2014. Subsequently, a baseline report on the findings from the quantitative indicators will be drafted by RCC by 1 June 2014. In parallel, the OECD will finalise the design of the qualitative indicators.

Support to the elaboration of SEE 2020 national action plans: The OECD will develop five national SEE 2020 discussion papers, containing options for short-term policy measures. Five

national roundtables will be held to discuss short-term priorities and identify three to five “quick wins” to be implemented in 2014. Beneficiaries will commit to the implementation of those reforms in the next 12 months.

[Links and contact](#)

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

4.2.3 Project information

Developing the entrepreneurial society in Western Balkans and Turkey – support to the South East European Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning

IPA 2013/024-091, EUR 2.55 million and EUR 0.85 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans and Turkey

Type of contract: Grant Contract with SEECEL, CN 2013/316-501; CN 2013/334-013

Duration of activities: 01/05/2013 – 30/04/2016; 01/01/2014 – 31/12/2016

[Purpose](#)

The overall objective of these projects is to further work on a systematic approach to 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. The specific objective of the project is building on existing activities and results from the 2009 – 2013 implementation period and developments achieved, to further develop the lifelong entrepreneurial learning system in line with the Human Capital Dimension of the SBA for Europe.

[Activities](#)

Under the new three-year grant contract that has been signed in June 2013, SEECEL continues to further work in the region on empowering the existing networks of entrepreneurial schools and faculties, as well as the relevant Training Needs Analysis (TNA) institutions and the Development and Advisory Network for Enterprises Training (DANET). SEECEL also expands its area of work to include the ISCED 1 level in each of the participating countries. Furthermore, the Teacher Training Agencies are also included in the regular work. SEECEL will further monitor and support strategic pilot institutions at different stages of the overall process.

During the reporting period, SEECEL worked together with national levels on the identification of the external key experts and working group members in order to further develop the learning outcomes/instrument for the newly added levels; ISCED 1 level and Teacher Training Agencies, as well as on further development of the TNA toolbox. In total, 24 national working group members have been identified and will be further engaged to work together with SEECEL on project deliverables. SEECEL also continued to expand the Entrepreneurial Learning Students’ Club by engaging more actively the students from the entrepreneurial faculties (belonging to the SEECEL network) to participate at the Community of Practice and to work jointly on the development of the Students’ Club Regional Newsletter.

SEECEL has been officially appointed to be the 5th partner in the SBA assessment, in charge of Principle 1 and 8 and therefore in September 2013 participated at thematic discussions held in Brussels, organised by DG Enterprise and Industry.

SEECEL is continuing engagement with the EU Danube Strategy – Priority Area 8, Entrepreneurial Learning working group as well as to be an active member of all relevant thematic groups of DG Education and Culture.

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

During the next semester SEECEL will continue to work in the region with the appointed Working Group (WG) members on the development of the SEECEL instruments. The work of the WG will be organised in thematic workshops that will be held in the region in spring time (March/April 2014).

SEECEL will also continue to work on complementary activities under the SIDA-funded project (participating/organising different meetings and/or events together with representatives of Embassy of Sweden, RCC, Gender Task Force and other relevant stakeholders), and under WBIF programme as well. Where possible, SEECEL will disseminate acquired regional experience and knowledge to interested partners, countries and regions.

[Links and contact](#)

Link: www.seecel.hr

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

4.2.4 Project information

FRAME: Frame skills for Future - Supporting the development of a comprehensive HRD (Human Resource Development) strategic vision in the Enlargement countries

IPA MBP 2013/024-091, EUR 1.4 million

Beneficiary: Western Balkans (except Croatia) and Turkey

Type of contract: Delegation Agreement with European Training Foundation (ETF), CN 2013/316-651

Duration of activities: 08/05/2013 – 30/09/2014 (extension requested)

[Purpose](#)

Strategic policy advice for human resource development in enlargement countries for promoting sustainable economic development and social cohesion with particular reference to the Europe 2020 Strategy.

To strengthen the capacities of national actors in ELARG countries to further develop and embed evidence based policy making, implementation and review of institutional arrangements and monitoring of HRD.

[Activities](#)

The Foresight methodological Guide for the design of Skills vision 2020 has been finalised and is available for internal use. The Guide is currently under final revision for publication, taking account of comments of the ETF Editorial Board. An interactive online version is also under development.

Collaboration with RCC, World Bank and OECD has been ensured through contacts with relevant counterparts and with a dedicated meeting the day before the 1st technical regional monitoring event to ensure synergy between the FRAME monitoring tool and the SEE 2020 Strategy.

The FRAME project was also represented in regional events/workshops (i.e. SEEIC meetings, SEE strategy 2020 working groups, Danube Strategy, etc.) in order to ensure synergy between the different initiatives in the region in the field of HRD. Close cooperation has been maintained with key organisations in the region through regular contacts and attendance to FRAME events.

Outputs

Foresight methodological Guide available for internal use, currently under finalisation for publishing; Draft guide for review of institutional arrangements available; Monitoring tool developed and road tested in Montenegro;

Kick –off regional event organised in Danilovgrad on 17-18 September 2013

Policy Leaders Forum organised in Salzburg on 9-10 October 2013;

FRAME project represented in various regional events/workshops;

Cooperation ensured with key organisations in the region

Activities and events planned for next semester

The Foresight methodological Guide and the Review of Institutional Arrangements (RIA) Guide will be published;

The online interactive Foresight Guide will be finalised and accessible to the FRAME online community members;

Foresight and RIA exercises will be finalised in all countries (assuming favourable political conditions in particular with regard to Bosnia and Herzegovina), including the development of Skills 2020 Vision Papers and related roadmaps, the identification of gaps in institutional arrangements and related capacity development plans;

Monitoring missions will be carried out in all countries and a 2nd technical Monitoring event will be organised in Turin in June 2014, leading to the finalisation of the Monitoring tool;

A peer learning activity on Foresight will be organised in Malta in May 2014;

Preparations will start for the organisation of the final validation event to take place in Tirana in September 2014;

Additional promotional material will be produced to ensure wide dissemination of the FRAME label;

Additional visibility actions will be also carried out.

Links and contact

Link: www.etf.europa.eu

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

4.2.5 Project information

Program for World Bank knowledge and advisory services in pursuit of the objectives of Europe 2020 Agenda

IPA MBP 2012/022-966, EUR 1.0 million

Beneficiary: Western Balkans (except Croatia)

Type of contract: Administrative Agreement with World Bank, CN 2013/325-267

Duration of activities: 16/10/2013 – 15/01/2016

Purpose

Support to the development of regional learning networks on employment and social inclusion, to the RCC and national administrations in strengthening the capacities of countries to achieve the headline targets for the inclusive growth pillar of the SEE 2020 Strategy.

Activities

Project just started

Activities planned for the next semester

- Set up of website to host regional learning network on employment and social inclusion and piloting of its functioning;
- Implementation of employer survey in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and start of survey activities in Serbia (household and employer surveys) to measure skills mismatches in the corresponding economies;
- Preparatory work for Serbia poverty mapping;
- Completion labour market assessments in Montenegro and in Serbia;
- Completion of qualitative surveys and corresponding reports on barriers to employment for vulnerable groups in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia;

Links and contact

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

4.3 Trade

4.3.1 Project information

CEFTA Project Facility (Central European Free Trade Agreement)

IPA 2011/22-964, EUR 0.2 million

IPA 2013/094-091, EUR 0.44 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans (and Moldova)

Type of contract: Contribution Agreement with CEFTA Secretariat, CN 2012/288-791, CN 2013/335-161

Duration of activities: 01/05/2012 – 31/10/2014; 17/12/2013 – 17/12/2015

Purpose

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

Activities

The CEFTA Secretariat organised a Conference on Transparency in Trade Policy and Measures on 29-30 October in Sarajevo. The Conference addressed the inter linkages between the transparency and facilitation of trade, available transparency tools and methodologies in international settings, and the potential future mechanisms for elimination of trade related

barriers as well as the capacity building in public administration and private sector across the region. The event gathered the representatives from the CEFTA Parties (governments and business community) and international speakers (UNCTAD, ITC, EC, OECD, World Bank)

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

Short-term technical assistance to the CEFTA Parties, organisation of CEFTA Weeks and technical expert missions according to priorities of the CEFTA Subcommittees

[Links and contact](#)

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

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

4.3.2 Project information

Support to the CEFTA Secretariat (Central European Free Trade Agreement)

IPA 2011/022-964, EUR 0.68 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans (and Moldova)

Type of contract: Contribution Agreement with CEFTA Secretariat, CN 2011/271-151

Duration of activities: 15/09/2011 – 15/09/2014

[Purpose](#)

The project is to support the implementation of CEFTA 2006 Agreement. Parties who are signatories to CEFTA enjoy the benefits of a regional free trade area, whose system of rules facilitates intra-regional trade relations.

[Activities](#)

Various meetings and events were organised by the Chairmen of the CEFTA Structures. The Secretariat provided the Structures with technical advice and guidelines, logistical and organisational support and prepared official documents and background materials for the meetings.

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

The ninth meeting of the Working Group on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) will be held on 4 March 2014 in Brussels. The main topics on the agenda will include the: (i) priorities of the Montenegrin Chairmanship in TBT, (ii) Signing of multilateral agreements between national accreditation bodies, national standardisation bodies; (iii) Establishment and management of regional association of conformity assessment bodies, such as CEFTALAB; (iv) notifications and TBT platform development.

At the ninth meeting of the Working Group on Trade in Services, scheduled for end of April 2014, the members will discuss the outcomes of the first assessment of transport services and STRI (services trade restrictiveness index), appropriate formats for reporting on trade in services statistics, etc. It is also envisaged that the negotiating group holds its first session in this period.

[Links and contact](#)

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

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

4.3.3 Project information

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

IPA 2011/022-964, EUR 0.6 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans (and Moldova).

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

Duration of activities: 24/09/2012 – 23/03/2015

Purpose

The overall objective is to assist the CEFTA 2006 Parties in implementing the free trade agreement negotiated in 2006 by the beneficiary economies and thereafter denominated as CEFTA 2006. It focus on the reduction and elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs), the progressive liberalisation of trade in services and the identification of policy measures leading to optimising the benefits of regional trade and investment liberalisation on the framework of increasing European integration.

Activities

Monitoring progress in the reduction and elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers in CEFTA 2006

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

Activities and events planned for next semester

A new NTBs assessment cycle will be performed by focusing on the area of Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary measures.

The OECD will draft and publish a report on “NTBs elimination in CEFTA” that will cover all three policy areas assessed through the course of the project as well as a report on the “Services trade restrictiveness in CEFTA” that will cover the assessment of professional and construction services.

A paper will be prepared on the evolution and links of trade and investment flows in CEFTA 2006 and between CEFTA and the EU.

Links and contact

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

4.3.4 Project information

Quality Infrastructure in the Western Balkans and Turkey

IPA 2011/022-964, EUR 2.5 million (with EUR 0.125 million contribution from EFTA)

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans and Turkey

Type of contract: Service contract with Comité Européen de Normalisation (CEN), CN 2011/270-456

Duration of activities: 16/08/2011 – 15/02/2014

Purpose

Support regional networking initiatives and training, to improve the capabilities of ministries, quality infrastructure bodies and other institutions which are implementing strategies to comply with Chapter 1 of the EU *acquis* (free movement of goods), enabling them to offer

industry services to provide the tools to trade in the EU market, as well as in the markets of the beneficiaries.

Activities

Collaboration with:

- Commission, EFTA, RCC, the Secretariat and structures of CEFTA (see above) to ensure close coordination between project activities;
- OECD, regular meetings in Paris and Belgrade and continued short-term involvement of the Project Director and Team Leader in the monitoring of TBT in the Western Balkans by OECD (see above);
- IFC (World Bank), regular meetings in Belgrade and Brussels ensuring close coordination between project activities.

Activities and events planned for next semester

The project will be extended (with no additional cost) by 4 months to June 2014.

Two networking activities will be held, one on Agreements on Conformity Assessments between CEFTA Parties and the second a final event probably in Brussels in May;

The 5th project progress report will be issued by 30 April.

Links and contact

Link: www.cen.eu

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

4.3.5 Project information

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

IPA 2011/022-964, EUR 1.5 million (additional funds provided by Austria and IFC)

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Administration Agreement with International Finance Corporation (IFC), World Bank Group, CN 2011/276-335

Duration of activities: 21/11/2011 – 20/10/2014

Purpose

The Western Balkans Regional Trade Logistics Project aims to improve the competitiveness of companies in the Western Balkans by reducing administrative barriers to (and thus, time and costs associated with) cross-border clearance procedures. The project works with private and public sector stakeholders to streamline/ simplify export, import and transit procedures.

Activities

- Regional Conference for Customs and SPS Agency representatives to discuss harmonisation of procedures and document requirements, and integration of risk-based approach in customs and SPS controls, Skopje, December 5, 2013.
- Support to CEFTA's Customs Working Group on Risk Management to develop joint risk profiles and harmonise risk controls in the region. Provision of expert advice.

Outputs

- Albania/Kosovo Transit Facilitation agreement finalised (signature date Jan 11, 2014).
- 6 entities implemented changes proposed by the Project during the reporting period, 15 procedures were improved or eliminated, 10 regulations enacted; 11 workshops with over 600 participants held. The project had 20 media appearances.

Activities and events planned for next semester

- Continued advisory assistance in risk management for technical control agencies and Customs, both national advisory as well as through CEFTA structures;
- Organise Regional training on post clearance audit for customs representatives;
- Issue a Report on Document/Procedures Harmonisation in CEFTA (in cooperation with CEFTA Secretariat);
- Hold a Seminar on WTO Trade Facilitation;
- Organise a regional conference for project stakeholders to share best practices and achievements.

Links and contact

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

5 Environment and climate change sector

Assistance on environment and climate change focuses on strengthening regional cooperation, building strategic planning and strengthening institutional capacities through the Regional Environmental Network for Accession (RENA). RENA activities, which came to an end in March 2013, will continue under 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 Environmental Protection

5.1.1 Project information

Regional Environmental Network for Accession (RENA)

IPA 2009/021-178, EUR 5.2 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans and Turkey

Type of contract: Service contract with Hulla & Co. Human Dynamics KG

Duration of activities: March 2010 – March 2013

Purpose

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

Activities

Final Steering Committee Meeting, Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 5/3/2013

The activities carried out under the 4 Working Groups were:

Working Group 1 – Strategic Planning and Investments

- 3rd Annual WG1/RISP meeting, 11/2/2013, Vienna, Austria
- Final Update of Implementation Handbook, 3/2013
- EU Accession Negotiation Handbook, 6/2013
- EU Accession Negotiation process "Montenegro strengthening the EU accession negotiations skills and preparing for screening for Chapter 27 – Environment", Podgorica, Montenegro, 17-18/1/2013
- 3rd Annual Sub-group Investment Planning meeting 19/2/2013, Zagreb, Croatia
- Start-up of the Progress Monitoring Reports 2013, 3/2013
- Completion of Gap Assessment Reports on the draft legislation, as requested by the beneficiaries
- Evaluation and follow-up of Activity 1.6 – Public participation, 3/2013

Working Group 2 – Climate Change

- 3rd Annual WG2 meeting, 27/2/2013, Brussels, Belgium
- ReCAP seminar Bosnia and Herzegovina, 20-21/2/2013, Banja Luka, combined with National EU ETS awareness raising event

- Hands on support to prepare GHG emission inventories, 2/2013
- Working Group 3 – Cross-border cooperation and Multilateral Environmental Agreements
- 3rd Nature Sub-group Annual meeting, 30/1/2013, Vienna, Austria
- Module 6 Workshop: Monitoring Nature Protection Areas combined with the meeting with NP Managers on funding opportunities, 29-30/1/2013, Vienna, Austria
- 3rd Water Management Sub-group Annual meeting, 20/2/2013, Zagreb, Croatia
- 3rd EIA/SEA Sub-group Annual meeting, 21/2/2013, Zagreb, Croatia

Working Group 4 – ECENA

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

[Links and contact](#)

Link: www.renanetwork.org

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

5.2 Disaster risk reduction

5.2.1 Project information

Building Resilience to Disasters in Western Balkans and Turkey »

IPA 2011/022-964, EUR 2.2 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans and Turkey

Type of contract: Contribution Agreement with United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), CN 2012/290-552

Duration of activities: 21/05/2012 – 21/05/2014

[Purpose](#)

The overall objective of the project is to build the resilience of IPA beneficiaries to disasters caused by the impact of natural hazards, in line with the priorities set by the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015.

[Activities implemented](#)

- exchange visits from experts from Beneficiary Countries to EU member states
- design of a Disaster Risk Knowledge Management System (KMS) is completed
- installation of the climate data management system (CDMS)
- training on Drought Analysis and Mapping, Quality Management Systems, the use of calibration kits, long-range forecasting were organised
- participation in the severe weather forecasting testbed in the European Severe Storm Laboratory (ESSL)
- integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Meteoalarm
- country visits related to the development of an Early Warning System were completed
- training packages for the workshops envisaged for insurance agents were finalised
- promotion of local awareness of DRR and DRR campaign kit for local governments developed

Activities and events planned for next semester

- completion of exchange visits from experts from the Beneficiary Countries to EU Member States
- finalisation of the Disaster Risk KMS and presentation to the beneficiaries
- training on the use of the climate data management system (CDMS), on flood losses assessment, severe weather forecasting and warnings, calibration kits, use of specialist drought management tools, the role of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in the field of insurance
- design of regional Multi-hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS) will be finalised and organisation of a regional meeting on institutional collaboration
- training workshops for insurance agents and regulators
- organisation of the 2nd Regional Europa Re event and development of a promotional video
- development of a compendium of good practice in urban resiliencies in cities of the Western Balkans and Turkey in combination with the promotion of DRR awareness at the local level

Outputs

- enhanced institutional knowledge in Disaster Risk Management of the beneficiary institutions through the completion of the expert exchange visits
- the use of climate data management systems (CDMS) will enhance capacity to manage meteorological and hydrological data needed for hazard analysis and mapping
- the integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Meteoalarm will enable the provision of information of possible occurrence of severe weather in the country
- the utilisation of the calibration kits will improve the capacity of beneficiaries to produce reliable meteorological data in compliance with World Meteorological Organisation's (WMO) requirements
- training in drought management tools will enhance the capacity in monitoring, assessing and predicting droughts in support of mitigation planning
- training related to insurance will enhance the capacity to provide services and information to the insurance sector
- the design of the regional MHEWS will enhance capacity to provide reliable, understandable and timely information and warnings of the hazards to authorities, emergency operations and the people at risk.

Links and contact

Link: <http://www.preventionweb.net/ipadrr/>

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

5.2.2 Project information

Civil Protection Cooperation with the candidate countries and potential candidates - phase II

IPA 2012/023-626, EUR 2.0 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans and Turkey

Type of contract: Service contract, Consortium led by the Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief (URSZR), CN n/a (DG ECHO)

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

Purpose

The project aims to increase the Beneficiaries' capability to further develop effective national civil protection systems and collaborate regionally, including through drawing on the best European and regional practices. It also aims to increase the Beneficiaries' ability to effectively interact with the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, its Participating States and relevant institutions in the EU dealing with civil protection and emergency response.

Activities

- the kick off meeting was held
- country-specific consultative meetings took place during the inception phase of the project

Activities and events planned for next semester

- continuation of country-specific consultative meetings
- organisation of the first Steering Group meeting in February 2014
- exchange of experts
- participation of observers to EU civil protection field exercises
- initial planning conference for the field exercise in Montenegro
- first training for international responders

Outputs

The project has very recently started and foresees the following main outputs:

- standard operational procedures and capacity for requesting, receiving, offering and deploying assistance through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism have been further enhanced and applied by the partner countries
- new and/or improved arrangements regarding provision of Host Nation Support (HNS) for foreign civil protection assistance interventions are developed and applied by the Partner countries and cross-institutional cooperation in the field of HNS has been advanced in countries
- a pool of national technical and assessment experts as well as coordination experts on strategic, tactical and operational level involved in international disaster relief operations have been further trained in consistency with the EU Mechanism Training Programme.
- working relations in the field of civil protection among the beneficiary countries, as well as between the beneficiary countries and the Participating States of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, have been strengthened through an exchange of expertise and best practices, study visits and joint exercises.
- a permanent effective network of National Training Coordinators has been established by the Partner countries.

Links and contact

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

5.3 Food safety, veterinary and phyto-sanitary policy

5.3.1 Project information

Support for the control and eradication of animal diseases

IPA 2008/020-319, EUR 1.0 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Service contract with Consortium led by OPERA Società Cooperativa CN n/a (DG SANCO)

Duration of activities: 29/09/2010 – 30/09/2013

Purpose

The project aims to control and eradicate animal diseases in the Western Balkans in particular rabies and classical swine fever (CSF), which continue to be a threat to EU Member States. It also improves regional and cross-border cooperation in the Western Balkans and ensures that the control and eradication of important animal diseases is harmonised and coordinated at regional level.

Activities

- Technical assistance was provided to support rabies vaccination programmes to beneficiary countries including support to monitor the proper execution of the supply contracts
- 3rd regional workshop was held in Sarajevo to review completed activities and discussions were held on the future of the activities and the exit strategy

Activities and events planned for next semester

None (project ended on the 30 September 2013)

Links and contact

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

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

6 Support to civil society sector

The overall objective of this support is to strengthen civil society organisations and their role in the political as well as the European integration process of the IPA beneficiaries. This should result in an improved dialogue on legislation and policies between governments and civil society as well as the strengthening of social partnerships underpinning reforms.

This support is mainly being delivered through the Civil Society Facility (CSF) and will ultimately result in a more civil society-friendly environment, a consolidation of the democratic process and good governance.

Media freedom and freedom of expression are also seen as important in this context. In 2013 DG Enlargement has 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 will constitute 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! 2 conference (June 2013) are still under revision and will be finalised in March 2014.

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

6.1 Civil society facility

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

The CSF consists of three strands of activities which aim to strengthen 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;
- A "People 2 People" (P2P) programme to bring a variety of organisations in the ELARG region into contact with EU institutions and European-level counterparts. These include CSO representatives, human rights and minority defence activists, NGOs dealing with *acquis*-related subjects, journalists, young politicians and trade union leaders.
- Actions to build partnerships and develop networks between CSOs, businesses, trade unions and other beneficiary social partners and their counterparts in the EU to promote transfers of knowledge and experience.

6.1.1 Project information

Technical Assistance to the Civil Society Organisations (TACSO)

IPA 2012/023-324, EUR 7.3 million and IPA 2013/024-081, EUR 3.3 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans and Turkey

Type of contract: Service contract with SIPU International AB, CN 2013/325-596, CN 2013/325-603

Duration of activities: 01/09/2013 – 30/08/2015

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.

TACSO's activities include:

- Identification of priority needs of the civil society sector in the region
- Design and delivery People 2 People events
- Design and delivery of Training of Trainers (ToT) activities as well as mentoring and coaching CSOs
- Support to networking and partnership-making at both national and regional level
- Facilitation of dialogue and cooperation between governments and the CSO environment, including study tours
- Support to contact and cooperation between the CSO environment and the media
- Increasing activities for rural area organisations
- Development of communication tools, e.g. Web site and database
- Advice to individual CSOs on an ad hoc basis
- Evaluation of the impact of donor-funded actions
- Publication and dissemination of project results
- Advice on further actions (Calls for Proposals) and support for the implementation of grants

Activities

Between July and December 2013 the People 2 People (P2P) Programme which was gradually incorporated into TACSO 2 has organised, with the support of the TAIEX Service provider, 8 events (6 multi-country and 2 single-country). Over 420 representatives of civil society organisations (CSOs) from the Western Balkans and Turkey followed intense 4-5 day programmes to familiarise themselves with the EU institutions, decision-making process, legislation and key policies as well as to network with national, regional and EU counterparts.

Some interesting events were supported like the "High level conference with religious leaders of Serbia". The main religious communities of Serbia (Serbian Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Reformed Christian, Evangelical, Islamic and Jewish Community) came to Brussels to better understand the values enshrined in the EU and to reach out to the very heart of the society. Another success story regards the cycle of P2P seminars was dedicated to social dialogue notably to support trade union organizations participating in the regional "joint trade union commission for EU Integration".

In the meantime the P2P has been externalized and is now fully part of TACSO. The rationale of the new organizational arrangement is to have a more demand driven instrument with priorities and topics emerging from civil society needs assessments and consultations. Furthermore, the P2P Programme will create synergy with the priorities of other CSF strands and EC initiatives to support civil society in the region by closely coordinating and consulting with relevant stakeholders.

The TACSO offices assisted Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) on a number of issues and numerous occasions, while guiding them in the management of their projects. With the start of TACSO 2, all the country needs assessments were updated, as well as the composition of the Local Advisory Groups (LAGs) who are set up in each country in order to steer and guide the Technical Assistance.

All TACSO offices provided support and input for the design of the guidelines for Civil Society Support of the EU as well as the guidelines for EU Support to the Media.

As part of its outreach and information and communication tasks all TACSO offices publish newsletters to inform about upcoming and completed events.

Below, an overview of some actions implemented by the local offices:

TACSO Serbia

Through a wide consultative process involving almost 100 representatives of CSOs and other stakeholders, TACSO Serbia updated the TACSO Needs Assessment of CSOs, which includes an overview of the general state of Civil Society in Serbia today as well as CSO needs regarding capacity building, an enabling environment, and priority topics for future activities.

TACSO Turkey

TACSO Turkey carried out preparations for local CSOs social media workshops with Turkish Civil Society Development Center (STGM) in 5 provinces targeting 50 local CSOs. The Radio Show “Not Without Us” had 11 episodes broadcasted on Open Radio reaching over 40,000. The office published 14 weekly e-bulletins reaching over 6000 recipients. Numerous funding opportunities for CSOs from various resources were shared along with other news from civil society and EU. Technical assistance was provided to 17 CSOs on several issues including EU project implementation, project development, fundraising and networking.

TACSO the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

TACSO prepared a report presenting CSOs needs regarding the enabling environment for CSOs and CSOs capacity building. The exercise was conducted by combining desk research and consultation process including more than 50 participants in interviews and focus groups. Four issues of the monthly Overview of funding opportunities for CSOs were edited and distributed to CSOs. Overviews contain list of all open calls for grants and funding currently available to CSOs in the country with basic information, contact details and links.

TACSO Bosnia and Herzegovina

Training workshop on establishing coordination mechanism for Sector Civil Society Organisations (SECO) geared towards participation in IPA II planning and programming (43 CSOs from 7 sectors). TACSO together with the project CBGI (Strengthening of the government institutions capacity to dialogue with civil society organizations) supported the Directorate of EU integration in organizing a Forum of establishment of Institutional Mechanisms for Consultations with CSOs (October 24) with around 45 participants. Together

with the EU-Delegation it organised two presentations on the Call for Proposals 'Sarajevo 2014' with 200 CSO representatives, cultural institutions and municipalities.

TACSO Montenegro

TACSO office in cooperation with the EU-Delegation organized an on line consultation related to the preparation of calls for proposals under the IPA 2013 Programme for Civil Society. The result of the workshop contributed to the development of the Guidelines for Applicants. The EU-Delegation in cooperation with TACSO office in Montenegro organised a presentation of the Montenegro Progress Report 2013 for representatives of civil society organizations on 17 October 2013 in Podgorica. The meeting was attended by 35 representatives of civil society.

TACSO Kosovo

TACSO continued to further strengthen the organizational capacities of the CiviKos platform, supported their strategic planning process in a workshop. TACSO finalised the civil society needs assessment report, an important document that provides updated information about the enabling environment of civil society, its capacities and needs. The document serves for planning TACSO activities as well as IPA programming for civil society support. TACSO, in close cooperation with the LAG, designed an action plan to support the Kosovo government in implementing their strategy for cooperation with civil society. The support will be focused to establish criteria and procedures for public funding for the civil society sector in Kosovo. In close collaboration with EU office in Kosovo, TACSO organized a launching event for national CSF and EIDHR grantees.

TACSO Albania

TACSO Albania organized 4 consultation meetings with civil society organizations and local actors in three major regions of Albania, Shkodra, Gjirokastra, Vlora and Korça. Over 100 CSO representatives attended these meetings and the contribution of TACSO in facilitating the dialogue with government institutions in improving the legal framework, provision of technical assistance during the course of project development and management, boasting the partnership and networking at the regional and national level, etc. Within the frame of strengthening the cooperation with government institutions, TACSO Albania Office assisted the newly established Unit for Civil Society within the Ministry of Integration by developing job descriptions and dividing lines of responsibilities. Ongoing collaboration is maintained with the Prime Minister's Office for developing a Road Map for strengthening the collaboration between government and the 'third sector'.

Activities planned for next semester

In the next phase TACSO will assist the EU and other data-collectors so as to benchmark the progress made in obtaining the objectives set out in these CS and Media guidelines. Furthermore, TACSO will update the different publication material and draft Funding Guidelines for CSOs and develop an online tool.

TACSO will complete the research on how its functions can be transferred, handed over to the Resource Centre(s) present in the beneficiary countries.

All TACSO offices will plan, organise and implement several P2P activities, according to its six months P2P calendar. TACSO's goal is to organise 10 (6 multi-country and 4 single-country) events in the course of the next semester.

Links and contact

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

Database: <http://tacso.org/es0-db-res/reg/>
Forum: <http://forum.tacso.org/>
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/TACSO2>
LinkedIn: http://www.linkedin.com/company/tacso?trk=fc_badge
YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/tascotube#p/u>
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/#!/TACSO1>
Contact: Henk Visser, Henk.VISSER@ec.europa.eu

6.1.2 Project information

The Civil Society Facility Programme 2011, Framework Partnership Agreements (FPAs)

IPA 2011/022-965, EUR 10.2 million and IPA 2011/022-964, EUR 1.0 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans and Turkey

Type of contract: Grants

Duration of activities: 01/12/2012 – 31/12/2014

Purpose

This project comes under the second strand mentioned above.

Long-term programme support to 18 thematic networks of CSOs organised at regional level. Outputs include tools put into practice on advocacy, awareness-raising and constituency building. The Framework Partnership Agreements (FPA) were concluded following a call for proposals for up to 48 months but subject to review after 24 months.

Activities

The SEE Media Observatory FPA, has been engaged in data collection and analysis of integrity of the media in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia, focusing on media policy development and implementation, media structures (ownership, finances, public service broadcasting), journalists and media practices. Through research and investigative journalism more than 100 relevant actors have been consulted through interviews and focus groups discussions. Simultaneously, the online platform of the SEE Media Observatory has been launched (<http://mediaobservatory.net/>) containing dozens of reports, articles, videos, news items and recommended literature.

The Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB) led project Improving the provision of Social Service Delivery in SEE through empowerment of national and regional CSO networks supports activities that are carried out in partnership between civil society organizations from the Western Balkan region and the EU. It involves: LIR CD B&H, OGI Croatia, CLARD Kosovo, SOS Montenegro, Educational Centre Serbia and Solidar Belgium. “Tailor-made” capacity building for CSOs and small grants scheme for grass-root social service providers will benefit a lot of organizations, leading to better social care.

Public hearings will be organized in February 2014 to discuss the role of institutions and CSOs in providing social services, with focus on public procurement. They will also discuss the limitations to CSO to provide social services. All the work is based on the conclusions and recommendations of the “Comparative Analysis of the role of Civil Society in Providing Social Welfare Services in the Western Balkans” developed during the project. Web site of

the Regional network (named IRIS network) will be finished by mid-February. Facebook (www.facebook.com/irissnetwork) and Twitter page (twitter.com/IRISsNetwork) are already functioning. Later during 2014 a grant scheme for support of local CSO in the region of SEE and a training module will be launched.

The project Corporate Social Responsibility for ALL has managed to initiate a process in which key decision makers from the CSO networks mainly Employer Organizations, Governmental bodies, Media, International Organizations were engaged throughout the various project activities.

The Southeast European Leadership for Development and Integrity (SELDI) project has been collecting data on good governance and anti-corruption, to feed their three most important priorities for 2014 to: (a) influence the policy debate in the region on good governance and anti-corruption; (b) reach out to more CSOs for synergies; and (c) ensure sustainability through producing quality products and reaching out to other donors. In 2013 SELDI has started building a sustainable cooperation with international organisations and the governments from Southeast Europe to come up with a set of public-private solutions related to corruption and good governance. The highest recognition SELDI received for its efforts was its participation at the Regional Anti-Corruption Conference in Sarajevo on December 9-10, 2013, on the 10th anniversary of the adoption and opening for signature of the UN Convention against Corruption, providing the main inputs to the discussion on the part of the civil society organisations. SELDI will continue to work with the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative, UNODC and UNDP in drafting proposals for tackling corruption and improving good governance. The biggest impact of the project in the area of good governance and anti-corruption this year will be the issuing of the regular progress reports by DG Enlargement on the prospects of accession of the Western Balkans and Turkey.

One of the planned results of the project Balkans Act Now! is to have CSOs and the justice sectors in targeted Western Balkans countries improve their partnership ties and joint work.. A case study was prepared, pointing to the problem of secondary victimisation of victims of human trafficking during court procedures.

Within the project Coordinated efforts – Toward new European standards in protection of women from gender based violence, six women organizations, with support of a great number of stakeholders, conducted a media and awareness campaign about the issue of violence against women and advocated in order to take influence on policy development of national strategies against discrimination, domestic or gender based violence.

During the first year of the “SIGN for Sustainability” project partners conducted four types of activities, aimed towards fulfilling the overall objective – to increase sustainability and impact of civil society in Western Balkan in giving citizens a voice and influence public sector reform processes. The partners drafted policy recommendations and conducted a public opinion research on philanthropy. In addition, the partners designed the curriculum and the methodology for a Sustainability Academy aiming to help CSOs become more sustainable by combining local resource mobilization and citizens’ participation in activities. So far, they have selected 75 CSOs who underwent 3 training modules and begun fundraising. In the field of networking and promotion of philanthropy, partners completed competitions for their National Philanthropy Awards. Last but not least the project collected the examples of fundraising standards from 11 EU-member countries and used them to create the draft proposal of the Regional minimum standards for fundraising that underwent two cycles of consultations. The document will be pilot tested by local grass-root organizations who will be fundraising within the Sustainability Academy. The document will be finalized after the

piloting phase and end of the consultation process, in mid-2014. It is expected that a minimum of 100 CSOs will sign it by the end of November 2014.

The project Balkantenderwatch created an on-line platform dealing with public procurement: www.balkantenderwatch.eu. It is a permanent resource- and communication tool, not only for the partners, but also for a wider interested public. In addition, the Facebook account "Balkan Tender Watch" was setup for promotional and informative purpose. The completed Comparative analysis of the main aspects of Public Procurement systems in relevant countries and the EU was presented at a conference held in Belgrade in November. It was the first time that participants from four Western Balkan countries met to discuss similar problems regarding public procurement and to learn how countries prepared themselves for the negotiations with the EU. Most of 2014 will be dedicated to completing the analysis of Public Procurement cases, leading to a guide for monitoring public procurement to be presented on a regional conference, at the end of the year.

The ENV.net identified main progress and gaps in the approximation process to the Environmental *acquis* in Albania, Kosovo, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey. Based on this research the ENV.net team began awareness and advocacy activities. A round table with CSOs and Universities on the environmental impact of the "Istanbul Big Projects Plan" (i.e. new bridge over the Bosphorus, a third Airport and a canal to connect the Black and Marmara Sea to the North-west of Bosphorus) was held. The report on this will be published in the first quarter of 2014, followed by a press campaign to disseminate the findings, to develop mitigation strategies and to raise awareness. In Serbia, ENV.net organised a seminar on environmental education with the participation of 20 schools. Teachers committed to work on recycling and upcycling, as well as to involving children as the environmental reporters, as the tool to educate youth. In Albania, ENV.net organised a workshop focusing on residential energy efficiency, to analyse the institutional and legislative progress in energy efficiency in condominiums and present recommendations on the legislative and institutional framework. On 10 May 2014, ENV.net partners will take part to the European Clean-up Day with small initiatives in their countries directly involving citizens. Finally the ENV.net training programme starts in April 2014 with one training session in the five partner countries and two distance learning courses. The training will focus on funding and project cycle management, monitoring environmental policy approximation and on the use of social media for advocacy campaigns.

During the first year of the project Balkan Civil Society *acquis* the activities were primarily focused on promoting standards for a civil society enabling environment through stakeholder consultations, capacity-building via sub-grants, mentorship, donor research and information-sharing etc. In the next period the 1st monitoring matrix report on enabling environment for civil society development will be published and discussed as a basis for establishing a joint advocacy platform in the 8 countries. A regional report and web platform are to be developed and presented in April-May, 2014. 21 sub-grants (12 out of this project) will be finalized, with concrete policy products being promoted at national level vis-à-vis national institutions.

In the first year of the action, the consortium of partners of the Triple A for citizens project accomplished some key activities such as the drafting of the "Guidelines on Triple A - Towards a shared concept of access to information, advice and active help services" (which provide the definition of the Triple A concept), the mapping of the citizen information, advice and active help services in the Western Balkans and Turkey and the selection of ten pilot project sub-grantees. Country reports (or national reports) were produced, providing an analysis of the landscape of service providers and the legal and administrative environment. The Activities envisaged until June 2014 include the implementation of pilot projects;

creation of an interactive website and database (in google map format) of organisations across the region providing information advice or active help; organization of a joint study visit to London and Dublin; organization of at least two mentoring visits; building the network of citizen advice organizations in the region of WB and Turkey and EU.

Under the Partnership for Reconciliation through Early Childhood Education and Development in Europe - PRECEDE project, members participated in the work of the International Network for Peace-building with Young Children which had been asked to do a report for EUROCHILD.

The project Cross-border Citizens' Network for Peace, Inter-communal Reconciliation & Human Security (HS) has drafted the publication "Addressing violence from the Human Security perspective" and produced a total of 13 "Human Security Chronicles" – short analytical papers of preliminary assessment, baseline research and food for country-level advocacy – related to Human Security, all accessible on the project website <http://cn4hs.org/chronicles/>. Each partner will organize 4 Country Level Stakeholder Dialogue Meetings during Spring 2014; the Regional Baseline Report providing an overview of the Human Security condition in Balkans & Turkey will be published.

The greatest results of the Partnership to Ensure Reform of Supports in Other Nations - PERSON project were made with regard to: collaboration between partners at regional level (such as submission of an amicus brief to the European Court of Human Rights for *Ivinovic v. Croatia*); and building strong support at the national level (including the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality and Ombudsman (Serbia), Good Governance Office of the Prime Minister's Department (Kosovo) and local UN and OHCHR offices). The PERSON project has been extremely active in monitoring national commitments in international law. This has been done using a number of complementary strategies – including filing amicus briefs and domestic monitoring of psychiatric institutions (undertaken by partners MDRI-S, RUSIHAK, and The SHINE) to assess compliance with international human rights law, including the UN Convention Against Torture. In November 2013, an easy-to-read version of the PERSON Principles (ten principles for legal capacity law reform) as well strategic litigation guidelines were developed and hosted on the website (www.eu-person.com). These guidelines lay the foundation to initiate strategic litigation cases in at least two countries. Four out of the five Balkan partner countries are eligible to report to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) Committee, and two have already submitted State Reports. All partners expect to contribute to the development of Shadow Reports to the Committee once these countries have been scheduled for dialogue with the UNCRPD.

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

All networks will continue with the implementation of the Framework Partnership Agreement Projects, as already identified in the text above.

[Links and contact](#)

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

6.1.3 Project information

Children's rights: The Protection of Children from Violence in South East Europe

IPA 2010/022-028, EUR 1.65 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans and Turkey

Type of contract: Contribution Agreement with UNICEF, CN 2011/263-613

Duration of activities: 30/06/2011 - 29/11/2013

Purpose

This project comes under the second strand mentioned above.

It aims at reinforcing the capacities of civil society partners in independent monitoring of child rights violations, in particular violence against children. It will also reinforce partnerships between CSOs and State decision-makers with an aim to strengthen the system of public services to identify, monitor and address violence against children. The project is embedded in reform agendas of existing child protection and social protection systems and will contribute to sharing lessons learned on child rights monitoring mechanisms in South East Europe. The project has a focus on Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Turkey and will be linked through some regional activities with advocacy and experience sharing initiatives at the wider European level.

Activities

The project carried out the last activities on capacity- and knowledge-building, as well as policy dialogue between civil society and governments on effective policies and programmes to address Violence against children (VAC). All activities were structured around the main findings/recommendations of the regional assessment on the system's responsiveness to violence against children as mentioned above. Per country it was as follows:

Albania

Support to the Child Rights Protection Caucus to implement its work plan activities further lobby for inclusion of violence against children issues in their political agenda and/ electoral programmes, enabling it to become credible partner in policy development and to give it a track record of results achieved that can help ensure its continuation beyond the project implementation. The project contributed to legislative initiatives of the Child Rights Protection Caucus, in collaboration with the State Agency on Child Rights Protection, Office of Ombudsman and CSOs leading to the enactment of legislation on violence against children.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

As to ensure that the civil society network (NEVAC) gets a good track record and establishes a reputation, the project supported the CSOs in running effective campaign at the local level to raise awareness on violence against children. To facilitate fundraising, the project supported the development of stronger links between NEVAC and the private sector. Last but not least special attention was given to establishing a sound and durable governance structure for the network.

Serbia

New schools and local communities joined the 'school without violence' programme which provides for supportive tools and mechanisms. Advocacy campaigns by CSO partners for raising awareness in the general public, changing attitudes but also making improvements in relevant policies or legislation based on monitoring and studies finalised.

Policy dialogue between civil society actors and government institutions was advanced by forming the National Team for improvement and implementation of the VAC General Protocol but also by establishing a special group for prevention of violence against children with disabilities at a national level. In addition regular meetings of CSO networks with line ministries and government officials through SECO mechanism were held.

Turkey

Enhancing the role of civil society in the Provincial Coordination Board through facilitation of common understanding on the role of civil society and monitoring of the incidents of violence against children, was a priority for the project in the final stages. I also looked at

ways to further strengthening the Partnership network through trainings and introduction of operational documents to ensure proper response to violence against children.

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

Submission of the final report

[Links and contact](#)

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

6.1.4 Project information

Regional Reporting on Transitional Justice Issues

IPA 2011/022-964, EUR 0.465 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Grant contract with BIRN Hub, CN 2011/275-110

Duration of activities: 01/11/2011 – 28/12/2013

[Purpose](#)

The following project comes under the third strand mentioned above.

To establish a network of journalists in the Balkans trained to report on transitional justice issues in the region, raising awareness of transitional justice issues and assisting reconciliation processes, improving the state of media in this specific field by allowing local media to republish high-quality journalistic material.

[Activities](#)

The BIRN Hub plays a unique role in the field of transitional justice by providing balanced, impartial, fact-based reporting of war crimes, their causes and consequences. The project has built on the lessons learned from BIRN Bosnia and Herzegovina and its 'TV Justice' and 'Justice Radio' programmes, using this accrued knowledge to extend its experience to other countries.

The project was launched in 2011 as a two-year, multi-language, multimedia programme providing continuous media coverage of transitional justice efforts in six countries of the Balkan region (Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia). A team of six journalists (one from each country) trained and equipped with the necessary skills to provide impartial, in-depth coverage on transitional justice issues, has been constantly reporting on ongoing processes in the region.

The project involved daily updated online news reports, features and in-depth analysis for the Balkan Transitional Justice section on BIRN's flagship publication 'Balkan Insight' plus radio (monthly, regional, 10-minute long programme) and TV production.

TV production included a documentary series and film which follows young people from the six Balkan countries as they travel across the region witnessing the impact of the 1990s conflicts.

To ensure local impact, the content has been translated into Albanian, Bosnian/Croatian/Montenegrin/Serbian and Macedonian.

[Output](#)

The quantifiable outputs of the contract consist of news articles, documentaries and features disseminated through a range of media, including on-line, television and radio. More than 450 news pieces were produced.

Advancement of the state of local media in reporting on war crimes, war crimes proceedings and related aspects of transitional justice.

Links and contact

Link: <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/page/balkan-transitional-justice-home>

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

6.1.5 Project information

Strengthening and supporting the RECOM Process

IPA 2011/022-964, EUR 0.458 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Grant contract with Humanitarian Law Centre, Belgrade (HLCB), CN 2012/292-650

Duration of activities: 27/06/2012 – 26/06/2014

Purpose

The following project comes under the third strand mentioned above.

The project establishes the Regional Committee for Truth and Reconciliation (RECOM). The idea is to move away from a process that is entirely led by civil society to one led by the states themselves. The RECOM coalition has driven the process so far (adoption of the draft statute for the states eventually to adopt, signature campaign, etc.) but it is now up to the national political institutions to review the draft statutes and finally establish the regional Truth Commission.

Activities

- mapping the camps from the 1992-1995 wars in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- first meeting of the envoys to RECOM of the presidents of states in the region on 6 September 2013
- RECOM Regional Expert Group meeting on 27 October 2013
- 1st meeting of RECOM's official Regional Expert Group in Zagreb, 6 September 2013

Activities and events planned for next semester

Ongoing promotion of RECOM through, as an example, sports activities such as 'I run for RECOM': half-marathons (next to the ones already staged in Sarajevo and Podgorica) planned for Belgrade (April 2014), Pristina and Skopje (May 2014).

Publication of collected papers on reconciliation

Outputs

The Coalition for RECOM continues to collect signatures and expand, with the website being accessed by users increasingly.

Registering all the victims of the wars by name.

Links and contact

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

6.1.6 Project information

Enabling the democratic role of public service media in the EU Enlargement region 'Start-up action plan: making a difference 2013-2014'

IPA 2012/022-966, EUR 0.5 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Grant Contract with European Broadcasting Union (EBU),
CN 2013/312-411

Duration of activities: 07/03/2013 – 06/03/2015

Purpose

The following project comes under the third strand mentioned above.

The purpose is to improve public accountability and credibility of public service media in the Western Balkans and Turkey. The EBU works with its members in the region on strategies to improve editorial independence, financial independence and sustainability, assistance in the shift from analogue to digital broadcasting, strategic and legal assistance, training, networking, mentoring and advocacy as methods to address these specific objectives.

Activities

After concluding the national training phase of the Public Service News training Scheme, where more than 90 journalists from all 8 public media organisations in the region participated, a regional “train the trainers” workshop was organised in Zagreb. The "Trained trainers" have started rolling out training operations in their own organizations in the last quarter of 2013, during which more than 50 additional journalists were trained in public service values and news.

A long-term strategy document was developed for RTV (July-Sept 2013, Novi Sad, Serbia). Strategic advice was provided on updating the human resources section of the RTCG (Montenegro, October 2013).

A meeting of the Roma task force with representatives of the Eurovision Regional News Exchange ERNO was organised in September with the aim to enhance the exchange of Roma- and other minorities-related programming (Sarajevo, September 2013).

A Conference in Novi Sad in December 2013 brought together journalists and editors to raise awareness of the importance of programming for, about and with minorities, and to exchange best practices and share examples of success stories.

Activities and events planned for next semester

Public service news training scheme - Continued roll-out by "trained trainers" of national trainings (January-June, all beneficiaries)

Investigative journalism scheme (whole year, all beneficiaries)

Coordination of Roma task force activities (including contribution to the EU Roma Summit, and support to the Roma-themed exchange through ERNO)

Strategic consultancy (development/update of company strategies) in Albania and Serbia (RTS) TBC

Continuous technical and legal advice including the participation of an EBU representative in the EU Media freedom peer review mission to Serbia

Outputs

As a result of the Public service news trainings, the core public service media values (universality, independence, excellence, diversity, accountability, innovation) have been better internalised in the news production process.

The development and implementation of long term-strategies is a prerequisite for a full transformation of former state-run organisations into independent and sustainable entities. Following the meeting of ERNO with the Roma task force representatives, the exchange of programmes on Roma issues picked up and more stories have been already exchanged; some have also been screened in countries beyond the Western Balkans region.

Links and contact

Link: <http://www3.ebu.ch/cms/en/services/member-relations/partnership>

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

6.1.7 Project information

Project 1: South-East European Partnership for Media Development

Project 2: Civil Response to Clientelism in Media – MEDIA CIRCLE

Project 1: IPA 2012/023-324, EUR 0.6 million

Project 2: IPA 2012/023-324, EUR 0.548 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: 2 grants with Fundatiei Central Pentru Jurnalism Independent (CJI) CN 2013/332-771 and Partnership for social development association (PSD) CN 2013/332758

Duration of activities: 29/11/2011 – 29/11/2017

Purpose

The following project comes under the third strand mentioned above.

Project 1: South-East European Partnership for Media Development

The objectives of the project are: to improve the capacity of media organisations to address working and education conditions of journalists; to improve knowledge, skills and attitudes of journalists with respect to advocacy and media literacy; to inform and spark educated public debates on freedom of expression in general, and media freedom in particular; to broaden the stakeholders' and civic support for media sector reform processes; to support the accession process of the five IPA countries in the project (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia).

Project 2: Civil Response to Clientelism in Media – MEDIA CIRCLE

The project purpose is to establish sustainable mechanism for monitoring Media Clientelism and Politicisation Index; to improve national and international policies related to Freedom of Media, Suppression of Political Influence, and protection of the journalists from undue influence, pressure and violence; to increase capacity of media and CSOs in policy monitoring and advocacy in relation to Suppression of Media Politicization and Clientelism; to establish sustainable cross country civil media advocacy and emergency response mechanism.

[Activities planned for next semester](#)

Project 1: Communication activities (preparation of press releases and submission to media channels in all the countries covered by the project; development of the project website); Research on employment conditions of journalists

Project 2: Development of methodology for a Flash Situation Assessment and its implementation; Development of a tool for monitoring Media Clientelism and Politicisation Index

[Links and contact](#)

Contact: Karl Giacinti, Karl.GIACINTI@ec.europa.eu

6.1.8 Project information

Alignment to International Standards in the Media Sector for SEE Countries

IPA 2011/022-965, EUR 0.5 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans and Turkey

Type of contract: Contribution Agreement under joint management with UNESCO, CN 2012/305-617

Duration of activities: 30/11/2012 – 29/11/2015

[Purpose](#)

The following project comes under the third strand mentioned above.

The project 'Media Accountability in South East Europe' aims to support the promotion of freedom of expression, press freedom and freedom of information, through awareness-raising and capacity building as well as to strengthen media accountability and transparency in the Western Balkan and Turkey

[Activities](#)

7 national roundtable seminars organized, one in each target country of the project with more than 300 participants in total. The events focused on the topics of ethical standards in the digital age and how media can best address the issue of online hate speech through non-legal measures.

4 media professionals from the target countries that have a press council (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo) took part in the annual meeting of the Alliance of Independent Press Councils of Europe (AIPCE) in Tel- Aviv on 10 and 11 September 2013.

A regional conference on media accountability organized in Sarajevo on 16, 17 October 2013, gathering around 100 participants from the region.

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

Adaptation of the Legal Toolkit developed by 'Access Info Europe' for each target country of the project, translation and printing of the Toolkit into local languages.

Sponsoring the participation of representatives of press councils in South East Europe to the 2014 AIPCE meeting that will take place in Brussels.

Outputs

All activities conducted during the first year of the project have contributed to the project's overall goal of fostering attention to freedom of expression and the reinforcement of media accountability and transparency in South East Europe and Turkey.

Media self-regulation mechanisms have been created and strengthened through a diverse set of activities.

Currently functioning press councils in the region were supported through national and regional events featuring their role and importance.

Links and contact

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

7 Social development sector

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

7.1 Tempus

7.1.1 Project information

Tempus : Trans-European Mobility Scheme for University Studies

IPA 2011/SI2.596555, EUR 15.3 million

IPA 2012/SI2.615827, EUR 14.9 million

IPA 2013/SI2.645034, EUR 11.7 million

The programme is implemented by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).

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

Purpose

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

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

Activities

The 171 projects selected in the sixth call for proposals (EACEA 35/2012, deadline 26 March 2013) started their activities on 1 December 2013. These included 35 projects targeting the Western Balkans (including 26 Joint Projects and 9 Structural Measures; 22 of them are national projects, 13 multi-country projects; 19 of them are coordinated by WB universities; for the first time, a HEI from Albania is coordinator of one project).

A total of 35 field monitoring activities of 25 on-going Tempus projects in the Western Balkans were carried out by the National Tempus Offices and EACEA staff during this reporting period. It can be concluded from these visits that the projects in the Western Balkans are progressing well and achieving good results.

On 1 and 2 July 2013 the Agency organised in Brussels a coordination meeting of National Contact Points (NCP) in the Member States and National Tempus Offices (NTO) in the

partner countries. During the meeting, the Agency briefed participants on recent developments in the Tempus Programme and presented the current state of play in the preparation of the Erasmus+ programme.

The grant agreements of the current National Tempus Offices in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia have been extended for 12 months until end 2014 in order to avoid disruption and to secure a smooth transition to Erasmus+.

The thematic seminar "Diversification of Funding, Autonomy and Strategic Planning at Universities" was organised within the framework of the service contract signed with the UNICA network for the benefit of the Tempus Higher Education Reform Experts (including WB representatives) on the 23 and 24 September 2013 at the Kyrgyz Turkish University Manas, Kyrgyzstan. This event was attended by 51 participants from 10 countries that reported on the high quality of the event and the interest of the topic for the modernization process in their countries.

The Tempus study nr 17, presenting the conclusions of the regional seminars on human resource management in public higher education in the Tempus partner countries, was published in November 2013. The publication is available in English, French and Russian and provides an overview of the situation in each Tempus region, together with recommendations to be addressed at national or regional level.

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

The Western Balkans Platform on Education and Training (WBET) will tackle the different cooperation opportunities under Erasmus+ for the Western Balkan countries, including the future Capacity Building in Higher Education activity. The conference will take place on the 17 and 18 January 2014 in Athens, Greece.

A meeting of the new project coordinators will be organised on the 10 and 11 February 2014 in Brussels. The purpose of the meeting is to brief new grant holders (projects selected under the 2013 Call) on the contractual requirements and to provide them with networking opportunities. Best practice and advice on how to manage a project will be exchanged. The grant holder meeting will be followed by a two-day coordination meeting of National Tempus Offices and National Contact Points.

A thematic seminar on Quality Assurance will be organised for the benefit of the Tempus Higher Education Reform Experts (including those from the WB) at the University of Zagreb, Croatia, on the 12 and 13 June 2014.

[Links and contact](#)

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

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

7.2 Erasmus Mundus

7.2.1 Project information

Erasmus Mundus

IPA 2011/022-964, EUR 20.0 million :

Action 1 EUR 8.0 million and Action 2 EUR 12.0 million

IPA 2012/022-966, EUR 20.0 million :

Action 1 EUR 8.0 million and Action 2 EUR 12.0 million

IPA 2013/024-091, EUR 20.0 million :

Action 1 EUR 8.0 million and Action 2 EUR 12.0 million

Beneficiary region: Erasmus Mundus Action 1: Western Balkans and Turkey
Erasmus Mundus Action 2: Western Balkans

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

Purpose

The Erasmus Mundus programme enables the exchange of academic staff and students at all levels, thereby enhancing their knowledge and skills. Beneficiary Institutions are higher education institutions and, with associate status, associations / organisations / networks of higher education institutions, rector / teacher or student organisations, ministries and government organisations and other organisations dedicated to higher education.

Activities

Erasmus Mundus Action 1:

Following the 2013 Erasmus Mundus Action 1 scholarships and fellowships selection (March/April 2013) and grant award decision (early May 2013) the grant agreements to the respective EMMC&EMJD consortia were issued in June/July 2013. The 2013 scholarships'/fellowships' grant award distributed the credits attributed through IPA 2012/022-966.

The preparations for 2014 EMMC scholarships' and EMJD fellowships' selection were launched in September 2013 bearing in mind the transition from Erasmus Mundus II to Erasmus + programme.

Following a decision of EAC regarding 2014 scholarships distribution as transition period from EMII to E+1 and a common agreement between EAC and ELARG, the distribution of the credits available through IPA 2013 would be done by opening a specific window in Category A for Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia) and in Category B a window for Turkey and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for EM Master courses. Should the final student scholarship demand for windows in both Category A and Category B scholarship allow, the remainder of the budget would be further distributed among those Joint Doctorates (EMJDs) where there are eligible candidates on the reserve lists. The deadline to submit the grant applications is 28th February 2014, the grant awarding decision is due to be taken late April/early May and subsequent contractualisation would be due in May - July 2014.

Erasmus Mundus Action 2:

The selection of the Call for Proposals EACEA/38/12 was finalised in July 2013. Three partnerships were selected for the Western Balkans Lot with a total budget of around EUR 12 million, which together would manage mobility for at least 720 individuals (587 non-EU and 133 EU mobilities planned).

Erasmus Mundus Programme, Action 2 Strand 1, Lot 7 - Western Balkans

Selected partnerships (Call EACEA 38/12)

#	Country	Applicant organisation	Partnership name	Max.EU grant €	% Co-fund.
1	AT	Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz	JOIN-EU-SEE V	€ 3.999.875	0,00%
2	BE	Universiteit Gent	BASILEUS V	€ 4.000.000	0,00%
3	NL	Erasmus University Medical Center Rotterdam	ERAWEB II	€ 3.999.550	0,00%

Mobility of Western Balkan nationalities planned by the three partnerships selected in 2013

Nationality	Non-EU mobility planned					TOTAL Non-EU mobility
	Undergraduates	Masters	Doctorates	Post-doctorates	Staff	
Albania	19	22	14	5	9	69
Bosnia and Herzegovina	25	31	18	10	15	99
	27	35	21	7	14	104
Kosovo	17	22	13	3	8	63
Montenegro	21	26	14	5	9	75
Serbia	49	63	34	11	20	177
Total	158	199	114	41	75	587

The coordinators and joint coordinators of the three selected partnerships attended the Erasmus Mundus coordinators' Conference held on 1-2 October 2013 during which a special regional workshop was organised for projects working in the Western Balkan countries to exchange experience and good practices. Representatives of DG ELARG and an Erasmus Mundus Action 2 student from Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia contributed to the workshop. As a result from the workshop, EACEA and DG ELARG have agreed to provide the selected partnerships with a factsheet on the different categories of vulnerable groups in the Western Balkan countries, including a list of organisations to help identifying these groups more easily.

In September 2013, the partnerships selected in 2012 submitted the first progress report focusing on the selection of students under the 1st Cohort (the latest deadline for starting mobility under this cohort is 31 December 2013). These partnerships can organise students' selection under two more cohorts until the end of eligibility period (mid-July 2016) in order to reach the initially planned mobility numbers.

The table below gives an overview by country and type of the mobility implemented by projects selected in 2012 by September 2013:

Nationality	Undergraduates	Masters	Doctorates	Post-Doctorates	Staff	Total
Albania	12	23	7	2	13	57
Bosnia and Herzegovina	28	44	12	5	17	106
Kosovo	20	30	9	2	9	70
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	21	21	8	6	16	72
Montenegro	34	21	2	2	6	65
Serbia	93	71	37	15	24	240
Total Non-EU mobility	208	210	75	32	85	610
EU mobility	60	66	28	10	35	199
Grand Total	268	276	103	42	120	809

A Feedback and Employability workshop organised by the EM2-STEM project (selected in 2010 and coordinated by the City University of London) took place in Novi Sad (Serbia) in October 2013.

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

A last Call for proposals for Erasmus Mundus Action 2 was published in November 2013 with a deadline for submission of applications **3 March 2014**. The selection decision is expected to be taken in June 2014. Western Balkans countries (Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia) are covered by the call with 4 partnerships to be selected for a total budget of EUR 12 million and at least 520 mobilities to be implemented. In February 2014 the partnerships selected in 2012 will submit the second progress report and the partnerships selected in 2011 will submit the third progress report.

Links and contact

Links: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus,

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

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

7.3 Youth in action

7.3.1 Project information

Youth in Action

IPA 2011/022-964, EUR 1.5 million

IPA 2012/022-966, EUR 3.0 million

IPA 2013/024-091, EUR 3.0 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans and Turkey

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

Purpose

This promotes the sector of non-formal education and youth in the region by supporting exchanges of young people and those active in youth work and youth organisations, as well as initiatives that reinforce young people's mutual understanding, sense of solidarity and tolerance.

Activities

The 2013 Youth in Action Programme guide, which has the status of a permanent call for proposals, was published in December 2012 with implementation as of 1st January 2013.

In the period under review a total of 646 grant applications were processed by EACEA, with respect to round 2 and 3 of the annual call.

A total of 171 projects were selected for funding, representing a funding rate of 26.5% in relation to the number of applications received. Projects fell under 3 particular headings/actions: *(The point about the numbering of actions needs to be seen in the context that the Western Balkan window was only applied to the 3 actions listed -out of a much longer list of Programme actions.)*

Action 2 European Voluntary Service

The European Voluntary Service: enables young people to carry out voluntary service for up to 12 months in a country other than their country of residence. It fosters solidarity among young people and should be a true 'learning service'. Beyond benefiting local communities, volunteers learn new skills and languages, and discover other cultures.

Action 3.1 Training and Networking

Training and Networking projects can be of two types:

- a project promoting exchanges, cooperation and training in the field of youth work. Developed with a view to implementing an activity which supports capacity-building and innovation among promoters, as well as the exchange of experience, expertise and good practice among those who are involved in youth work
- a project leading to the development of further projects under the Youth in Action Programme, notably by ensuring support and know-how for the development of the projects; support for partner-finding; tools and means to improve the quality of the projects.

Action 3.1 Youth Exchange

A Youth Exchange with Neighbouring Partner Countries is a project which brings together groups of young people from two or more countries, providing them with an opportunity to discuss and confront various themes, while learning about each other's countries and cultures. Full details of all selected projects may be found in compendia published by the EACEA Youth Unit on its web-site.

Activities and events planned for next semester

The programming period for the Youth in Action Programme ended on 31/12/2013 and consequently, no activities will take place in the next semester.

Outputs

- **6 action 2 European Voluntary Service funded projects**

Based upon three essential components: **The Service**: the volunteer is hosted by a promoter in a country other than her/his country of residence and carries out voluntary service for the

benefit of the local community. The service is unpaid, non profit-making and full-time. **A Training and Evaluation Cycle:** each volunteer participates in, pre-departure training, on-arrival training, mid-term evaluation (for a Service lasting more than 4 months), and evaluation of the Activity. **On-going volunteer support:** the project partners must provide personal, task-related, linguistic and administrative support to each volunteer involved in the Activity.

- **117 action 3.1 Training and Networking funded projects**

Primarily training courses based upon learning programmes on specific topics, aiming to improve participants' competences, knowledge, skills and attitudes.

- **48 action 3.1 Youth Exchange funded projects**

Based upon 3 distinct stages: planning and preparation, implementation of the Activity, and evaluation (including reflection on a possible follow-up).

[Links and contact](#)

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

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

7.4 Cultural heritage – Ljubljana process, history

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

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

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

Actions managed centrally with funds from the IPA and the EU budget (“PHARE”) as follows:

7.4.1 Project information

RCC "Regional Task Force for Culture and Society" (TFCS)

IPA 2010/022-057, EUR 1.1 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Grant contract with RCC, responsible for Task Force for Culture and Society (TFCS), CN 2011/261-565

Duration of activities: 01/01/2011 – 30/04/2014

Purpose

This project contributes to the strengthening of regional capacities for rehabilitation of cultural heritage in the Western Balkans and promotion of regional cooperation in the sphere of culture by creating a platform for dialogue of relevant stakeholders. It enables the setting up of a regionally-owned transitional management mechanism to ensure the smooth continuation of the “Ljubljana Process” and its cultural heritage rehabilitation approach; awareness-raising and promotion of the role and values of cultural heritage in social and

economic development processes, development of partnerships; monitoring of progress of the implementation of the “Ljubljana Process II”, as well as enhancement of professional competencies.

These activities rely upon the expertise and transfer of know-how from the Council of Europe (see 7.4.4 below)

Activities

Two RCC TFCS and Project Coordinators meetings to sustain cooperation between stakeholders on a regional level; Management of workflow and implementation of activities by National Task Forces (production and updating of documentation for monuments/sites, educational events, coordination); Promotion of Ljubljana Process and values of cultural heritage rehabilitation for society at four regional events (conferences, forums and roundtables); Set up and inauguration of the Regional Expert Pool; Coordination of input for Cultural and Creative Sectors Dimension of the SEE 2020 Strategy; Coordination of the EUR 0.5 million EU grant for Sustaining the Rehabilitation of Cultural Heritage in the Western Balkans (see 7.4.5 below); Production of a short video from the 6th joint meeting of the TFCS; Procurement for production of film and photo material as a visibility action for the Ljubljana Process and the TFCS.

Activities and events planned for next semester

Two meetings of the 16 TFCS members and 9 Project Coordinators; Bilateral consultations of the RCC and EC with Ministers of culture in the Western Balkans; Continued implementation of activities by NTFs and its regional coordination; production and distribution of promotional video and photo material for Ljubljana Process monuments and sites and the TFCS; Production of promotional material (publication/brochure) on the Ljubljana Process; Collaboration between the CoE Expert Pool and the established Regional Expert Pool; Greater involvement of the Regional Expert Pool in regional activities (workshops and monitoring).

Outputs

Enhancement and facilitation of regional cooperation and information exchange through the Meetings of TFCS members and Ljubljana Process II Project Coordinators, further ensuring shared regional responsibilities in cultural heritage management; Improvement of professional competencies and institutional capacities for cultural heritage rehabilitation, as well as facilitating networking and circulation of expertise in the region by greater involvement of the Regional Expert Pool; Increased visibility of the cultural heritage principles promoted through Ljubljana Process, contributing to raising public awareness about values of cultural heritage for society; Enhancement of the management tools and standards for cultural heritage rehabilitation.

Links and contact

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

7.4.2 Project information

Support to the Ljubljana Process II – Rehabilitating our Common Heritage

IPA 2010/22-057, EUR 0.4 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Grant contract to the Council of Europe (CoE), CN 2011/264-707

Duration of activities: 18/05/2011 – 17/05/2014 - [extension until 18/07/2014]

Purpose

Assistance to the RCC-TFCS and National Task Forces in their management of the Ljubljana Process (see above). To focus on consolidation of the political and professional conditions which should sustain future heritage-led projects to be pursued by national authorities according to the methodology of the Ljubljana process and to assess the impact of the ongoing process.

Activities

Final check of the Heritage Assessment Reports which underlined the strengths and weaknesses of the institutional and professional project management mechanisms. Validated by national Steering Committees;

National action plan validated by national authorities; The monitoring of the implementation of the national action plan overseen by the newly established “monitoring assessment report experts group”; the experts meeting clarified rules and methodology; Six workshops enabled national inter-ministerial experts’ group to start activities;

Workshops in four countries initiated the Fundraising and Business Planning strategy. Experts from the National Task Forces have been trained in the methodology to be applied to the case study sites previously selected;

Final assessment reports on the impact of the Ljubljana Process in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia have been presented by the London School of Economics.

Activities and events planned for next semester

Development and finalisation of monitoring process (monitoring: workshops, expert mission) will facilitate future rehabilitation projects (and sustain the Ljubljana Project in the future);

Workshops in three countries will initiate the Fundraising and Business Planning strategy;

Development and finalisation of the case studies (trainings, workshops, expert missions);

Internal and external evaluation;

Publication of reference book “Heritage for development in SEE: new visions and perceptions of heritage through the Ljubljana Process”;

Outputs

Facts and information about projects and practices have been collected, enriching the database of results and impacts of the Ljubljana Process in the beneficiary countries;

Assistance and case studies will focus on projects which can assist future political decisions about the potential continuation of the process after the end of the project.

Links and contact

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

7.4.3 Project information

Strengthening the Southeast European Joint History Project as a tool for reconciliation in Southeast Europe

IPA 2010/022-507, EUR 0.98 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Grant contract to Centre for Democracy and Reconciliation in South East Europe (CDRSEE), CN 2011/260-676

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

Purpose

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

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

This project strengthens the operational capacity and capabilities of the General/State Prosecutors' Offices in the Beneficiaries to prosecute and investigate cross-border organised crime and linked cases of economic and financial crime and corruption. It promotes the institutionalisation of the Western Balkan Prosecutors' Network and increases cooperation with international and European judicial networks and agencies.

Activities

13-15 December, 2013, JHP Regional Conference in Thessaloniki: Workshop 'Improving vertical and horizontal alignment of education', moderation Dr. Erhard Busek, Former Vice Chancellor of Austria and Chair of the CDRSEE Board of Directors.

Ongoing procedure of certification of teacher training in Albania, Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina. In all other countries, the workshops are officially certified.

Activities and events planned for next semester

14 February, 2014 - Evaluation Workshop with school directors, inspectors, and Ministry of Education in Podgorica

February, 2014 - Evaluation Workshop with teachers, school directors, and Pedagogical Institute in Skopje

February – April, 2014 - Evaluation Workshop with school directors, inspectors and Ministry of Education in Belgrade, Tirana, Pristina, Sarajevo and Zagreb.

Outputs

Further induction of the Alternative History Education Materials in schools in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia in cooperation with the Ministries of Education and informal introduction in the rest of the Western Balkans

History teachers trained to use participative teaching methods and multi-perspective history sources in the Western Balkans

Strong teacher associations capable of advocacy work and adequate representation of teachers in the national strategies

A strong regional network of actors promoting reconciliation via history teaching in Southeast Europe.

[Links and contact](#)

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

7.4.4 Project information

Preparatory Actions for preserving and restoring cultural heritage in conflict areas in the Western Balkans for the year 2010

PHARE 2010/022-659, EUR 2.25 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: 8 Grant contracts

Duration of activities: Between 18 and 36 months

[Purpose](#)

Under the Call for Proposal EuropeAid/131266/C/ACT/Multi entitled “Preserving and restoring cultural heritage in the Western Balkans” (€ 2.25 million), 8 contracts were awarded. This call formed part of the Preparatory Actions for preserving and restoring cultural heritage in conflict areas in the Western Balkans supported through a special budget line from the European Parliament. It aims to contribute to the preservation and restoration of valuable cultural and/or religious objects damaged or destroyed by war or other political conflicts in the Western Balkans. The actions raise awareness of cultural diversity in the Western Balkans, build confidence and support local development of restoration skills:

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

[Activities](#)

Continued implementation and monitoring of the actions. All contracts started in November 2011, two out of the 8 contracts came to an end in October/November 2013.

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

Assessment of final reports; continued implementation of the workplan presented in the interim reports and stakeholder workshops.

[Outputs](#)

Final reports

[Links and contact](#)

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

7.4.5 Project information

Preparatory Actions for preserving and restoring cultural heritage in conflict areas in the Western Balkans for the year 2011,

PHARE 2011/023-372, EUR 0.50 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Grant contract to RCC (for TFCS), CN 2012/295-647

Duration of activities: 28/08/2012 – 27/04/2014

Purpose

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

Activities

- Fourteen sub-grants in 6 countries for 10 monuments/sites have been awarded for Activity 1 - Urgent intervention or consolidation works to avoid irreversible deterioration; Activity 2 - Preliminary investigations to assess and identify the most valuable options for the rehabilitation; Activity 4 - Preparation of site management plans with relevant training
- 11 sub-grant activities completed;
- application procedures, implementation, follow-up, training, reporting and visibility activities for each of them;
- 3 are in process of implementation or reporting.
- Procurement for Activity 3 - Project design for Tendering and Building Permits, for six monuments/sites in four countries
- contracting and starting of implementation.

Activities and events planned for next semester

One workshop for each of the four Activities for the National Project Leaders and members of Regional Expert Pool to summarize their outcomes;

- Production on learning packages involving the Regional Expert Pool of Ljubljana Process II;
- Monitoring and evaluation missions for selected project conducted by members of the Regional Expert Pool;
- On-site installation of 6 plaques for Activity 1 to promote successful implementation of activities;
- Procurement for Activity 4, for preparation of Management Plans for 7 monuments/sites in 7 countries;
- Preparation and dissemination of promotional brochures/studies and publication on the website;
- Coordination and monitoring of activities through the TFCS members and Ljubljana Process Project Coordinators meetings.

Outputs

- Strengthening of regional professional and institutional capacities and exchange of expertise in the field of cultural heritage rehabilitation and EU projects management through the trainings, learning packages and promotional material and events;

- Boost of the successful implementation of Ljubljana Process II-Rehabilitating Our Common Heritage methodology and actions by assisting beneficiaries at specific points of project development and with small incentives;
- Strengthening of the role of the RCC TFCS and its Secretariat as a regional mechanism to coordinate and guide complex actions that involve multiple stakeholders on local, national, regional and international level;
- Contribution to rehabilitation projects of 20 monuments/sites in 7 countries through the provision of small incentives at key points.

Links and contact

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

7.4.6 Project information

Preparatory Actions for preserving and restoring cultural heritage in conflict areas in the Western Balkans for the year 2012

PHARE 2012/023-867, EUR 3.0 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

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

Duration of activities: up to 24 months

Purpose

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

The task force for implementation of the Ljubljana Process (TFCS, Task Force for Culture and Society) and experts mobilised by the Council of Europe identified one to two projects per Beneficiary belonging to the Ljubljana Process list that still lacked funding (14 projects out of 20).

On the basis of the short-list of projects and the experts' opinion, the Commission selected following three projects:

- 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

The implementation of the projects will be carried out by the respective EU Delegation through works contracts with the contracting end date of 8 November 2015. The evaluation component (EUR 0,2 million) remains with DG ELARG D3 and will be implemented through a Service Framework contract foreseen in 2016.

Activities

After the identification of the 3 projects, the Financing Agreements were prepared in co-operation with the respective EU Delegations – all of them were signed before the end of the year 2013.

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

The Beneficiaries of the selected projects will prepare preliminary designs for the projects (if not yet available), so that the tenders for the complete design and works can be launched.

[Outputs](#)

Rehabilitation of 3 cultural heritage sites in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania

[Links and contact](#)

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

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

8 Other

8.1 Preparatory measures for the participation in EU agencies

8.1.1 Project information

Preparatory measures for the participation of candidates and potential candidates in EU Agencies

IPA 2011/022-964, EUR 8.0 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans and Turkey

Beneficiary institutions Counterpart government institutions of an EU Agency

Type of contract: Grants (13 contribution agreements) with EU Agencies

List of Agencies, duration of activities and total amounts

CRIS	Agency	Duration	Amount
270-378	European Food Safety Authority	16/09/2011 - 16/09/2013	EUR 1.0 million
272-515	European Maritime Safety Agency	26/10/2011- 26/04/2014	EUR 0.3 million
273-995	European Agency for Safety and Health at Work	24/10/2011 – 30/11/2014	EUR 0.9 million
274-042	European Railway Agency	09/11/2011 – 30/11/2013	EUR 0.3 million
274-058	European Medicines Agency	20/10/2011 – 15/09/2013	EUR 0.9 million
276-973	Community Plant Variety Office	31/10/2011 – 30/04/2014	EUR 0.4 million
277-045	European Environment Agency	13/12/2011 – 30/11/2013	EUR 1.0 million
279-326	European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions,	01/01/2012 - 31/12/2013	EUR 0.7 million
279-348	European Aviation Safety Agency	01/01/2012 – 31/12/2013	EUR 0.7 million
280-057	European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction	01/01/2012 – 30/11/2014	EUR 0.9 million
282-291	European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control	01/01/2012-30/06/2014	EUR 0.4 million
291-934	European Chemicals Agency	01/04/2012-30/9/2012	EUR 0.3 million
304-223	European Institute for Gender Equality	01/01/2013-31/12/2013	EUR 0.1 million

Purpose

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

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

Activities

Each Agency carried out preparatory measures such as training activities, study visits, workshops and conferences. Activities also cover the preparation and translation of documents and the implementation of surveys. Given the large number of contracts, a 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.

European Environment Agency (EEA)

From 27 to 29 August, EEA organised an EEA Summer School in Vienna for participants from the Western Balkan countries on the theory, practice and approaches in 'Integrated Environmental Assessments' providing to the input to the state of environment report. The key questions addressed in this training were

- Why support decision-making with integrated environmental assessments?
- How to understand complex environmental systems?
- How to assess state and trends (i.e. monitoring, data, indicators, etc.)?
- How to reflect on future prospects (i.e. forward-looking approaches, scenario analysis, etc.)?
- Participants' feedback at the end of the summer school programme was overall very positive.

Security implications of future water use in Western Balkans:

Additionally, EEA published through its European Topic Centre for Water a report on the "Security implications of future water use in Western Balkans: Challenge of hydropower development". The European Environment Agency (EEA) is analysing environmental data and developing forward looking studies in this context. EEA is also developing and testing methodology for scenarios on water use with focus on hydropower development in the Western Balkans.

European Agency for Gender Equality (EIGE)

On 11 September 2013, Mr Egemen BAĞIŞ, Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator of the Republic of Turkey visited EIGE to learn about the Institute's work and the situation of women and men in the European Union. EIGE also presented its work on gender-based violence, gender stereotypes and data collection – including the Gender Equality Index. Among the topics discussed was the situation in Turkey in relation to gender equality. The Minister stated that "EU standards for gender equality are very important".

EIGE organised a 2nd meeting with officials from enlargement countries in Istanbul in November 2013) to continue to foster cooperation and information exchange with EIGE.

In addition EIGE organised an international workshop on the implementation of EU criteria on gender equality (27-28 November 2013) in Podgorica whose main objective it was to spread the knowledge of European gender equality policies and strategies to a wider audience in candidate countries and potential candidates.

European Aviation Security Agency (EASA)

During the second half of 2013 the EASA IPA II project organised a flight standards working session for representatives of the Western Balkan National Aviation Authorities. The working

session, which was held on 2 and 3 July at EASA in Cologne, introduced the new Air Operations Regulation, the regulation on air crew including flight crew licensing rules.

These regulations, among others, lay down detailed rules for commercial air transport operations, pilot licenses and medical certificates for air crew. They are thus a centre piece of EU aviation legislation applicable in all EU Member States and the Western Balkans through the European Common Aviation Area Agreement. The working session was thus a welcome opportunity for participants to clarify details on forthcoming changes, applicability of new rules and related transition periods.

The EASA provided an update on best practise on the Safety Management Systems (SMS) from an aviation industry and authority perspective.

Following the workshop new members of the Western Balkan national aviation administrations participated in an EASA familiarisation session, introducing them to the overall purpose and responsibility of EASA and the European aviation safety system as a whole.

European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)

ECHA launched in summer 2013 a dedicated internet page on the reporting obligations linked to Croatia's accession (<http://www.echa.europa.eu/croatia>). The main goal of the dedicated page is to assist Croatian authorities and Croatian industry in aligning to the EU chemicals *acquis*, in the light of the accession to the European Union. The page has been receiving a relatively high and stable number of visits.

In July and October fact finding missions to Montenegro and Bosnia-Herzegovina took place. The objectives of the missions were to get acquainted with the institutional and regulatory framework of chemicals management and further to identify the specific needs of the countries in relation to the EU chemical legislation (REACH, CLP, Biocidal Products and PIC Regulation). Last but not least ECHA delivered introductory training to the Montenegrin and Bosnian-Herzegovinian participants on the new EU chemicals legislation.

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

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

[Contact](#)

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

8.2 Regional strategy for Research and Development

8.2.1 Project information

Regional Strategy for Research and Development (R & D) for Innovation for the Western Balkans

IPA2010/022-028, EUR 1.5 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans and Turkey

Beneficiary institutions Government institutions dealing with Research and Innovation, Research Institutes, Universities, Intermediaries, Business Associations and other relevant stakeholders

Type of contract: Administration Agreement with the World Bank Group, CN 2011/263-314

Duration of activities: 30/09/2011 – 30/11/2013

Purpose

Building on the existing collaboration in the area of R&D and innovation between the EU and the Western Balkan countries, the World Bank and the EU signed an agreement to implement a technical assistance programme for the development of a Regional Research and Development Strategy for Innovation in the Western Balkans.

The two-year project will develop a strategy that will foster cooperation at regional level by interconnecting research institutes, pooling resources, training scientists and transferring knowledge across the region to increase its competitiveness. The Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) has facilitated and supported its development in close cooperation with national authorities from the Western Balkans and international partners, as one of the priority activities of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013.

The strategy will identify priorities in terms of legal requirements, infrastructure, education and training, policies and programs to be implemented by the beneficiary entities. The value-added of the proposed technical assistance is twofold. First, the focus would be on how to increase the economic impact of research and development (R&D) in the Western Balkans. Second, the technical assistance would have a comprehensive approach integrating the three axes of the knowledge triangle, namely education, research and innovation.

Activities

On October 25, 2013, the ministers responsible for science and education in seven Western Balkans countries - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia - met in Zagreb, Croatia to sign a declaration endorsing the Western Balkans Regional R&D Strategy for Innovation. This is the first time that countries from the region have developed a common view on how to jointly address the challenges of the research and innovation sector.

The Strategy, accompanied by the Action Plan, serves as a framework for a collective effort to recommend policy and institutional reforms, and promote the Western Balkans' most urgent priority of increasing innovation, economic growth and prosperity. It includes a set of policy and institutional reforms that the beneficiary countries believe will increase the impact of investments in research and innovation in the region. At its core, the document proposes to invest more and better in the research and innovation sector thereby helping to promote knowledge-based economies that will generate higher-value-added jobs and stronger growth.

Countries intend to mobilize additional resources from public and private sources, the EU and other stakeholders to reach an average of 1.5% of GDP on Gross R&D expenditures at the regional level by 2020.

The Action Plan describes the joint investments to be undertaken by the beneficiary countries. It proposes the creation of the Western Balkans Innovation Strategy Exercise (WISE) facility - a non-profit organization that will support systematic capacity building, learning and policy improvement in the region. The facility is also expected to design and supervise the implementation of four proposed programs: a research excellence fund program; the networks of excellence program; the technology transfer program; and the early-stage start-up program – all to be implemented at the supra-national level. All the initiatives are accompanied by concept notes describing the governance structure of the programs, proposed operational procedures, eligibility criteria; as well as of expected outcomes, outputs and costs.

In addition to the declaration, countries agreed with the offer of Croatia to host the WISE facility, including covering for administrative and infrastructure costs for up to two years, having Serbia as the 1st chair of the WISE. During the mission, the University of Zagreb and the municipality of Split formally expressed their interest in hosting the facility through letters of intent. The government of Croatia has subsequently decided in favor of the city of Split (and the renovated Diocletian's Palace).

Countries agreed to meet biannually to monitor the implementation of the reforms and suggested programs.

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

Under the request of the Western Balkan countries, the European Commission, and other possible bilateral donors, the World Bank has been asked to seek for ways to continue its direct involvement during the implementation stage -- including considering the preparation of a multi-donor trust fund to manage bilateral donations and support the implementation of the proposed programs and intended reforms. The team as agreed to consult Bank management in this respect in light of the possibility of developing a multi-year technical assistance program for the countries in the region. This program would build on the EUR 2.4 million technical assistance activities (on venture capital and investment readiness) to be implemented under the Enterprise Development and Innovation Facility (EDIF) -- currently in the final stages of negotiations.

Forthcoming activities: (1) Next meeting of the WISE -- Steering Committee: February/March 2014 in Pristina, Kosovo, (2) Launching of the WISE facility in Split, Croatia: April 2014.

[Links and contact](#)

Link: <http://www.rcc.int/articles/0/114/western-balkans-challenged-to-unleash-its-innovative-potential> and <http://www.worldbank.org/en/events/2013/10/24/balkans-innovation-event>

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

8.3 Support to parliamentary cooperation

8.3.1 Project information

Study on parliamentary cooperation

IPA 2012/022-966, EUR 0.108 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Specific Contract under Framework Contract to COWI AS, CN 2013/330-681

Duration of activities: 2/12/2013 – 28/09/2014

[Purpose](#)

The global objective is to analyse the most efficient and effective manner to promote parliamentary cooperation in the Western Balkans.

It will include preparation of a study mapping the current situation regarding parliamentary cooperation, and a proposal for how to streamline the regional institutions as a pre-condition for further support to parliamentary cooperation. The study should also make a

recommendation for the most efficient way to support parliamentary cooperation in a sustainable manner.

Activities

The project started with a kick-off meeting in December 2013.

Activities and events planned for next semester

A comprehensive analysis of the existing initiatives and frameworks for regional cooperation on parliamentary cooperation in the Western Balkans including options for how eventually to streamline them into a more sustainable and effective institutional framework

Links and contact

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

8.4 Support to the Regional Cooperation Council

8.4.1 Project information

Strengthening of the RCC Secretariat

IPA 2010/022-507, EUR 0.8 million

Beneficiary Institution: Grant contract to Central European Initiative (CEI), CN 2011/278-252

Duration of activities: 30/11/2011 – 31/03/2014

Purpose

This project strengthens the operational capacity and capabilities of the RCC Secretariat. It assists it to plan and organise its activities and feed its general strategic and sector priorities, as well as the follow up of some regional initiatives, SEE 2020 Strategy in particular.

Activities

Dissemination and communication, in particular through the promotion of the documentary “How do I see my neighbour” and the preparation of the Closing Conference

Permanent briefing and support to sector experts for the bottom-up consultations of stakeholders through national meetings (SM) and final regional Sector Stakeholders Conference (SSC) in four sectors relevant for RCC’s Strategy and Work Plan 2014–2016

Workshop on Regional Strategies with macro-regions, regional organizations & ETC programmes staff (Sarajevo, September)

SSC - Cultural Heritage and Tourism (Jahorina, July)

SMs for Advanced Biofuels, Creative Industry and Ombudsmen; delivery of Session 2 of the TAIEX Seminar for Ombudsmen (Danilovgrad, September)

Documentary presentation to SEE Media Forum (Sarajevo, October)

Steering Committee 6, held on 2 December in Brussels

Activities and events planned for next semester

Workshop on Monitoring Models (February 2014)

SSCs for Advanced Biofuels, Creative Industry and Ombudsmen (January/February 2014)

Steering Committee 7 (March 2014)

Project's Closing Conference and SEE economic journalists' workshop on SEE 2020 strategy (Sarajevo, March 2014)

Outputs

Opinions on the coordination of macro-regional strategies and ETC OPs shared and finalized; relations of RCC with other regional organizations improved.

RCC self-assessment of needs for dealing with its monitoring tasks improved.

Innovative approaches and projects feeding SEE 2020 Strategy fine-tuning and implementation were promoted at SM & SSC level. Awareness of ministerial officers and private actors on PPP added value reinforced. Knowledge & consensus on RCC role increased.

Awareness of the intercultural potential of the region increased among media stakeholders.

Links and contact

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

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

8.4.2 Project information

Support to the Operating Expenditures of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)

IPA 2010/022-507, EUR 2.4 million, amended with IPA 2013/024-091, EUR 0.175 million

Beneficiary Institution: RCC

Type of contract: Grant contract, CN 2010/256-605 amended with CN 2013/320-154

Duration of activities: 01/01/2011 – 31/12/2013

Purpose

The purpose of this project is to provide support to the operational budget of the Secretariat of the Regional Cooperation Council.

Activities

The main activity of the project was to assist the RCC in implementing its strategic work programme (SWP) for 2011-2013. The programme defines the permanent “horizontal” activities of the RCC, covers all agreed priority areas and offers an analysis of its regional dimension and importance. The first year of the implementation of the SWP has been assessed as generally positive. A major success was achieved in November 2012 with the Ministerial declaration in Tirana that the SEE 2020 strategy provided specific targets for the region on integrated, smart, sustainable and inclusive growth within a governance framework.

The new RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2014-16 was adopted by the RCC Board in April and endorsed by the SEECF Ministerial in June 2013. The new Strategy strongly focuses on the SEE 2020 agenda for growth and jobs. The document was developed on the basis of Europe 2020 flagship initiatives and amended to suit the needs and specific conditions of the region. Following the internal consultations in each of the Western Balkans Participants and the adoption of the SEE 2020 Strategy in the government procedure, the Strategy was endorsed at the SEE Investment Committee Ministerial held in Sarajevo on 21 November 2013.

- first meetings dedicated to the preparation of the SEE 2020 National Action Plans (as envisioned by SEE 2020) took place in December 2013 in Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

- RCC Board Meeting - October 2013; Board recommendation for RCC to coordinate closer the preparation and implementation of the SEE 2020 with the MFAs from the region.

Activities and events planned for next semester

New 1-year agreement signed in December 2013, effective from 1 January 2014, with the objective of financial assistance to the functioning of the RCC Secretariat and contribution to the activities of the RCC in 2014, as foreseen in its 2014 - 2016 Strategy and Work Programme, in particular implementing the SEE 2020 strategy.

Outputs

Kosovo became a full participant in the RCC in February 2013 and became a member of the RCC Board since it paid its budget contribution.

Adoption of the SEE 2020 strategy at the Ministerial in Tirana in November 2013.

Adoption of the RCC program and budget for the year 2014.

Links and contact

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

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

8.5 Cross-border cooperation

8.5.1 Project information

Cross-border Institution Building (CBIB+)

IPA 2011/022-964, EUR 2.4 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Service contract with GIZ International Services (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH, CN2 012/ 309-846)

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

Purpose

This project focuses on regional coordination and harmonisation as well as on exchange and transfer of good practice in the implementation of the IPA component II 'Cross-border cooperation'. The goal is to generate and share knowledge among stakeholders contributing to the improvement of procedures and tools to achieve a high level of quality in cross-border programme implementation by spreading good governance approaches.

Activities

- recruitment and successful mobilisation of 19 non-key experts for technical input under different project's components
- coordination and technical assistance to all the Operating Structures (OS) involved in the IPA II CBC programming 2014-2020 exercise

- provision of support to the Joint Task Forces (JTF) in charge of the preparation of 8 IPA II CBC programme documents (2014-2020) at intra-Western Balkans borders, including logistic support for their meetings as well as for several public consultations;
- design and set-up of a database of best practice examples;
- information and publicity: launch of the project website www.cbibplus.eu, opening of social media accounts (Facebook page), printing and distribution of the project visibility items, including a project newsletter and flash-news
- organisation of the first meeting of the CBC Regional Consultative Forum mainly devoted to the programming exercise of IPA II and the implementation of IPA I CBC and six training events on programme strategy development and formulation and one on reporting procedures for CBC grant contracts

Activities and events planned for next semester

- organisation of the second meeting of the CBC Regional Consultative Forum as well as the meetings of its technical working groups
- technical input for the delivery of the final 8 IPA II CBC programming documents (2014-2020), including further assistance to the JTFs and the OSs
- at least three trainings on different subjects upon Beneficiaries' request and a study visit or a staff exchange with Joint Technical Secretariats (JTS) within the EU
- Launch of the pilot scheme for linking local initiatives between Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo

Outputs

- A handbook on the IPA II CBC programming exercise created the conditions for a well-structured and harmonised approach in the preparation of 8 programming documents
- the mobilisation of 8 teams of programming experts and five national contact points made possible the timely and professional preparation of the IPA II CBC programming documents, according to good governance principles;
- the implementation of the pilot grant scheme between countries which have not had prior CBC experience between them will favour peace and stability in the region

Links and contact

Link: www.cbibplus.eu

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

8.6 Monitoring

8.6.1 Project information

Results-Oriented Monitoring (ROM) in the Western Balkans and Turkey

IPA 2012/23-718, EUR 3.48 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans and Turkey

Type of contract: Service contract to Particip GmbH, CN 2012/304-644

Duration of activities: 01/12/2012 – 30/11/2014

Purpose

The contract provides an external independent Results-Oriented Monitoring (ROM) service for the national IPA programmes in the Western Balkans and for the multi-beneficiary programmes. A mix of on-going and ex post ROM assessments is made in accordance with the methodology prescribed in the ROM Handbook maintained by DG DEVCO. The project reports on the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of each IPA project selected for ROM. The overall annual output targets are 180 national “on-going” projects; 20 national completed projects “ex-post” and 20 regional (multi-beneficiary) programmes (on-going or ex post).

Activities

The contractor completed the 2013 ROM workplan and issued a total of 225 ROM reports for the year. The activity for the reporting period is shown below.

	Number of projects			Value (EU allocation) of projects		
	A	B	C	D	E	F
Country	Projects eligible for ROM (2013)	ROM reports this period	B/A %	Projects eligible for ROM (2013)	ROM reports this period	E/D %
	Number	Number		€ million	€ million	
National	403	99	24.5%	802.5	276.1	34.4%
Regional	136	14	10.3%	396.8	160.7	40.5%
Overall	539	113	21.0%	1,199.3	436.8	36.4%

Activities and events planned for next semester

The 2014 ROM activity plan is to issue 230 ROM reports of which 118 are planned in the next reporting period.

Outputs

ROM provides independent, relevant and timely information on IPA projects to task managers. Each report includes recommendations which are debriefed. There is a high satisfaction rate with the quality of the information in the ROM reports. The performance grades for the reports issued are shown below.

Country	Value €m	Type of ROM Reports		Total	ROM Performance Category			
		On-going	Ex-post		I	II	III	IV
<i>Albania</i>	79.6	11	3	14		14		
<i>Bosnia and Herzegovina</i>	70.0	19	3	22		12	6	4
<i>the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</i>	10.6	6	4	10	1	9		
<i>Kosovo</i>	35.1	15	4	19	1	16	2	
<i>Montenegro</i>	9.7	8	3	11		7	3	1
<i>Serbia</i>	71.1	17	6	23	1	14	7	1
National total	276.1	76	23	99	3	72	18	6
Regional	160.7	14	0	14	3	8	1	2
Total	436.8	90	23	113	6	80	19	8

Links and contact

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

8.7 Participation in the Union for the Mediterranean

8.7.1 Project information

Programme to support the participation of eligible candidate and potential candidate countries in the Union for the Mediterranean – Measure 1 "Institutional Dialogue – Euromed Events"

IPA 2008/020-566, EUR 0.75 million

Beneficiary region: Albania, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Turkey

Type of contract: Service contract to GIZ, CN 2009/226-503

Duration of activities: 01/01/2010 – 31/12/2011

addendum 1: 01/01/2012 – 31/12/2013

addendum 2: 31/12/2013 – 30/09/2014

Purpose

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

Activities

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

- "Euro-Mediterranean Sectorial Cooperation seminar on Environmental, goods and technologies". (2-3 July 2013, Brussels)
- "UfM Ad hoc Senior Officials meeting on Strengthening the role of women in society". (5 July 2013 Brussels)
- "Meeting of the Euromed Transport National Coordinators". (20 August 2013, Brussels)
- "Forum Société civile - Ministérielle UpM Femmes". (3-4 Septembre 2013, Bruxelles)
- "Euromed Working Group Infrastructure and Euromed Transport Forum". (9-10 September 2013, Brussels)
- "UfM Ministerial Conference on Strengthening the role of women in society". (11-12 September 2013, Paris).
- "Innovative wastewater treatment and reuse". (17-20 September 2013, Poreč)
- "Euro-Mediterranean sectorial cooperation: Workshop on textiles and clothing". (1-2 October 2013, Brussels. Participation of Turkey)
- "Meeting of the Euromed Transport National Coordinators". (23-24 October 2013, Brussels)
- "6th IMP-Med Project Technical Workshop". (28-29 October 2013, Brussels)
- "6th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Maritime Policy in the Mediterranean". (30-31 October 2013, Brussels)
- "Ad-hoc Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) on Energy". (5 November 2013, Barcelona)

- "Euromed Summit of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions". (11-12 November 2013, Barcelona)
- "Union for the Mediterranean-Euromed SOCIAL DIALOGUE FORUM". (13 November 2013, Barcelona)
- "UfM Transport Ministerial Meeting". (14 November 2013 , Brussels)
- "Senior Level meeting for the Southern Mediterranean dialogue on Electronic Communications & the Information Society". (18-19 Nov 2013, Athens. Participation of Turkey)
- "Participation of Mediterranean representatives to the Conference "First SME Assembly", "6th H2020 Steering Group Meeting and 4th H2020 Capacity Building Sub-Group Meeting". (19-20 November 2013, Brussels)
- "The Small Business Act for Europe & European Enterprise Awards 2012". (25-26 November 2013, Vilnius)
- "Civil Society Event" (27-29 November 2013, Istanbul)
- "EUROMED Trade Senior Officials Working Group". (3 December 2013, Brussels Participation of Turkey)
- "Country strategies to move from low levels of recycling to 50 %". (3-5 December 2013, Athens)
- "MEDAC meeting of experts to contribute to the European Commission's plans to launch a mechanism for structured dialogue with civil society on a regional basis". (5-7 December 2013, Malta)
- "12th meeting of the Euromed Working Group on Standards, Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment". (10 December 2013, Brussels. Participation of Turkey)
- "UfM Energy Ministerial Meeting". (11 December 2013 , Brussels)

Activities and events planned for next semester

- "Meeting of the Working Group on Euro-Mediterranean Industrial Cooperation". (21-22 January 2014, Brussels)
- "9th Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Ministerial Meeting on Euro-Mediterranean industrial cooperation". (19th February 2014 Brussels)
- "EUROMED Trade Senior Officials Working Group- Trade and Investment Facilitation Mechanism – Focal Points meeting" (20 February 2014, Brussels. Participation of Turkey).
- Preparatory meetings to the UfM Ministerial on Environment and Climate Change (10-14 March 2014, Jordan)
- "7th IMP-Med Project Technical Workshop and 2nd IMP-Med Project Study Tour" (24-28 March 2014, Tunis and Marseille)
- "Trade Senior Officials Working Group meeting". (25/26 March 2014, Brussels)
- "Meeting of the Euromed Transport National Coordinators". (27 Mars 2013, Brussels)
- "Trade Senior Officials Working Group meeting and Senior Officials meeting". (6 May 2014, Brussels)
- "UfM Environment and Climate Change Ministerial meeting" (13 May 2014, Athens)
- "4th IMP-MED Project Regional Meeting". (21 May 2014 Bremen)

- "Trade Senior Official meeting". (2 June 2014, Brussels)
- "UfM Trade Ministerial meeting and Euro-Mediterranean Business Forum" (3 June 2014, tbc)

Participation of the Western Balkans and Turkey in other conferences and seminars, during the first semester of 2014, to be confirmed.

Links and contact

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

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

8.8 Strengthening European integration

The Project Preparation Facility (PPF) or 'Strengthening European Integration' (SEI) project forms part of each MB programme. The overall project objective is to ensure effective programming and project development as well as implementation of the MB Programmes IPA thus contributing to the overall progress of the accession process and increasing the effectiveness and impact of accession-oriented projects financed through IPA.

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

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

8.8.1 Project information

Strengthening European Integration - Support to the South East Europe Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group,

“Preparation for the implementation of the Area Based Development (ABD) Approach in the Western Balkans”

IPA 2011/022-964, EUR 0,44 million

Beneficiary region Western Balkans

Type of contract: Grant Contract to Regional Rural Development (RRD) Standing Working Group (SWG), CN 2013/307-939

Duration of activities: 01/01/2013 – 31/12/2013

Purpose

The purpose of the project is to contribute to sustainable economic growth of the target regions “Drina- Tara” (cross-border region between Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro), “Prespa” (cross-border region between Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), “Sharra” (cross-border region between Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo), and “Drina– Sava” (cross-border region between Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia) by strengthening the cooperation of public administrations and other public bodies, the private sector and NGOs in the field of

local development and regional cooperation by building up local and regional cross-border capacities.

Activities

A Project Implementation Unit (PIU) is established within the overall structure of the SWG HQ with contracted staff responsible for overall project and financial management, as well as overall coordination of activities in the targeted regions.

Secretariats of the Stakeholder Groups as future Project Management Units (PMU) have been established in Brcko, Bosnia and Herzegovina for the “Drina - Sava” region (hosted by Department for Agriculture of Brcko District and the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina), in Korcha, Albania for the “Prespa” region (hosted by the Centre for Technology Transfer in Agriculture within the Ministry of Agriculture), in Prizren, Kosovo for the “Sharra” region (hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture) and in Vishegrad, Bosnia and Herzegovina for the “Drina - Tara” cross-border region (hosted by the Municipality of Vishegrad).

One of the key results from the project has been the establishment and consolidation of the Stakeholder Groups (SHGs) in each of the four targeted regions. The SHG members participated in the capacity building process, as well as the process of programming and project identification.

The SWG in cooperation with the SHG members have identified and developed project proposals based on priority actions. The proposals (three per region) are part of the planned project pipe-line for each of the target areas.

The strategic frameworks and the draft programming documents for economic development were prepared and have a multi-annual planning perspective for economic development of the Western Balkan rural cross-border areas.

Activities and events planned for next semester

Continuation of the preparatory process with a follow-up project entitled “Preparation for the Implementation of the Area Based Development (ABD) Approach in the Western Balkans – 2nd phase” during the period February 2014 - April 2015.

Outputs

- draft version of the Programming Document for the implementation of the Area Based Development Approach within the Regional and Territorial Cooperation in the framework of International Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) 2014-2020;
- draft version of the Programming documents for economic development through regional and territorial Cooperation in the “Drina-Tara”, “Prespa”, “Sharra” and “Drina-Sava”;
- twelve project proposals for economic development actions in the four target cross-border areas;
- Project Management Units established in each of the target cross-border area;
- a Project Implementation Unit (PIU) established in the SWG Head Quarters;
- Stakeholder Groups consolidated in each of the four target areas.

Links and contact

Link: <http://seerural.org/>

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

8.8.2 Project information

Strengthening European Integration – Improving the visibility and communication strategy of the IPA Multi-beneficiary projects

IPA 2011/022-964, EUR 0.064 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Specific Contract under Framework Contract to Danish Management A/S, CN 2012/300-161

Duration of activities: 11/2012 – 07/2013

Purpose

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

Identifying target audiences and partners, messages and expected outcomes in the EU and the enlargement countries, production of communication material, including drafting of Project Factsheets, thematic presentations and success stories.

Support and advice to ELARG D.3 staff on visibility policy and events.

Activities

The project was completed on the 31st July and only 4 working days remained during July.

Work continued on editing and layout of the Activity Report itself, production of success stories and the Communication Strategy

Activities and events planned for next semester

A new, similar, project was launched in December 2013 and will be the subject of a full report in the next Activity Report. It will include work to increase the visibility of Unit D3 with the production of success stories, identification of synergies with the national and within the regional programmes and projects.

Outputs

Revised, new look, Activity Report; Communication Strategy for Unit D3

Links and contact

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

8.8.3 Project information

Strengthening European Integration – Improving the visibility and communication strategy of the IPA Multi-beneficiary projects

IPA 2012/022-966, EUR 0.05 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Specific Contract under Framework Contract, Danish Management A/S, CN 2013/325-880

Duration of activities: 12/2013 – 05/2014

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, Communication unit of DG Enlargement for the visibility of EU pre-accession funds.

It will include support and advice to ELARG D.3 staff on visibility policy and events, production of success stories, identification of synergies with the national and within the regional programmes and projects.

Activities

The project started in December 2013 with the kick-off meeting on 10-11 December.

Draft Inception report prepared.

Activities and events planned for next semester

Advise ELARG D3 staff and staff of selected contractors on better communicating the IPA MB Programme, on drafting of project factsheets, news releases, success stories.

Verification of the MB projects' websites currently operated by contractors in order to see how the IPA MB Programme is presented and projects promoted; modifications to be proposed.

Developing and encouraging links with the national IPA projects and between different IPA MB projects in view of harmonised visibility

Links and contact

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

8.8.4 Project information

Strengthening European Integration – Support to the development of the SEEMIC forum

IPA 2012/022-966, EUR 0.1 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans

Type of contract: Grant Contract to RCC, CN 2012/299-621

Duration of activities: 18/12/2012 – 17/12/2014

Purpose

Strengthen the exchange of high quality intelligence through SEEMIC for fostering regional cooperation among the military intelligence (MI) members of the RCC's SEEMIC Forum, thus contributing to the overall progress of the accession process;

Support the implementation of the RCC Strategy and Work programme in security cooperation related to the development of the SEEMIC. This will have a broader impact on confidence building, security, rule of law, and overall economic and social development of the SEE countries.

Activities

SEEMIC Conference held in Croatia in September 2013.

Consultations Turkey, Moldova, Greece, NATO, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania.

Training and Installation of the PGP in Turkey, NATO, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Moldova and Greece

Activities and events planned for next semester

Consultations with MI from SEE Countries, NATO and EU.

Consultations with co-organisers of 6th SEEMIC

Implementation of the secure communication line in SEE MI's

Outputs

SEEMIC conference endorsed the second regional intelligence assessment.

Decided on implementing synergy among all MI regional initiatives.

Conducted the first regional meeting of the Heads of the specialised committees on oversight on MI.

Continued implementation of the secure communication line.

Links and contact

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

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

8.8.5 Project information

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

IPA 2012/022-964, EUR 0.5 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans; Iceland and Turkey

Type of contract: Service Contract to Lambard Management Consultants Ltd, CN 2012/298-664

Duration of activities: 21/08/2012 – 20/02/2014

Purpose

The project provides specialised IT and management assistance to the customs and taxation administrations of the candidate countries and potential candidates, to prepare them for EU membership, especially in the framework of IT interconnectivity and interoperability, including the related operational procedures. Under the supervision of the Directorate-General for Taxation and Customs Union of the European Commission (DG TAXUD), the contractor will address the needs of the beneficiaries by providing coaching and training. The contractor will also assist DG TAXUD to monitor the progress related to IT management and interconnectivity and interoperability achieved by the beneficiary administrations on their path towards EU accession.

Activities

The consultants have conducted monitoring missions to fYRoM (October 2013), Albania (November 2013), and Bosnia and Herzegovina (December 2013). A final report was issued as regards the first mission and a draft mission report was drafted and submitted for review concerning Albania.

The consultants have also assisted DG TAXUD in reviewing the Customs blueprints related to Information and communication technology (September / October 2013), assisted the EU Delegation in Skopje with regards to certain Customs-related IPA 2014 projects (November

2013), and prepared the assistance mission to Montenegro Tax Administration (September / December 2013).

With regards to training, the consultants have drafted a first agenda for a regional IT seminar to be held in 2014.

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

The contract ends on 20/2/14. Planned activities until that date include a Technical Assistance mission to the tax administration of Montenegro for creation of an IT Strategy, drafting and/or finalizing reports or follow-up documents concerning the Albanian, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro missions and submitting a final report of the Contract.

[Outputs](#)

The missions conducted and reports issued have improved the respective countries' and DG TAXUD's understanding of the requirements and way forward of the Albanian, fYRoM and Bosnian customs and tax administrations in the area of IT interconnectivity. The tax and customs administrations visited obtained detailed information and assistance concerning their needs, including the drafting of a business and IT strategy which should cover the medium and longer terms and must underpin all their on-going and future IT developments. The output of the assistance mission to the tax administration of Montenegro will be the future creation of an IT Strategy.

[Links and contact](#)

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

[8.1 Administrative and technical assistance facility](#)

[8.1.1 Project information](#)

Administrative and Technical Assistance Facility (ATA)

IPA 2013/024-658, EUR 2.992 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans, Iceland and Turkey

Beneficiary institutions: DG Enlargement and EU Delegations in the Western Balkans and Turkey

[Purpose](#)

The ATA provides short-term technical assistance and studies to support the preparation and implementation of activities such as programming, monitoring, visibility, assessment, tender evaluations and general project supervision.

Addendum N° 1 was signed on 16 October 2013 in order (i) to reallocate unspent funds and (ii) to increase the available amount by EUR 392 000 to EUR 2.992 million

[Links and contact](#)

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

8.2 Travel, accommodation and conference facility

8.2.1 Project information

Travel Accommodation and Conference facility (TAC)

IPA 2013, EUR 0.272 million

Beneficiary region: Western Balkans, Iceland and Turkey

Beneficiary institutions: European Commission services

Purpose

The Travel Accommodation and Conference facility (TAC) Facility is used to finance the logistical and venue costs of conferences in connection with enlargement and the pre-accession strategy organised by the Commission both in the EU and in beneficiary countries.

TAC funds cover the travel and accommodation costs of beneficiary participants at these conferences as well as the relevant costs for organisation of the meetings apart from interpretation services

Links and contact

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

9 Annexes

9.1 List of SEI projects under IPA decision 2013/024-091

TITLE and CONTRACTOR	CRIS CN N°	Signature date	Amount in €
ICTY Outreach programme 2013/2014 INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA	316547	30/04/2013	500,000
SENSE: Strengthening regional news exchange from the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC) SENSE SREDNJE EUROPSKI NOVINSKI SERVIS DOO	316563	12/06/2013	200,000
CEFTA Project Facility II THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT SECRETARIAT	335161	17/12/2013	440,000
FRAME: Frame skills for Future - Supporting the development of comprehensive HRD (Human Resource Development) strategic vision in the Enlargement countries EUROPEAN TRAINING FOUNDATION	299621	8/08/2013	1,400,000
Maintenance of the SEED (Systematic Electronic Exchange of Data) System in the Western Balkans-Addendum n°1 to contract	317729	10/06/2013	250,000
Improving economic governance in the Western Balkans & Pilot project in Albania INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND	333621	20/12/2013	500,000
Technical cooperation programme with central banks in the Western Balkans preparing their accession to the European System of Central Banks (ESCB) EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK	334981	19/12/2013	500,000
SWG Preparation for the implementation of the Area Based Development (ABD) Approach in the Western Balkans - 2nd phase REGIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT STANDING	336472	31/01/2014	900,000
Preparatory measures for the participation of candidates and potential candidates in Community Agencies: Specific project for the participation of Western Balkan Countries in the work of the European Environment Agency	338534	Q1/2014	500,000

2014-2015 EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY			
Provision of technical assistance on IT interconnectivity issues to candidates and potential candidates (extension) LAMBARD MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS LTD	338993	20/02/2014	492,500
TI Strengthening National Integrity Systems in the Western Balkans and Turkey, and tracking developments of anti-corruption efforts TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL EV	339583	Q1/2014	1,710,000
Support to organisation of IPA Multi-beneficiary Coordination Meetings in 2014 NOOKOM EZHZ	337590	31/03/2014	79,746

9.2 DG ELARG Unit D3, organisation chart as of 1st April 2014

Phone +32 2 29 –extension

Name	Function	Phone
Morten JUNG	Head of Unit	91999
Kitija KRUMINA	Secretary to the Head of Unit Coordination of Missions, HR co-ordination	59266

Kjartan BJÖRNSSON	Deputy Head of Unit Team - Regional Cooperation	87414
Chloe ASSOIGNONS	Secretary to the Deputy Head of Unit and his team Support to the Unit Secretariat	50243
Roberta CORTESE	Rule of Law, Fight against organised crime.	87794
Alberto COSTA	Public Administration Reform, Sigma, Trade Development	87575
Konstantina MARAGKOU	Public Administration Reform, ReSPA	66828
Agnieszka IWANOWSKA-BIEL	Visibility and Regional Cooperation Support	98258

D3.001 Sector for Horizontal Coordination and Support

Gabriela KOEHLER-RAUE	Head of Sector	86265
Nadejda MECHEVA	Secretariat, support to evaluators	69396
Carine HENOQUE	Coordination of Programming, MIS, AOSD, Activity report, support to Econ/IFI Section	57898
Alya GHARBI	CRIS encoding, Procurement planning, MIS, support to evaluations	58672
Maite MARTIN BARRIGA	Coordination of Programming, Audit coordinator, Internal Control Standards, Reporting	84556
Elzbieta STASIUK	Archives, invoice tracking, Organisation of Missions	81823

D3.002 Sector for Civil Society and Social and Territorial Cooperation

Nicola BERTOLINI	Head of Sector	63309
Dario DI BENEDETTO	Secretariat, Contracts Assistant	55397
Henk VISSER	Civil society facility, TACSO, Research and Innovation chapter desk (Ch 25)	98552
Bo CAPERMAN	Human Resource Development	95189

Liane ADLER	Fundamental rights , Minorities, Migration and Reconciliation	54310
Alexander TROPPMANN	Civil Society Facility, Media, Cultural Heritage	63265
Gerry RENDERS	Territorial cooperation, Disaster Risk Reduction/Civil Protection, Veterinary	62546
Vacant (END post)	Gender mainstreaming	80778
Petra SCHLÜTER	Customs, TAC, ATA, ROM, Cultural Heritage.	62183
Eleni VOSSOU	Regional Refugee Housing programme (RHP)	54142
Karl GIACINTI	Civil Society Facility, TACSO, Media, P2P	93066
D3.003 Sector for Economic Development and IFI Cooperation		
Massimo MINA	Head of Sector	64955
Cristina ALVAREZ FERNANDEZ	Secretariat	74113
Olav REINERTSEN	Head of WBIF Secretariat. Infrastructure Project Facility (IPF) 1	87961
Panayotis PAPANASTASSIOU	WBIF Secretariat, Coordination of IFI projects, Relations with Member States	65771
Inga STEFANOWICZ	Private Sector Development (EDIF), SMEs. Competitiveness. Economic Governance. EFSE	68545
Davor KUNC	Transport, Energy and Energy Efficiency.	
Bernd WILD	Statistical programmes, Inspiration, Chapter desk Statistics (Ch 18), EU Agencies and Programmes	52467
Elodie LOPPE	Environment, Climate change, Management of IPFs, IPF Municipal Window, Financial Instruments (back-up).	88183
Genevieve OHL-ENGELBOS	Organisation of missions	93161

9.3 Acronyms

AEI	Agency for European Integration
ATA	Administrative and Technical Assistance Facility
BAS	Business Advisory Services
BIRN	Balkan Investigative Reporting Network
BKA	Bundeskriminalamt/Federal Criminal Police Office Germany
CAB	Conformity Assessment Bodies
CAN	Capacity Needs Assessment
CBC	Cross-Border Cooperation
CBIB	Cross-border Institution Building
CC	Climate Change
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
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
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(FF)	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
ELARG	Directorate General Enlargement
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
EUD	European Union Delegation
EUI	European University Institute
EUMETNET	European National Meteorological network
EURAMET	European Association of National Metrology Institutes
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
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
NICO	Northern Ireland Cooperation Overseas
NIPAC	National IPA Coordinator
NSI	National Statistics Institute
NTB	Non-Tariff Barriers
NTOs	National Tempus Offices
ODIHR	Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
OTP	Office of the Prosecutor
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
RECOM	Regional Committee for Truth and Reconciliation
REEP	Regional Energy Efficiency Programme
REG	Regional
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
TAXUD	Directorate General Taxation and Customs Union
TBC	To be confirmed
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
T-CY	Cybercrime Convention Committee
TFCS	Task Force for Culture and Society
TGNA	Turkish Grand National Assembly
TNA	Training needs assessment
TOR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of trainers
TVR	Temporary and Virtual Return
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNMIK	United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNPROFOR	United Nations Protection Force
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
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
