



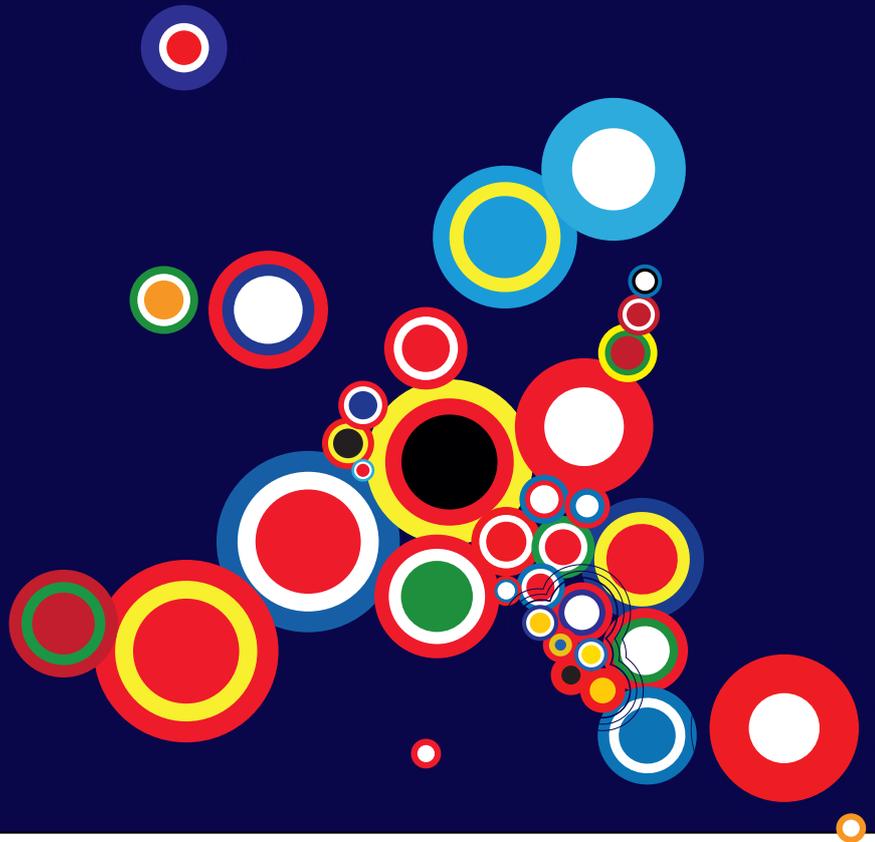
EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General Enlargement

D - REGIONAL COOPERATION & ASSISTANCE; TURKISH CYPRIOT
COMMUNITY

D.3 - REGIONAL COOPERATION AND PROGRAMMES

MULTI-COUNTRY PROGRAMMES: ACTIVITY REPORT: January - June 2014



CONTENTS

- Contact..... 4
- Introduction..... 5
- Chapter 1: Public Administration Reform (PAR)..... 6
 - 1.1 Support for Improvement in Governance and Management (SIGMA)..... 6
 - 1.2 Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA)..... 8
 - 1.3 Statistical Cooperation 10
 - 1.4 Custom and Taxation 12
 - 1.5 Economic Governance..... 14
- Chapter 2: Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights 21
 - 2.1 Fight against organised crime and corruption 21
 - 2.2 Transitional Justice 26
 - 2.3 Human Rights and Minority Protection 31
 - 2.4 Regional Housing Programme (RHP)..... 36
- Chapter 3: Private Sector Development 38
 - 3.1 Western Balkan Enterprise Development and Innovation Facility (WB EDIF)..... 38
 - 3.2 European Fund for Southeast Europe (EFSE)..... 43
 - 3.3 Crisis Response Package 44
 - 3.4 Competitiveness..... 50
 - 3.5 Human Capital..... 54
 - 3.6 Trade..... 58
- Chapter 4: Transport and Energy Infrastructure, Nuclear Safety..... 66
 - 4.1 Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF)..... 66
 - 4.2 Horizontal Support to IFI Coordination 69
 - 4.3 WBIF Infrastructure Projects Facilities (IPF)..... 71
 - 4.4 Municipal Window 73
 - 4.5 Energy Efficiency, Green for Growth 78
 - 4.6 Radiation Protection 87

Chapter 5: Environment and Climate Change	94
5.1 ECRAN	94
5.2 International Sava River Basin Commission.....	96
5.3 Civil Protection Cooperation.....	97
5.4 Disaster Risk Reduction.....	98
Chapter 6: Civil Society	101
6.1 Technical Assistance to Civil Society Organisations (TACSO).....	102
6.2 Framework Partnership Agreements	106
6.3 Media	108
Chapter 7: Social Development	114
7.1 Tempus.....	114
7.2 Erasmus Mundus	116
7.3 Youth in Action	117
7.4 Cultural Heritage – Ljubljana process, History	119
Chapter 8: Other Horizontal Actions.....	127
8.1 EU Agencies	127
8.2 Support to Parliamentary Cooperation	129
8.3 Regional Cooperation Council	131
8.4 Cross-border Institution Building CBIB+	133
8.5 Monitoring	135
8.6 Union for the Mediterranean.....	136
8.7 Area Based Development (ABD).....	138
8.8 Visibility and Communication	141
8.9 Support to the Development of the SEEMIC Forum.....	142
8.10 IT Interconnectivity.....	143
8.11 ATA and TAC	145
DG ELARG Unit D.3, organisation chart - October 2014	147
List of Acronyms	149

CONTACT

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For any additional information on specific projects, contact us via the same address and your e-mail will be forwarded to the relevant Task Manager in unit D.3 - REGIONAL COOPERATION AND PROGRAMMES.

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

LINK

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

INTRODUCTION

The first half of 2014 saw important milestones being achieved, notably the finalisation of the Multi-country Indicative Strategy Paper 2014-2020. It was presented to the IPA committee on 2 June and received a positive opinion. The Strategy Paper was adopted by the Commission on 30 June.

Implementation of IPA I programmes is well under way: Compared to the forecast at the beginning of the year, 90 % of the commitment target for the first semester and 93 % of the payment target have been reached. In the meantime preparations for the 2014 Annual Action Programme started with extensive discussions with NIPACs, colleagues from EU Delegations and DG ELARG geographical units at the meeting in Istanbul on 15-16 May.

The High-level Conference 'Invest in the Western Balkans', hosted by the EBRD in February, in London, brought together, for the first time, all 7 Prime Ministers from the Western Balkans with the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and representatives of the donor community.

The 10th Steering Committee meeting of the WBIF took place in Berlin on 11-12 June. It agreed on the future focus areas for the WBIF linking to economic governance and the alignment on relevant macro-economic strategies and the regional SEE 2020 Strategy. Furthermore, it agreed on the need to promote infrastructure investments at municipal level. A detailed discussion took place on the Commission's proposals for adapting the working methodology for WBIF support to investment projects by identifying more systematically investment needs and priorities through a National Investment Committee or a similar national coordination mechanism establishing single sector project pipelines and target investment projects with a real regional impact or dimension.

The Regional Housing Programme's (RHP) construction phase has started. The Assembly of Donors (AoD) met on the 27 March in Paris and on the 23 of June in Zagreb. In the margins of its session in June the AoD representatives travelled to Korenica to inaugurate the first construction site (housing block for 29 refugee families). In view of the floods affecting the region, the AoD expressed its sympathy for the victims and agreed on the need to keep the RHP and flood relief clearly separate, and maintaining momentum on the implementation of the RHP recognising that local and national structures were under strain in the two most affected countries.

A regional conference was organised in Tirana on 6 - 9 May with the aim to launch the Guidelines for EU support to Civil Society in the enlargement region as a key document for programming, monitoring and policy orientation.

CHAPTER 1: PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REFORM (PAR)

The reform of the judiciary and public administration is a priority in the Enlargement Strategy. 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. IPA assistance in this area also encompasses other aspects such as economic governance and statistics.

1.1 SUPPORT FOR IMPROVEMENT IN GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (SIGMA)

Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme under IPA Transition Assistance and Institution Building Component for the year 2013, IPA 2013/024-091
Project title:	Support for Improvement in Governance and Management (SIGMA) in the Western Balkans and Turkey
EU contribution:	EUR 10 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans and Turkey
Type of contract:	Contribution agreement with OECD
Contract reference:	CN 2013/319-423
Duration of activities:	01/07/2013 – 30/06/2015
Links:	http://www.sigmaweb.org

PURPOSE

SIGMA supports Public Administration Reform (PAR) in the Western Balkans and Turkey, providing Beneficiaries with assistance to strengthen their legal frameworks, administrative capacities and processes for sound implementation of the EU *acquis*. Areas of intervention are: 1) legal framework and civil service management, 2) policy making and co-ordination, 3) public finance management, 4) public procurement, 5) public governance strategy and reform.

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

SIGMA provided analysis, advice and on-the-job-assistance to Beneficiaries for reviewing in particular: the Law on Civil Service (LCS) in Albania and the Law on Public Administration (LPA) in Bosnia Herzegovina (Breko District); Law on Concession and Public-Private Partnership (LCPPP) in Albania and Montenegro; Public Procurement Law (PPL) in Albania,

Bosnia Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey; Law on Auditor General and National Audit Office (AGNAO) in Kosovo^{*}; Law on General Administrative Procedures (LGAP) in Montenegro and Kosovo; Law on Public internal financial Control (PIFC) in Montenegro. Where relevant and possible, SIGMA also provided training and supported the Beneficiaries in the elaboration of practical manuals, guidelines and roadmaps for the implementation of the new adopted laws.

SIGMA also provided the Beneficiaries with training and peer assistance to strengthen their capacities in legislative drafting, in developing policy options and elaborating realistic, prioritised and duly sequenced PAR Strategies and Action Plans, especially in Montenegro, Albania, Kosovo and Serbia. SIGMA gave its advice and support to streamline coordination structures in Albania, Kosovo and Serbia and also to develop performance indicators in Serbia and strengthen Regulatory impact Assessment in Montenegro.

In the area of public procurement SIGMA assistance mainly addressed the alignment of the national systems to the new EU Directives (in addition, SIGMA assisted Kosovo and Serbia in further developing their appeal systems), while in the area of public finance management SIGMA assistance focused on strengthening audit and financial control capacities (in Albania, Montenegro and Turkey) and on budget preparation and mid-term financial planning (in Montenegro).

Finally, SIGMA has finalised the new analytical framework (Principles of Public Administration) and piloted it during the 2014 annual country assessments. SIGMA assisted DG Enlargement in preparing and conducting PAR Special Groups (in Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo and Montenegro), bringing its valuable contribution to high level political discussion.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY – JUNE 2014)

- Reviewed laws and by-laws (LCS/LPA, LGAP, LCPPP, LHSC, PIFC and PPL);
- Trainings, workshops, conferences and on-the-job-assistance on CSL, PP and CPPP, IA, and PFM;
- New analytical framework for SIGMA 2014 assessment delivered and tested during the 2014 Assessment;
- Support to PAR Special Groups;
- Annual Country Assessments.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

SIGMA will continue to operate in the Beneficiaries for i) strengthening legal frameworks, ii) improving institutional organisation, administrative capacities and processes, iii) enhancing

^{*} This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

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 these 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, 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 a baseline measurement assessment in all beneficiaries (except Croatia), based on the Principles of public administration.

CONTACT

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1.2 REGIONAL SCHOOL OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (RESPA)

Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2013/024-091
Project title:	Running of ReSPA and organisation of ReSPA activities
EU contribution:	EUR 3.5 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans and Turkey
Type of contract:	Grant contract
Contract reference:	CN 2013/331-241
Duration of activities:	14/11/2013 – 15/11/2015
Links:	http://www.respaweb.eu/

PURPOSE

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

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.

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY – JUNE 2014)

ReSPA mainly focused on networking activities for Public Private Partnership, eGovernment, General Administrative Procedures Act, Ethics and Integrity, as well as European Integration. The first meeting of the PAR network was held in June in Tirana where high level officials (state secretaries, director generals, coordinators) from the Ministries of Public Administration and Interior were informed about the extracts from national action plans and the baseline report for the implementation of the South East Europe (SEE) 2020 Strategy.

Moreover several workshops were organised related to developing human resources recruitment and retention strategies, operational management and strategic planning in public administration, as well as leadership development in anticorruption institutions.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

The training workshops and the networking events contributed to strengthening capacities of the practitioners and identification of the main trends in the field of Public Administration Reform, EU integration/EU affairs. More specifically:

- eGovernment – increased awareness of participants in the fight against corruptions in their future development of IT strategies; increased awareness on the best case mobile technology solutions which offer possibilities for citizen to play a more active role rather than being passive recipients;
- the EU Integration (EUI) Programming Committee was established which will enhance the cooperation and interaction of ReSPA with national institutions responsible for EU accession and the NIPAC offices.
- General Administrative Procedures (GAPA) – through exchange of European and regional best practices increased organisational and senior officials' capacity to design further steps of administrative modernisation at the national level.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

The activities for the next semester will continue to focus on the work of the existing networks as well as on the newly established EUI Programme Committee.

Seminars will be organised on strategic planning and implementing e-Government projects, leadership and change management, e-Government, recruitment and retention strategies, leadership development in public administration institutions.

Summer School on EU Law and its Implementation.

Mid-term impact assessment of ReSPA activities¹.

EUI Mobility Scheme Programme.

Ministerial Governing Board Meeting in October in Skopje.

Comparative studies on the following subjects: IT corruption; Methodologies used for Preparation of Strategies on Public Administration Reform in Western Balkans; Law on the General Administrative Procedures; Public Private Partnership; HRM related Issues

CONTACT

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1.3 STATISTICAL COOPERATION

Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2011/023-176
Project title:	Statistical cooperation for the Western Balkans and Turkey
EU contribution:	EUR 8.00 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans and Turkey
Type of contract:	Service contract and grants to 5 national statistical offices
Contract reference:	Service contract with GOPA Consultants, EUR 3.2 million; Grants EUR 4.8 million to: Central Bureau of Statistics of Croatia, Hagstofa Íslands, State Statistical Office of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Statistical Office of Serbia, Turkish Statistical Institute
Duration of activities:	Service contract 01/07/2012 – 30/06/2014 Grants 01/09/2012 – 31/08/2014
Links:	http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/about_eurostat/our_partners/international_cooperation

PURPOSE

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

¹ The preparation of the report and the organisation of focus groups are funded from the Core budget

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY – JUNE 2014)

Statisticians have attended European working groups and training courses in a large number of statistical fields. International experts have given advice to statisticians in the beneficiaries, either in workshops common for the whole region, or directly in the premises of each statistical office. A number of young statisticians have been on traineeships in Eurostat and statistical offices in selected EU Member States from January – June 2014.

The grant with Statistics Iceland was terminated in June 2014.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY – JUNE 2014)

Reports from missions show that statisticians in the regions are learning more and more about the EU standards in their statistical domain.

Increased documentation of statistical sources and methods.

Data are increasingly being sent to Eurostat in formats compatible with common standards.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

For the grant recipients, activities will continue during July–August 2014 with participation in training events, workshops, as well as expert missions to the national statistical offices, study visits; during September–December 2014 there will be a closure of the activities and final reporting.

The implementation of the service contract will be finalised. The activities under the service contract ended in June 2014. The draft final report is due mid July 2014. The final meeting will take place in September 2014.

CONTACT

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Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2012/023-625
Project title:	Statistical cooperation for the Western Balkans and Turkey
EU contribution:	EUR 9.3 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans and Turkey
Type of contract:	Service contract and grants to 4 national statistical offices
Contract reference:	Service contract with GOPA Consultants, EUR 4.4 million Grants EUR 4.9 million, to: Central Bureau of Statistics of Croatia, State Statistical Office of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Statistical Office of Serbia, and Turkish Statistical Institute.
Duration of activities:	Service contract 01/12/2013 – 30/11/2015

Grants 01/01/2014 – 30/11/2015

Links: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/about_eurostat/our_partners/international_cooperation

PURPOSE

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

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

The project has been started with inception meetings in each statistical domain covered and with a coordination workshop at Eurostat, where beneficiaries and the managers of the service contract participated.

Statisticians have attended European working groups and training courses in a large number of statistical fields. International experts have given advice to statisticians in the beneficiaries, either in workshops common for the whole region, or directly in the premises of each statistical office. A number of young statisticians from beneficiaries have been on traineeships in Eurostat and statistical offices in selected EU Member States from January – June 2014.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

As the project has just started, the main output so far is a refined planning of the activities to take place during the complete project period. Reports from missions show that statisticians in the regions are learning more and more about the EU standards in their statistical domain.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Activities will continue: workshop participation, training events, workshops, expert missions to the national statistical offices, traineeships, study visits.

CONTACT

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1.4 CUSTOM AND TAXATION

Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2012/22-964 and IPA 2013/024-091
Project title:	Maintenance of the Systematic Electronic Exchange of Data system in the Western Balkans (SEED Maintenance)
EU contribution:	EUR 0.50 million and EUR 0.25 million

Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans
Type of contract:	Service contract with Agenzia delle Dogane, Italy
Contract reference:	CN 2012/300-108 amended under ref. CN 2013/317-729
Duration of activities:	15/10/2012 – 15/07/2014
Links:	http://www.eu-seed.net/

PURPOSE

Support the customs administrations of the Beneficiaries to continue to use the SEED platform and INES+ software, by providing regional coordination, maintenance and slight improvement of the existing SEED/INES infrastructure and functionalities. 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 (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY – 14 JULY 2014)

Two meetings with senior management from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania related to the operational use of SEED,

Two trainings covering risk analysis aspects of SEED,

Two trainings covering operational use at the local level (of the border Customs Offices),

Four INES+ installations performed (in Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as Serbia – Operational use, Albania and Kosovo – Testing environment). Nine training sessions (5 in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2 in Serbia, 1 in Albania and 1 in Kosovo) organised covering use of the INES+ software modules,

Regional Workshop in Belgrade,

Steering Committee Meeting in Florence.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY – 14 JULY 2014)

SEED Operational Guidelines adopted by the senior management in Albania and distributed to the relevant Customs Houses for the operational use. Risk Analysts in Serbia much better informed on possibilities of the SEED Alarm module and better utilised system features. Macedonian Customs established the communication between the NCTS and the SEED system.

New INES+ system, fully aligned with the COPIS system of the EU, in production in Bosna and Herzegovina as well as Serbia, while in testing phase in Albania and Kosovo. Customs officials for IPR Units and officers from local Customs Offices better informed and skilled to explore the functionalities and properly use the INES+ software.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Operational activities on this project finished on 14th June 2014. The project has been extended by one month to present the results in a Steering Committee meeting on 10th July 2014.

CONTACT

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1.5 ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE

Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2010/022-028
Project title:	Improving Public Financial Management in the Western Balkans
EU contribution:	EUR 1.00 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans
Type of contract:	Administration Agreement with the World Bank
Contract reference:	CN 2011/258-142
Duration of activities:	21/12/2010 – 30/11/2014 (to be extended until November 2016)
Links:	www.worldbank.org/

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 (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

The Croatia Treasury Modernisation project was completed in May 2014 and two of the four sub-national PEFA assessments in Croatia concluded in the same month. Substantial progress was made on finalising the draft PEFA report for Bosnia and Herzegovina, incorporating separate assessments for the State, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and Brčko District, including extensive consultation on the draft across the governments and other stakeholders.

In order to accommodate a joint project in Serbia between the Swiss Government and this project under the SAFE programme, the World Bank requested an extension of the project until November 2016.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

The Croatia Treasury Modernisation project has resulted in implementation of software to connect secondary level entities to the Treasury system, allowing improved quality and timeliness of in-year and end of year financial reporting.

The completion of a PEFA assessment and PFM reform plan for Albania in 2012 and 2013 has provided the foundation for a substantial PFM reform agenda for the government in the first half of 2014 which will be used as a basis for the next IPA programming period. The PFM reform agenda will also be used to underpin negotiations with the IMF and World Bank on essential budget support financing.

The draft PEFA report in Bosnia and Herzegovina has already been used by governments to consider PFM reform priorities in advance of the final report.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

The Bosnia and Herzegovina PEFA assessment is on target for completion by the end of July 2014. The final stage of extension deliberations with the World Bank are underway and expected to be completed in early September.

The last activity to be financed under the project will be a PEFA re-assessment for Serbia. This initiative will be an important source of information for the next IPA planning period. The project is expected to start soon after the extension of the contract has been approved, in September 2014. The remainder of 2014 will be devoted to data collection, training and consultation with Serbia government officials.

CONTACT

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Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2012/022-966
Project title:	Strategic Planning and Budgeting (SPB)
EU contribution:	EUR 1.0 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans and Turkey
Type of contract:	Direct Grant to the Center of Excellence in Finance (CEF)
Contract reference:	CN 2012/310-295
Duration of activities:	21/03/2013 – 20/09/2015
Links:	http://www.cef-see.org/bcpdi/spb

PURPOSE

To improve beneficiaries' governance for growth by strengthening their capacity to design and implement medium-term macro-fiscal policies. The project provides a comprehensive approach to strengthen countries' policy-making practices; to encourage incorporation of good practices and standards into them, where possible; help strengthen regional cooperation among policy-making authorities; and to deepen dialogues with the EU and international financial institutions.

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY – JUNE 2014)

Together with its project partners, the CEF continued delivering SPB training and networking activities, extending the project's target audience to beneficiary institutions contributing to SPB processes. In the first half of 2014, four workshops were delivered, covering Macroeconomic Policy Analysis; the Integration of Structural Reforms into Fiscal Programming; Medium-term Budgeting; as well as Programme Budgeting, Evaluation and Spending Review. In addition, the CEF trained beneficiaries' own experts to become trainers; some of them being involved in the delivery of SPB activities as lecturers and co-facilitators.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY – JUNE 2014)

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

Back-to-office interviews with several beneficiaries illustrated the project's value creation (available at <http://www.cef-see.org/news/>). The Result-Oriented Monitoring (ROM) mission confirmed that the project implementation is well proceeding; recommendations for further improvements are taken into account.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

In the second half of 2014, four SPB workshops will be delivered, addressing Capital Budgeting; Macroeconomic Forecasting; Budget Submissions of Line Ministries; as well as Writing Strategic Documents. Moreover, the CEF will deliver an e-learning course on Budget Formulation. Members of the SPB Project Steering Committee will meet to review the recent progress made, monitor the impact of SPB project activities and assure complementarity with beneficiaries' own reform efforts, discuss the agenda for forthcoming SPB activities and options to sustain the project, e.g. through additional networking activities.

CONTACT

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Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2013/024-091
Project title:	Improving Economic Governance in the Western Balkans & Pilot Project for Albania: Public Financial Management, Tax Policy and Tax Administration
EU contribution:	EUR 500,000
Beneficiary region:	Albania and Western Balkans
Type of contract:	Contribution agreement with the International Monetary Fund
Contract reference:	CN 2013/333-621
Duration of activities:	01/01/2014 – 31/12/2014

PURPOSE

The pilot project aims at strengthening public financial management (PFM), tax policy, and tax administration in Albania and at sharing the Albanian experience with other Western Balkan beneficiaries. The project builds upon the IMF's long-standing technical assistance engagement in Albania in these areas, and the initial progress made by the authorities.

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY – JUNE 2014)

Tax administration: In January-February, a team of IMF staff and experts visited Tirana to review the reform progress of the General Directorate for Taxation (GDT) and assist the authorities in defining short- and medium-term objectives to tax administration reforms and operations. Also during January-February, one short-term expert (STX) worked with the GDT on specific issues related to the reform of the IT system for tax administration. This provided crucial complementary support to the advice provided under the IMF-financed activities.

Tax Policy: In March, a team of IMF staff and experts visited Tirana for a diagnostic review of present tax structures and specific tax provisions, including policy measures implemented during 2013 and 2014. The key output of the visit was the development of a tax_policy reform programme for the coming years setting clear objectives to help the government in achieving its overarching policy goals.

Public Financial Management: In April-May, a team of IMF staff and experts visited Tirana to review the implementation of the arrears prevention and clearance strategy and make recommendations for strengthening both.

OUTPUTS

The main outputs related to formulation of the revised reform strategies in the three main areas covered, including detailed implementation guidance, as agreed with the Albanian government and documented in the following reports delivered in June 2014:

1. Tax Administration: Strengthening Tax Administration Governance and Value-Added Tax Refund Management (March 2014)

2. Tax Policy: A Tax Reform Strategy for Consolidation and Growth (May 2014)
3. PFM: Implementing the Arrears Prevention and Clearance Strategy (June 2014)

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Tax administration: Three STX visits on IT and business redesign are to take place during August-October 2014. The purpose of these visits is to provide ongoing assistance with implementing a major tax administration project to replace the IT system, redesigning business processes to match the capacity of the new IT system, and aligning these with good international practices. This work will also be supported by other IMF activities in the area (e.g. 5 visits by the IMF's regional advisor for tax administration during July – December 2014) focused on other pressing tax administration reform issues, including VAT refunds and changes needed in the organisational structure related to the IT reform.

Tax policy: As a direct follow-up to the visit in March, a team of IMF staff and experts is scheduled to visit Tirana in September-October, to provide guidance on the implementation of a modern market-value based immovable property tax; this work is financed from IMF resources.

A regional event will take place towards the end of 2014 to share the results of the Albanian pilot project with other Western Balkan beneficiaries.

CONTACT

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Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2013/024-091
Project title:	Technical Cooperation Programme with the central banks of the Western Balkans preparing their accession to the European System of Central Banks (ESCB)
EU contribution:	EUR 500,000
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans
Type of contract:	Contribution agreement with the European Central Bank (ECB)
Contract reference:	CN 2013/334-681
Duration of activities:	19/12/2013 – 18/06/2015

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Action is to strengthen the institutional capacity of the Bank of Albania (BoA) and the Central Bank of the Republic of Kosovo (CBRK) by identifying the legal, organisational and resource requirements for alignment with the standard institutional and operational framework of the ESCB and the ECB. Moreover, this Action aims at prioritising

technical cooperation needs of the National Bank of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (NBRM).

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY – JUNE 2014)

April 2014, Tirana – Programme Steering Committee Meeting and press conference (visibility event)

April 2014, Tirana – Benchmarking meeting between experts of BoA and of European System of Central Banks (ESCB)

May – July 2014, Tirana – Stocktaking missions to BoA

July 2014, Frankfurt am Main – Experts meeting of ESCB experts on BoA

July 2014, Skopje – Expert meeting on priorities of NBRM

OUTPUTS

April 2014, Tirana – PSC Meeting and press conference (visibility event)

Output: Summary of the PSC meeting, joint press release, published statement of ECB Board Member.

April 2014, Tirana – Benchmarking meeting

Output: Summary of the meeting, Documents with the list of benchmarks for 13 project areas.

May – July 2014, Tirana – Stocktaking missions to BoA

Output: End of mission reports outlining recommendations on the functioning of the central bank.

July 2014 - Article in EMEA Finance Magazine by Tim Burke about the programme based on an interview with the ECB and the Central Bank of Kosovo

July 2014, Frankfurt am Main – Experts meeting of ESCB experts on BoA

Output: Summary of the meeting

July 2014, Skopje – Expert meeting on priorities of NBRM

Output: End of mission report

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

September 2014, Frankfurt am Main – Programme Steering Committee Meeting

Output: Summary of the PSC meeting, BoA Needs Analysis Report, press release

October 2014, Pristina - Benchmark meeting between experts of CBRK and of European System of Central Banks (ESCB)

Output: Summary of the benchmarking meeting, Documents with the list of benchmarks for seven project areas.

October – December 2014, Pristina - Stocktaking missions to CBRK.

Output: End of mission reports defining the gaps to the benchmark in the respective business area and outlining recommendations how to close them.

CONTACT

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CHAPTER 2: RULE OF LAW AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

In the area Rule of Law, the beneficiaries need in particular to join forces and cooperate to fight organised crime. This involves strengthening cooperation with international law enforcement organisations operating in criminal justice, police investigations and witness protection. IPA assistance in this area also encompasses transitional justice. The respect of human rights - including those of minorities – is a core European value enshrined in the Lisbon Treaty. In the enlargement perspective, the protection of minorities and vulnerable groups effectively means complying with the Copenhagen political criteria. The EU has also identified policy areas and priorities relevant to the field of social inclusion in its enlargement strategy, e.g. the Regional Housing Programme.

2.1 FIGHT AGAINST ORGANISED CRIME AND CORRUPTION

Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2010/022-028
Project title:	Fight against organised crime and corruption: Strengthening the Prosecutors' Network
EU contribution:	EUR 5.0 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans
Type of contract:	Grant Contract with GIZ GmbH
Contract reference:	CN 2011/271-284
Duration of activities:	15/11/2011 – 30/04/2014

PURPOSE

To strengthen the operational capacity and capabilities of the General/State Prosecutors’ Offices in the beneficiaries to prosecute and investigate cross-border organised crime and linked cases of economic and financial crime and corruption; to promote the institutionalisation of the Western Balkan Prosecutors' Network and increase cooperation with international and European judicial networks and agencies.

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY – APRIL 2014)

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

Support to numerous cross-border investigations and operations, including Joint Investigation Teams (JITs);

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). Compilation and publication of a final legal assessment for each beneficiary, including specific recommendations and national outlooks;

Joint publications and two workshops with Eurojust on data protection and JITs;

Closing Conference in The Hague, the Netherlands, on 14-16 April 2014.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY – APRIL 2014)

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

First data protection measures have been introduced within the prosecutors' offices of the beneficiaries to meet conditions for closer cooperation with Eurojust.

Prosecutors' offices have secure IT systems (hard- and software, including encryption tools) in place and use them in their internal, national and cross-border cooperation.

Formal JITs with various EU Member States have been set up and supported, focussing on human trafficking, drug trafficking and document forgery. Additionally, numerous joint investigations and operations have been conducted successfully.

New criminal, criminal procedure or Mutual Legal Assistance laws in line with European standards have been drafted, are in the legislative procedure or already enacted within the beneficiaries.

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

Prosecutors' offices have appointed Eurojust contact points that have been trained by Eurojust.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

A follow up project is expected to start before the end of the year, funded under IPA 2013/024-091.

CONTACT

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Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2012/022-966
Project title:	Cooperation in Criminal Justice: Witness Protection in the Fight against Organised Crime and Corruption (WINPRO II)
EU contribution:	EUR 7.00 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans
Type of contract:	Delegation agreement with Northern Ireland Co-operation Overseas (NI-CO)
Contract reference:	CN 2012/305-554
Duration of activities:	01/12/2012 – 30/11/2015
Links:	http://www.nico.org.uk/

PURPOSE

To reinforce 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 (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY – JUNE 2014)

Training/seminars/study organised:

Study visit to Northern Ireland for the Heads of Witness Protection (WP) Units (WPU) and prison administration officials from Albania and Kosovo, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro in relation to collaborators of justice serving sentences in ‘special units’ within the prison systems;

Second meeting of the Balkan Network and meeting with representatives of the Salzburg Forum;

Assistance with arranging the attendance of the WPU at the Europol conference on WP;

WINPRO II Regional Meeting and Regional Judicial Conference;

Seminars for judges and prosecutors on procedural and non-procedural protection measures and best EU practice;

Specialist training programme for WPUs and other stakeholders;

Introductory WP course for new members of staff accredited by the University of Ulster and relevant certificates issued by the University;

Two (2) regional seminars on Human Resources management in WP, covering e.g. appropriate recruitment procedures, role profiling and staff management;

Four (4) country-specific seminars on media handling and public relations for police press offices, WPUs, prosecutorial and court press services;

Work on harmonisation of WP legislation in the region is ongoing.

Guidelines on procedural and non-procedural protection measures for the judiciary and prosecution in Serbia have been finalised; work on the guidelines for Kosovo and Montenegro has also commenced;

Further assistance has been given to the EU Office in Kosovo in finalising tender dossiers and technical specifications for procurement of equipment for the Kosovo Police.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY – JUNE 2014)

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

Co-operation of the relevant WPU from the region with Europol has been strengthened.

Through seminars and training organised by the project, roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders in relevant beneficiaries have been clarified, capacity has been strengthened and inter-agency co-operation has been enhanced.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

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

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:

October 2014: Next meeting of the Balkan Network;

October 2014: Next WINPRO II Regional meeting and Regional judicial conference;

Training for Judicial Police, training on collaborators of justice in prison systems, client (witness) assessment courses for prosecutors and investigators;

Training on close protection, counter & anti-surveillance, medical skills, operational & personal security, risk assessment, operational planning & international co-operation. WP Units skills will be tested through practical exercises;

Further study visit to EU Member States and working visits within the region to enhance international co-operation and promote best European practice in WP;

Further three (3) country specific seminars regarding media handling and public relations will be organised for police press offices, WPU, prosecutorial and court press services.

CONTACT

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

PURPOSE

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

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY – JUNE 2014)

During the reporting period the project architecture was established including the recruitment of staff. Preparatory work for undertaking the NIS has begun with adapting the methodology according to the specific regional needs. This includes the adding of two extra pillars for scrutiny, namely to assess the State Owned Enterprises and within the law enforcement pillar, to separate between the police and the prosecution.

OUTPUTS

Thorough preparatory phase for conducting the NIS by each country team and the secretariat.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

The NIS will be undertaken in all 7 IPA II Beneficiaries and the methodology for the monitoring mechanism developed.

CONTACT

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2.2 TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2013/024-091.
Project title:	Strengthening Regional News Exchange from the International War Crimes Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC)
EU contribution:	EUR 0.2 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans
Type of contract:	Grant Contract with SENSE News Agency
Contract reference:	CN 2013/316-563
Duration of activities:	01/06/2013 – 31/01/2015
Links:	www.sense-agency.com

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.

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY – JUNE 2014)

- Close to 600 daily written reports and analysis in Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian and English languages on trials and other Tribunal's proceedings; production of 22 weekly TV updates entitled “The Tribunal”, on trials and other developments at the ICTY;
- Extensive coverage of the six weeks public hearings in the Croatia vs. Serbia case before the International Court of Justice;
- Regular coverage of the trials of Ratko Mladic, Radovan Karadzic, Goran Hadzic, Vojislav Seselj; in depth analysis of the appeals judgments in the cases of the four Serbian political, military and police officials accused of crimes in Kosovo as well as in the case of police general Vlastimir Djordjevic accused of the same crimes; coverage of appellate proceedings in five cases;
- Production of the material to be used in the Sense - Srebrenica Documentation Center due to be opened in September 2014 with the aim to present how the crimes committed in that area in July 1995 have been investigated, reconstructed and prosecuted by the ICTY;
- Continued digitalisation of SENSE audio-visual trial archive;
- Participation in educational and media events and regional and international conferences about war crimes trials, transitional justice and the role of media.

OUTPUTS

For the media and general public in the region, SENSE daily reports and weekly TV programmes are the main source of information on trials for war crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia and the work of the ICTY. 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 dozens of universities all over the world.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- Coverage of the remaining major war crimes trials (Karadzic, Mladic, Hadzic);
- Trial Chamber Judgment in the case of Vojislav Seselj;
- Coverage of five Appellate proceedings;
- Digitalisation of SENSE audio-visual trial archive;
- Production of the material for the future Sense Documentation Centers.

CONTACT

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Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2012/022-966
Project title:	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
EU contribution:	EUR 0.95 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans
Type of contract:	Contribution Agreement with the ICTY
Contract reference:	CN 2012/296-002
Duration of activities:	15/08/2012 – 31/12/2014

PURPOSE

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 participate in the action.

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY – JUNE 2014)

- Visiting National Prosecutors from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia continue their work in the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP);
- The OTP supported the Visiting National Prosecutors during searches for investigative material;
- The first group of 9 young legal professionals finished their internship in February;
- The second group of 9 young legal professionals started their internship in February.

OUTPUTS

- 107 Requests for Legal Assistance received.
- Visiting Young Professionals trained in the use of OTP databases and other available judicial tools.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- The second group of Visiting Young Professionals will end their term in July 2014. The third group will start their term immediately after that.
- Either new or the current Liaison Prosecutors will continue their participation in the Action as of July 2014.

CONTACT

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Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2013/024-091
Project title:	ICTY Outreach programme 2013/2014 - International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia
EU contribution:	EUR 0.5 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans
Type of contract:	Grant Contract with ICTY
Contract reference:	CN 2013/316-547
Duration of activities:	01/05/2013 – 30/04/2014
Links:	http://www.icty.org/action/outreachnews/7

PURPOSE

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

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY – APRIL 2014)

- Published and distributed Annual Outreach Report for 2013;
- ICTY Outreach produced documentary ‘Through their Eyes’ which was broadcast by 10 local and regional TV stations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the UN TV. Public screenings have been organised in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Croatia, as well as in The Hague, followed by round table discussions.
- DVDs of ‘Through their Eyes’ have been widely distributed and the film was made available at the ICTY YouTube channel. The documentary ‘Sexual Violence and the Triumph of Justice’ was screened at the ‘Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict’ in London.
- Production of a documentary on ICTY cases related to Central Bosnia has been completed;
- 11 high school presentations and 15 university lectures on the work and achievements of the ICTY have been delivered in the countries of the former Yugoslavia;
- Two meetings on establishment of Information Centers were held in Sarajevo and two in The Hague
- Around 4,000 visitors attended trials and received briefings about the work of the ICTY.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY – APRIL 2014)

More than 2,000 beneficiaries, partners and other stakeholders have been informed in detail about the ICTY outreach efforts, through the Annual Outreach Report. Tens of thousands of citizens in former Yugoslavia and internationally have a better understanding of the work of ICTY after watching Outreach produced documentaries.

More than 1,000 young people from the countries of former Yugoslavia received first-hand information about the work and achievements of the ICTY through lectures and presentations. Process of establishment of Information Centers in Sarajevo and Srebrenica has advanced.

Around 4,000 visitors experienced ICTY trials first-hand and extended their understanding of the institution.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

The project ended in April and its continuation is expected in September 2014. The ICTY Outreach continued working throughout this period.

- Publishing, promotion & distribution of ‘Crimes before ICTY: Central Bosnia’;
- 20 lectures & presentations on ICTY to be held in high schools & universities in former Yugoslavia;
- Publication on 20th Anniversary of ICTY and conference held in Sarajevo to be published;
- Agreements to be made with host institutions on establishment of Information Centers in Sarajevo and Srebrenica
- Production of new multimedia features for the ICTY and ICT websites.

CONTACT

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Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2011/022-964
Project title:	Strengthening and supporting the RECOM Process
EU contribution:	EUR 0.458 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans
Type of contract:	Grant contract with Humanitarian Law Centre, Belgrade (HLCB),
Contract reference:	CN 2012/292-650
Duration of activities:	27/06/2012 – 26/11/2014
Links:	http://www.hlc-rdc.org

PURPOSE

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;
On-going 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) for Belgrade (April 2014), Pristina and Skopje (May 2014).

OUTPUTS

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

Registering all the victims of the wars by name.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Publication of collected papers on reconciliation

CONTACT

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2.3 HUMAN RIGHTS AND MINORITY PROTECTION

Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2011/022-964
Project title:	Promoting Human rights and minority protection in South East Europe
EU contribution:	EUR 3.60 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans
Type of contract:	Contribution Agreement with the Council of Europe (CoE)
Contract reference:	CN 2011/277-251
Duration of activities:	29/11/2011 – 28/12/2016 (suspended July – December 2013)

PURPOSE

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

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY – JUNE 2014)

The project was temporarily suspended in the period from 15 July 2013 to 1 January 2014. During the reporting period, the project was working under transitional approval and with a reduced secretariat. The project is expected to be fully operational as of beginning of July 2014.

In preparation for the implementation of the fully revised approach (January –June 2014), 14 Steering Committee members were identified and meetings of all beneficiaries (28 state institutions, a number of international organisations and 106 major stakeholders) organised. More than 80 individual meetings were held. The Project team met with the secretariat members of the FCNM and ECRML, the CoE's Human Rights Commissioner's office and the Congress of Regional and Local Authorities (Congress) to ensure their commitment as Internal CoE *ad hoc* Advisory Group on Minority Protection in the Project.

Other activities included:

- the preparation of selection criteria of (multi-ethnic) municipalities to participate in the Project.
- provision of *ad hoc* legal advice in the case of analysis of the legal framework on the Law on National Councils for National Minorities in the Republic of Serbia in view of the recent Constitutional Court Decision on the unconstitutionality of some provisions of the Law on National Councils for National Minorities.
- support to the ratification of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages (ECRML) in Albania was provided in form of organising a workshop for national experts from Albania with ECRML experts and Secretariat on the steps to ratification of the Charter.

OUTPUTS

Following the re-orientation of the project:

- The beneficiaries signalled clear support to the new focus of the Project and supported the logic set in the revised Description of Action of the Project.
- The Project secretariat prepared a draft call for expression of interest for grants to municipalities.
- Internal CoE *ad hoc* Advisory Group on Minority Protection is established as foreseen in the Project
- As the results of the workshop organised in Tirana, Albania, an inter-ministerial working group was established under the leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Albania, tasked to draft the new law on national minorities in Albania and prepare documents for signing and ratification of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages. The timeframe for the work of the working group is set from May to November 2014.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

The Call for expression of interest of participating municipalities will be widely published and municipalities selected to benefit from a small grant of EUR 20,000 per municipality/city (18,000 EURO of grants +10% of contribution of the local beneficiary per municipality/city) and capacity building support.

A first regional event will be organised aiming to build the capacity of the beneficiaries and the national stakeholders and prepare them for the implementation phase.

CONTACT

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Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2010/022-28
Project title:	Best Practices for Roma Integration
EU contribution:	EUR 3.0 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans
Type of contract:	Contribution Agreement with OSCE/ODIHR
Contract reference:	CN 2011/275-960
Duration of activities:	01/01/2012 –30/03/2014
Link:	http://bpri-odihr.org/

PURPOSE

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

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY – JUNE 2014)

Project implementation phased out during the reporting period. In February, the closing event took place along with a regional roundtable on housing. Over 100 participants discussed good practices on improving the housing situation of Roma in the Western Balkans.

OUTPUTS

The project identified various promising practices directly contributing to the integration of Roma communities. These include working through and with Roma mediators, developing Local Action Plan on Roma at the municipal level, to disburse small grants to municipalities involving Roma into the decision making process as well as offering training and employment opportunities to young Roma professionals.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Not applicable.

CONTACT

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Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2012/022-966
Project title:	Regional support for Inclusive Education
EU contribution:	EUR 4.64 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans
Type of contract:	Contribution agreement with the Council of Europe (CoE)
Contract reference:	CN 2013/308-048
Duration of activities:	01/01/2013 – 28/11/2015
Links:	http://pjp-eu.coe.int/web/inclusive-education

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 (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY – JUNE 2014)

A baseline study was carried out to measure the nature, extent and level of awareness of inclusive education in the 49 Pilot schools. A mapping study of pre-service, in-service and mentorship training programmes for teachers on the theme of inclusion was conducted. Findings from the mapping were presented to and validated by 70 members of the TeacherNet, SchoolNet and PolicyNet. The Project implementing partner NEPC² guided the pilot schools in identifying and prioritising their needs related to inclusive practices.

A multi-purpose teacher web portal within the Project's web platform has been officially launched to serve as a forum for exchange of information, knowledge and experience among the members of the three regional networks. A study visit was carried out to the Grande Region.³

A regional meeting and seven national policy meetings were held to identify three priority issues and challenges in inclusive education in each Beneficiary.

² NEPC - Network of Education Policy Centers is a regional platform of NGOs experienced in implementing school based projects. NEPC was selected through an open tendering procedure.

³ Grande Region is the area of Saarland, Lorraine, Luxembourg, Rhineland-Palatinate, Wallonia and the rest of the French Community of Belgium, and the German-speaking Community of Belgium.

OUTPUTS

On a study visit to the Grande Region, 41 representatives from the three established regional SchoolNet, TeacherNet and PolicyNet learned about specific tools and methodologies for inclusive education. This experience has generated new and innovative ideas, and participants have used the knowledge gained to design projects on inclusive education in their schools⁴.

49 pilot schools and their communities from the SchoolNet have increased their understanding, gained knowledge, identified priorities and acquired skills to develop school development plans through participatory action research and work in 196 focus groups⁵.

70 members of the SchoolNet, TeacherNet and PolicyNet have recognized and valued findings from the Mapping study. Members provided input for discussion, analysis, linked their experience with the findings and ensured solid basis for development of a tool for improvement of teachers competencies needed to promote inclusive education.

Around 10.000 target beneficiaries (students, teachers, school principals, parents, community representatives) have contributed to measure the perception and awareness of inclusiveness in schools. Their opinion revealed that the overall score of the Index of Inclusion across the schools is 3.66 on a 1 to 5 scale, suggesting that there is significant scope for improving the degree of inclusiveness and teacher training.

Draft policy recommendations for inclusive education in Vocational Education and Training have been developed in a participatory and transparent manner.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Grants for the pilot school projects will be disbursed and implementation of the projects will begin from September.

The second meeting of Teacher Network for 70 participants will take place as well as the first meetings of the policy working groups for primary and secondary education, followed by meetings at the national level for feedback on the draft recommendations. The second regional conference will be held in October.

CONTACT

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⁴ Within the framework of the current programme 49 pilot schools will be supported by small grants in amount of up to EUR 9.500

⁵ 196 focus groups in 49 pilot schools involved more than 1700 stakeholders (teachers, parents, students and local community representatives) discussing the issue of inclusive education and designing school projects and school development plans.

2.4 REGIONAL HOUSING PROGRAMME (RHP)

Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programmes, IPA 2011/023-537, IPA 2012/024-133 and 2013/024-134,
Project title:	Regional Housing Programme (RHP)
EU contribution:	Contributions to the RHP Fund: EUR 110 million Implementation costs: EUR 28.0 million
Beneficiary region:	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia
Type of contract:	Contribution Agreements with CEB, UNHCR
Contract reference:	CN 2012/307-562; CN 2013/325-468; CN 2013/325-470; CN 2012/297-405; CN 2012/ 305-516; CN 2013/314-991
Duration of activities:	end date: 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 consists 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 transferred to the Fund in September 2013. The remaining Funds will be paid in the second half of 2014.

Funds committed as 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.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

During the reporting period the actual physical implementation of the RHP started with the opening of the first construction site in Croatia. The other three Partner Countries also prepared and launched the first tender dossiers for the implementation of the first wave of housing sub-projects.

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.

In 2014 the fourth grant application for Serbia was approved for a total amount of EUR 12 million.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Currently all Partner Countries are busy kick starting the implementation of the first housing sub-projects. By the end of 2014, it is estimated all first wave projects will have been awarded and will be under implementation.

Next Technical Committee meeting: 29 October 2014

Next Assembly of Donors: 20 November 2014

Next Regional Coordination Forum: 6 November 2014

CONTACT

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CHAPTER 3: PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Support in the area of private sector development and investments aims to provide access to finance, raise regional competitiveness, increase competence of human capital, attract investments, facilitate trade and establish a business climate conducive to the development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). Private Sector Support Facilities established under the Crisis Response Package are also included.

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

Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programmes for the years 2011 - 2013, IPA 2011/021-964; IPA 2012/022-966 and IPA 2013/024-091
Project title:	Western Balkan Enterprise Development and Innovation Facility (WB EDIF)
EU contribution:	EUR 59.50 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans
Type of contract:	Contribution agreements (CA) with OECD (TA) CA with European Investment Fund (EIF) (coordination) CA with EIF (Guarantee Facility) Delegation agreement with EIF (ENEF) Delegation agreement with EIF (ENIF)
Contract reference:	CN 2012/295-825; CN 2012/306-154; CN 2012/306-653; CN 2013/319-472; CN 2012/306-667; CN 2013/333-444; CN 2013/318-776; CN 2013/331-504
Duration of activities:	05/12/2012 – 30/11/2025
Links:	www.wbedif.eu

PURPOSE

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

Coordinated by EIF, EDIF is implemented in close cooperation between the governments of the Western Balkans, the European Commission, the European Investment Bank (EIB) Group

and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). IFIs, international organisations and bilateral donors active in the region, such as Italy, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), Deutsche Investitions und Entwicklungsgesellschaft, OECD, World Bank and others participate in order to streamline the Western Balkan private sector development efforts, providing for:

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

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY – JUNE 2014)

Platform level

EIF ensured coordination and facilitated the EDIF governance, including organisation of the Platform Advisory Group (PAG) meeting on 10 June in Berlin (hosted by KfW), back to back with the Steering Committee of the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF). One EDIF Working Group meeting was organised prior to the PAG.

EIF welcomed the Results Oriented Monitoring visit, as requested by the EC, during the months of February and March 2014 and facilitated their access to the PAG members as part of their fact finding exercise. Following the ROM findings and recommendations, the EIF made several concrete proposals for improvements with regards to internal communication and good governance at the PAG meeting in Berlin, including the launch of a new quarterly newsletter for PAG members and the revision of the current Terms of Reference and Rules of Governance.

EIF sent representatives to several events to raise awareness of the WB EDIF platform and its underlying pillars, including the RCC's "Improving Cooperation in SEE" in March 2014 and the Balkan Venture Forum in May 2014.

EIF continued to update the www.wbedif.eu website with regards to developments under WB EDIF and its pillars, as well as disseminating WB EDIF promotional material at various events and conferences.

ENIF

EIF, as part of its responsibilities as Platform Coordinator has been charged with the selection of the private sector Fund Manager for ENIF. The selection procedure at EIF took place in 2013 and resulted with the final decision on the choice of the Manager on 14 February 2014.

Following the PAG's approval, EIF prepared the updated term sheet (finalised in March) in accordance with the PAG member requests and proceeded to carry out the necessary legal structure assessment and ODA compliance background work relating to the KfW investment (and subsequent proposal for subordination of shares in line with OECD's Official Development Assistance (ODA) definition). EIF has also endeavoured to secure the WB beneficiary commitments. ENIF Fundraising in the meantime has begun.

ENEF

ENEF was officially incorporated in Luxembourg on 14 February 2014, EBRD also held a high-profile signature event on February 24 2014⁶. The first meeting of the ENEF Board of Directors followed on 11 March 2014 (also in Luxembourg) whereby the main governing resolutions of the Fund were adopted⁷. The first informal meeting of the ENEF Investment Committee was held in Belgrade, Serbia on 6 May 2014 to prepare the groundwork for the first investments.

During the months of May and June the EBRD also conducted a series of ENEF roadshows in each of the beneficiary economies of the Region where the fund will operate, where the main features and characteristics of ENEF were presented to an audience composed of private businesses, local commercial banks, institutional partners and local political representatives.

ENEF's first drawdowns have been finalised with a value date of 19 June 2014.

Guarantee Facility

The first half of 2014 saw complete allocation of the initial amount of EUR 20 million guaranteeing SME loan portfolios of banks in the region. Following the first three Guarantee Agreement signatures in December 2013⁸, three more agreements are at various stages of EIF internal approval and are expected to be signed with the banks in the 2nd half of 2014⁹. The aggregate loan volume expected to be supported through this instrument (and via the six banks) stands at approximately EUR 118 million (in support of between 1,200 and 1,400 SMEs) of which EUR 3.8 million implemented as reported by the banks as of March 31 2014.

Following the PAG June meeting it was agreed that the EIF and the European Commission would proceed to discuss and negotiate on a potential replenishment of the facility¹⁰.

⁶ At the occasion of the "Investing in the Western Balkans" regional forum, an event which brought together prime ministers, government ministers, political decision-makers and leading entrepreneurs - <http://www.ebrd.com/pages/news/events/western-balkans-regional-forum.shtml>

⁷ Including appointment of the Chairman and service providers, establishment of the Investment Committee, approval of conflict of interest and risk management policy and admission of the shareholder commitments of the Fund (EIF with EUR 14.5 million – including EUR 9.5 million on behalf of the EU – DEG with EUR 5 million and EBRD with EUR 19 million) with first draw down also being approved.

⁸ With ProCredit Albania, ProCredit Bosnia and Herzegovina and Procredit Kosovo

⁹ In Serbia, Montenegro and Croatia

¹⁰ Whereby the remaining WB beneficiary, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, will be of priority.

Support Services

First projects under the Support Services Facility were launched by OECD (following signature of an agreement with the Commission in November 2013) as of the beginning of the year. They entailed the development of two areas of focus:

- EU Small Business Act (SBA) monitoring: a transparent and comparative monitoring tool to ensure that EDIF's reform priorities are such to create regional synergies between governments' and donors' efforts to support innovative and high potential SMES (IHPSMEs). Actions have been launched in the first half of 2014 to consult with partner institutions, external experts and SBA coordinators to enhance the assessment tool. This area of support covers all WB beneficiary economies.
- Triple Helix: involving the design of sustainable policy frameworks for Triple Helix Partnership¹¹ in Albania, Croatia and Kosovo. The project team formation and country launches took place between January and April 2014 and currently a best practice review and transfer is being carried out.

Progress was also made in shaping the overall structure and management of the Support Services Facility. EIB presented a proposal for this pillar coordination and facilitation at the June PAG meeting, taking into account the needs of the participating governments, the SMEs and the synergies with the EDIF financial pillars. These proposals were endorsed by the PAG. The first meeting of the Support Services Working Party (as a permanent sub-committee of the PAG) was held on 24 March 2014.

OUTPUTS

Platform level

With the four PAG meetings held since December 2012 (and relating Working Group meetings in preparation for these), EDIF governance arrangements are being well consolidated. Enough experience has also been gathered to draw lessons for the future operations and streamlining of the EDIF Terms of Reference and Rules of Governance which EIF has endeavoured to carry out.

ENIF

ENIF operationalisation is still in progress.

ENEF

First results not yet available since first closing took place in June 2014.

Guarantee Facility

Implementation has started with the banks reporting 91 loans for an aggregate loan volume of EUR 3.8 million as at 31.03.2014.

¹¹ Triple Helix thesis: innovation as a result of interactions within and between Universities, Industry and Government institutional spheres.

Support Services

The proposal by EIB to become the Support Services Manager and Coordinator was accepted by the PAG at the June 2014 meeting in Berlin.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Platform level

The next PAG meeting is scheduled for 10 December 2014 in Luxembourg (hosted by EIB), with WB EDIF and WBIF secretariats coordinating on logistics. A PAG Working Group meeting is expected to take place approximately 4 weeks prior.

EIF's work during the 2nd half of 2014 as Platform Coordinator will focus on the revision of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Governance to ensure a smoother functioning of the Platform as a whole and will roll out its first quarterly newsletter in October 2014 (reporting on Q3 2014).

ENIF

EIF continues its work towards securing the contributions from the beneficiaries and KfW. First closing is expected by year end.

ENEF

First investments are to materialise in the 2nd half of 2014.

Guarantee Facility

Signatures of guarantee agreements with the remaining 3 banks in Serbia, Croatia and Montenegro will take place. The Guarantee replenishment (under IPA II) and regulatory capital relief are to be considered.

Support Services

Two additional Support Services implementation agreements will be signed in the 2nd half of 2014 between the Commission and the World Bank, including for implementation under EDIF of the REPARIS programme and for the roll-out of new Venture Capital and Investment Readiness projects. Implementation of these will be launched in the course of 2014. Under preparation for the Multi-country Programme 2014 will be two other agreements: with EIB for coordination of the Support Services Facility and with EBRD for the inclusion under EDIF of the EBRD's Small Business Support (SBS) programme.

The existing projects with the OECD will continue to be developed, with SBA methodology review and data collection between November 2014 and March 2015. The Triple Helix Partnership project shall organise three best practice transfer seminars (one per beneficiary) and finalise the best practice survey by December 2014.

CONTACT

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3.2 EUROPEAN FUND FOR SOUTHEAST EUROPE (EFSE)

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

PURPOSE

EFSE extends loans to selected financial institutions in the region of Southeast Europe (at present 44 in the IPA Region), including the European Eastern Neighbourhood Region, for on-lending to micro and small enterprises and low-income private households with limited access to financial services. EFSE's partner lending institutions include commercial banks, microfinance banks, microcredit organisations and non-bank financial institutions.

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

The EFSE Annual Meeting took place on 19 June 2014 in Yerevan, Armenia with participation of more than 200 experts from the financial sector in Southeast Europe and the European Eastern Neighbourhood Region.

Projects of EFSE for the first half of 2014 include amongst others lending transactions to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Turkey, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The EFSE Development Facility (Technical Assistance) organised a workshop with SCHUFA (German private credit rating agency) on the development and use of scorecards.

OUTPUTS

EFSE sub-loan figures as at end Q2/2014 ¹²	
1. Total Invested Portfolio	EUR 816.3 million
2. Number of current Partner Lending Institutions	69
4. Type of Partner Lending Institution	55% Commercial Banks, 34% Micro-finance Institutions, 11% Non-Bank Financial Institutions
5. Active End Borrowers	134, 304
6. Reached End Borrowers since inception	528,109
7. Average sub-loan outstanding	EUR 5,680
8. Disbursed sub-loans since inception	EUR 3.6 billion

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Update not available.

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3.3 CRISIS RESPONSE PACKAGE

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

¹² Figures shown are aggregate for both, the region of Southeast Europe and the European Eastern Neighbourhood Region.

PURPOSE

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

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

MSME Finance Window is currently in its 3rd phase, focussing on agricultural lending capacity building, sustainability of TA and graduation of partner banks. In April 2014, Isbank held a meeting to introduce its new agricultural lending policies, product portfolio and branch structure. Under the TA, consultants have developed a Client Assessment Programme (CAP) providing a risk assessment model for easier processing of loan applications and increasing access to finance for agricultural MSMEs. The CAP has been transferred to the Turkish Kredit Bureau (KKB) under the name "TARDES".

Energy Efficiency Window

The first phase of TurSEFF was successfully finalised early in 2013, having disbursed EUR 200 million to finance 370 sustainable energy measures in Turkey through 269 sub-loans. The sub-loans under TurSEFF are now being verified.

Under MidSEFF, six new projects were requested in the first half of-2014: three for wind power plants, and one each for hydro, geothermal and energy efficiency. The Project Consultant started monitoring Karadere wind power plant. This increased the number of MidSEFF projects under monitoring to seven.

Small Business Support (SBS) / Enterprise Growth Programme (EGP) EGP started 3 projects in the first half of 2014 and one project was completed, bringing the total implementation to 17 projects started and 8 projects completed. BAS started 39 projects and 14 projects were completed during the semester. The total number of BAS projects implemented is 152, of which 84 have been completed and 52 have undergone a one year completion evaluation. In order to increase demand for local consultancy services, improve their quality and consolidate the industry, as well as to disseminate success stories and best practices, eight market and one sector development activities were undertaken.

OUTPUTS

MSME Finance Window - Following the introduction of its new agricultural lending policies, Isbank will launch specialised agricultural banking services at 14 branches across Turkey. The CAP tool "TARDES" has been launched by the KKB and is currently in use by Isbank, Akbank, Bank Asya and Fibabanka, besides a tailored CAP for Vakifbank, previously developed. This programme was integrated into Vakifbank's systems in early 2014, and piloted in 26 branches from February. 261 regional and branch staff have been trained on agricultural lending and use of the CAP.

Energy Efficiency Window - Four loan agreements were signed by partner financial institutions (PFIs) in the first half of 2014.

SBS /EGP - 87% of the evaluated projects have been rated as successful or highly successful. In addition, 89% of enterprises increased their turnover with a median increase of 25%; 63% of enterprises increased their productivity, with a median increase of 12%. 74% of BAS-assisted enterprises reported an increase in the labour force, creating over 100 (net) new jobs. 14% of assisted enterprises received external investments within one year after completion of activities, for a total of EUR 2.45 million. Lastly, BAS interventions contributed to raising demand for external advice: 98% would consider using a local consultant again, whereas 54% of beneficiary enterprises have in fact already engaged another advisor within one year after completion of the BAS project.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

MSME Finance Window: The facility is now fully invested in the MSME sub-loans and Denizbank's agricultural loan is also almost fully invested. The next semester will focus on capacity building with PFIs on agricultural lending processes through TA and monitoring the sub-loan portfolio against the requirements of the first loss cover. To ensure sustainability of the programme, the consultants will work with Vakifbank to design a train-the-trainer programme for agricultural lending.

Energy Efficiency Window: Continue to encourage the development of MidSEFF sub-projects from non-mainstream renewable technologies. Continue the verification of the TurSEFF sub-loans.

SBS/EGP: Another EGP project is planned in Q3 2014. BAS plans to continue the implementation of BAS projects as well as market development activities (MDAs).

CONTACT

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Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary programme, IPA 2009/021-373
Project title:	Private Sector Support Facility for the Western Balkans – Crisis Response Package
EU contribution:	EUR 31.5 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans
Type of contract:	Contribution agreement with EBRD
Contract reference:	CN2009/229-273
Duration of activities:	23/12/2009 – 30/11/2015
Links:	http://www.sme-finance.mk/ http://www.cropssf.hr/ http://www.webpssf.com

PURPOSE

The EU/EBRD programme “Private Sector Support Facility for the Western Balkans” (PSSF or the Facility) is to provide loans, supported by grants and technical assistance (TA) to the WB Region for (i) industrial investments for SMEs to be in line with *acquis* and (ii) energy efficiency investments in the private sector. The Facility includes three windows: (i) the SME Competitiveness Support Window¹³ (SME-CSF – EUR 21.5 million), (ii) the Energy Efficiency Window (SEFF – EUR 5.0 million), and (iii) the EBRD SBS (formerly TAM/BAS) Programme Window (EUR 5.0 million).

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

SME-CSF Window - to date EBRD signed 13 loan agreements with Participating Banks (PBs) for financing of EUR 105 million in 4 countries. Out of the 13 projects, one is related to SEFF sub-window, whilst the remaining 12 fall under SME-CSF. In the first half of 2014 EBRD signed the last project under the Facility with NLB Tutunska Banka in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for EUR 3 million. Adding to the project with Ohridska Banka signed in December 2013 this necessitated an increase in supporting activities for Macedonian projects in order to facilitate disbursement. Personnel of NLB Tutunska Banka received training in May 2014. Cooperation with this bank is developing well.

Energy Efficiency Window - The first tranche of EUR 50.0 million of investment funds under WeBSEDF, to which the PSSF EUR 5.0 million contributed, were fully committed to 12 projects by September 2012. Further progress was made with their implementation in the first half of the year, of which 4 were completed and are verified.

SBS Window - Under SBS, the Enterprise Growth Programme (EGP) has started 45 projects in the region and 1 sector development activity. Out of these, 25 have been completed, including the sector development activity, 10 cancelled and 11 are under implementation. Business Advisory Services (BAS) delivered 299 projects, of which 9 are on-going, 20 have been completed and 16 cancelled. 254 projects have already been evaluated one year after completion with 28 being evaluated in the first half of the year. On average, beneficiaries contributed 46% of project costs. In total, 18 projects have been implemented in Albania, 55 in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 94 in Croatia and 43 in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 37 in Montenegro and 52 in Serbia. Under PSSF, 9 new projects started during the first half of the year in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Furthermore, 9 market development activities have been implemented to provide training to local enterprises and consultants and to consolidate the consultancy industry in the region.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

SME - CSF Window: EBRD disbursed EUR 17.9 million to Participating Banks (PBs) bringing the total disbursements under the Facility to EUR 98.6 million. The current sub-loan

¹³ The window is supported by additional funding of EUR 3 million from the EBRD Special Shareholders Fund (SSF)

portfolio stands at 188 for the value of EUR 70.8 million. 35 projects have been completed and verified. Cumulatively 115 sub-projects have been successfully verified by the end of reporting period (Croatia 46; the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 33, Serbia 29, Bosnia and Herzegovina 7). The cumulative total amount of IPA and SSF Grants disbursed by the first half of 2014 stands at EUR 7.54 million, of which EUR 7.35 million from IPA. EUR 2.57 million has been disbursed for consultancy services. Two training sessions were held for 20 participants from Tutunska Banka (the last PB to join the Facility).

Energy Efficiency Window - Due to technical reasons, only one of the incentive payments for EUR 0.45 million was made during the period from sources other than the PSSF. The other three incentive payments for a total of EUR 2.36 million will be effectuated in the 2nd half of 2014, funded from the PSSF contribution. Among these are two small hydropower projects in Albania and one biomass-fired cogeneration facility in Croatia. Implementation of other PSSF projects advanced and will be followed by verification. Two projects face implementation difficulties and are being closely monitored; the PSSF funding committed to these two projects is EUR 1.3 million.

SBS Window - 69% of evaluated projects have been rated as successful or highly successful. In addition, 66.7% and 49% of BAS assisted enterprises report an increase in turnover and labour force, respectively, and BAS interventions contributed to the creation of over 300 (net) new jobs. Furthermore 26% of BAS-assisted enterprises received external investments within one year after completion of activities, with a median investment of around EUR 255.000. Lastly, BAS interventions contributed to raising demand for external advice. 97% would consider using a local consultant again, whereas 36% of beneficiary enterprises have in fact already engaged another advisor within one year after completion of the BAS project.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

CSF-SME activities will focus on the disbursement of the signed loans and financial incentives. The consultancy teams on the ground are working closely with all PBs and EBRD to ensure successful completion of the Facility by the end of implementation period in November 2015. Implementation of projects under WeBSEDFD will continue. It is anticipated that the verification of two more projects will be initiated in the 2nd half of 2014. SBS plans to start 4 more EGP projects in 2014 in Croatia and Montenegro and will continue implementing BAS activities under the WB PSSF where applicable.

CONTACT

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Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary programme, IPA 2009/021-373
Project title:	SME Recovery Support Loan for Turkey – Crisis Response Package
EU contribution:	EUR 30.00 million
Beneficiary region:	Turkey

Type of contract:	Contribution Agreement with EIB
Contract reference:	CN2009/228-929
Duration of activities:	22/12/2009 -22/12/2016
Links:	http://www.eib.org/projects/pipeline/2009/20090580.htm http://www.eib.org/projects/press/2010/2010-131-eib-provides-eur-150-million-innovative-recovery-support-loan-to-smes-in-turkey.htm

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 (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

The two facilities were fully disbursed between October 2010 and April 2011.

- Halkbank: Their share of the Facility (EUR 74.82 million) is fully allocated to 148 SMEs since the end of 2011. The average size of allocation is EUR 0.51 million.
- Akbank: Their share of the Facility (EUR 74.82 million) is fully allocated to 89 SMEs since the end of June 2012. The average size of allocation is EUR 0.8 million.

Main activity in the period January-June 2014: continued monitoring of the payment defaults from the final beneficiaries.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

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

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

The 2014 ROM visit is planned in October in two final beneficiaries in the area of Gaziantep. A discussion regarding the reutilisation of the funds has started at the Steering Committee in June 2014: The success of the operation, particularly its attractiveness and efficient implementation has been broadly appreciated and various follow-up scenarios are being considered. Even though Turkey is out of the financial crisis and has been experiencing some credit expansion in successive years, there are still niches where access to finance is very critical such as health and safety investments.

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3.4 COMPETITIVENESS

Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2011/022-507
Project title:	Support to the SEE Investment Committee (SEEIC)
EU contribution:	EUR 800,000
Beneficiary region:	South East Europe
Type of contract:	Grant to RCC
Contract reference:	CN 2011/276-682
Duration of activities:	01/01/ 2012-30/06/2014
Links:	www.rcc.int

PURPOSE

Introducing, promoting and monitoring regional cooperation in investment-related reforms, and supporting convergence of the SEE region with the EU competitiveness and growth agenda, by development of the SEE 2020 Strategy that is aligned with the EU 2020 Strategy yet adapted to the specificities and needs of the SEE region.

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

Following the adoption of the SEE 2020 Strategy in November 2013, activities continued with implementation of the priority measures stipulated by the SEE 2020 where SEEIC has been designated as the Coordinator of the Competitiveness Dimension: Integrated growth and Sustainable Growth. To add value to its work, SEEIC has closely linked its activities with CEFTA in an effort of aligning investment-reform activities within the Integrated growth pillar, as well as with the OECD Next Generation Competitiveness Initiative Project (NGCI) within the Sustainable growth pillar focussing specifically on work related to the priority sectors designated by the SEE 2020: food and beverages processing and tourism industry.

Two sectoral expert groups have been formed: Food and Beverages Expert Group (FBEG) and Tourism Expert Group (TEF), comprised of representatives of the SEE government and private sector, and meetings of the respective expert groups have been held on 4 March and 28-29 April 2014, respectively. In parallel, the CEFTA-SEEIC Joint Working Group on Investments (WGI) was formed and a meeting was held on 13 May 2014 in Sarajevo.

Furthermore, SEEIC has contributed to and taken part in the 2 meetings of the SEE 2020 National Coordinators and Regional Coordinators and participated in preparation of the SEE 2020 Baseline Report. Finally, SEEIC has contributed substantially to the SEE 2020 public promotion through implementation of the respective PR strategy, either through direct

contacts and consultations with the representatives of the media, or through participation at high-profile events.

OUTPUTS

Both sectoral expert working groups have extensively worked, under guidance of the SEEIC and OECD NGCI project, on determination and prioritisation of the common main challenges hindering the development of the two sectors. In both sectors, skills gap and the need for education and training have been determined as the priority issue to be first addressed by the measures and activities of the SEE 2020.

The WGI has agreed on the scope and methodology for conducting an Investment Policy Review on a regional level (in cooperation of the RCC, CEFTA and UNCTAD), in order to provide a response to the common challenges in investment policies in the region, but also to position the region as an investment location on a global map.

The SEEIC has also endorsed the Rolling Work-plan, as well as the Regional Action Plan (RAP) for the two pillars of the SEE 2020 Strategy for the period 2014-2015, including precise mandate, activities and responsibilities of the involved parties (RCC, SEE governments, partner organisations). The latter (RAP) constitutes an integral part of the SEE 2020 Baseline Report, adopted officially by the SEE governments at the first meeting of the SEE 2020 Governing Board held on 19 June 2014 in Bucharest.

On the monitoring of the SEE 2020, SEEIC has been working extensively with the OECD on development of qualitative and quantitative indicators for the Integrated Growth and Sustainable Growth (Competitiveness Dimension) pillars of the SEE 2020 strategy. Finally, upon the end of the EU-funded project duration, SEEIC has been officially integrated within the RCC structures.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

SEEIC will continue the sectoral work in the priority areas, jointly with OECD NGCI and involved government and private sector representatives, namely by drafting a proposal for policy response for the detected challenges to sector development and creation of value chains. Furthermore, SEEIC will carry out the regional Investment Policy Review and dedicate significant efforts to the support of the SMEs development in the region.

This is intended to take place through planned working group meetings (FBEG, TEG, WGI), as well as a regular SEEIC plenary meeting and a Ministerial meeting towards the end of 2014. Furthermore, SEEIC will finalise the SEE 2020 qualitative and quantitative monitoring indicators and relevant data-gathering with the governments involved, and continue to work horizontally with dimension coordinators of other pillars where SEE 2020 activities coincide.

Finally, SEEIC will continue to provide support to the overall SEE 2020 public promotion efforts.

CONTACT

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Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2013/024-091
Project title:	Next Generation Competitiveness Initiative (NGCI)
EU contribution:	EUR 4.9 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans
Type of contract:	Contribution agreement with OECD
Contract reference:	CN 2013/ 316-772
Duration of activities:	22/04/2013 – 31/12/2015
Links:	http://www.oecd.org/investmentcompact/

PURPOSE

The purpose of the NGCI is to improve competitiveness of the Western Balkan economies by assisting with the implementation of the South East Europe (SEE) 2020 Strategy, in partnership with the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC). This will be achieved by: (i) assisting with the development of SEE 2020 national action plans by identifying short-term implementation measures, (ii) developing a transparent and publicly-accessible monitoring process to ensure the SEE 2020 Strategy is being implemented (“The SEE Competitiveness Outlook”); and (iii) developing an open, sector-based, regional network of Western Balkan businesses and government officials to enhance competitiveness of key sectors in the Western Balkans economies;

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

Under the short-term implementation measures component, the main gaps between what the beneficiaries need to do to reach their national SEE 2020 headline targets and the planned activities, as well as actions that are feasible and impactful were identified. These were determined in a participative process, with the initial long list of priorities produced by the OECD, based on a comprehensive review of assessments produced by international organisations, as well as in-country interviews of officials in relevant ministries and the final selection made on the basis of inter-ministerial consultations in a final round-table bringing together all stakeholders. These actions were then included in the draft National Action Plans for the implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy (except for Croatia and Serbia which did not take part in this component).

Within the monitoring component of the NGCI, progress was made in developing the monitoring tool and its indicators for the SEE Competitiveness Outlook. Activities included a regional workshop at the OECD in Paris on 10 March to discuss the monitoring policy indicators with regional expert organisations and OECD experts, 22 teleconferences with the regional expert organisations to discuss various draft versions of the indicator grids, and the development of a set of qualitative and quantitative indicators for the 16 dimensions of the SEE2020 Strategy. Furthermore, the assessment process was launched through government self-assessments and independent assessments by local experts.

Regarding the sector component, for both priority sectors (food and beverages processing; tourism), Sector Expert Groups were established. Both Expert Groups were composed of representatives of the private sector as well as representatives from the relevant ministries in charge for the priority sectors in each economy, including members of the Country Economic Teams (CET). Each of the Expert Groups hence consists of a core group of about 30 members from the seven SEE economies.

The first set of Expert Group meetings was held jointly by the OECD IC and the RCC. While the FBEG convened at the OECD headquarters in Paris on 4 March 2014, the TEG met for the first time in Dubrovnik on 28-29 April 2014.

Key decisions by the Expert Groups and OECD IC analysis were presented on 26 June at the 15th Meeting of the South East Europe Investment Committee organised by the RCC Secretariat and Croatia (Ministry of Economy), which vetted the project methodology. The "lack of suitable skills" in the two priority sectors was validated as the main issues to be addressed.

OUTPUTS

Under the short-term implementation measures component, discussion papers with potential priority actions for 2014 were produced, as well as short lists of three to five short term reform priorities for 2014. These activities concluded this project-segment.

Within the SEE Competitiveness Outlook, collaboration on the development of the indicators, including the regional meeting, enhanced the co-operation of policy makers in SEE on issues related to SEE 2020. It also increased awareness of key issues related to specific dimensions of SEE 2020. Indicator grids for both qualitative and quantitative analysis were finalised and vetted by the regional organisations and relevant ministries within the beneficiaries.

Within the sector component, two Sectoral Expert Groups were created to jointly address key challenges in two priority sectors, drive regional integration and foster value creation. The Expert Groups' composition of about 30 representatives from the private sector and from the relevant ministries as well as interventions by the OECD and international experts and discussions between the experts allowed for deepened capacity building among the experts. Initial analysis showed that further work should focus on the area of skills in both, the Food and Beverage and Tourism sectors.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Under the SEE Competitiveness Outlook, key activities will include the finalisation of data-collection and the beginning of data-analysis, including consultation-stakeholder meetings in every beneficiary. This will result in the following outputs: a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation of progress in the implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy; An independent and rigorous assessment of policy settings and reform in SEE 2020 priority areas against international best practice; and guidance for policy reform and development.

With regards to the sector component, two sectoral Expert Group meetings will be held on 2 October (Food and Beverages Expert Group Meeting) and 20 October (Tourism Expert Group Meeting). Furthermore, two surveys to identify skills gaps in the two priority sectors and to evaluate the transferability of key skills will be conducted, analysed and initial

recommendations to address skills gaps in the two priority sectors will be developed. Finally, initial recommendations to foster regional integration and increase value added in the two priority sectors will be drafted.

CONTACT

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3.5 HUMAN CAPITAL

Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary programme, IPA 2013/024-091
Project title:	FRAME: skills for Future - Supporting the development of a comprehensive HRD strategic vision in the Enlargement countries
EU contribution:	EUR 1.4 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans (except Croatia) and Turkey
Type of contract:	Delegation Agreement with European Training Foundation (ETF)
Contract reference:	CN 2013/316-651
Duration of activities:	08/05/2013 – 08/12/2014
Links:	http://www.etf.europa.eu

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 (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

The Foresight methodological Guide for the design of Skills vision 2020 is available as ETF publication on the ETF website. The foresight exercise has been finalised in Albania, Kosovo, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina; and is currently running in Turkey.

The Review of Institutional Arrangements (RIA) Guide has been sent for external editing. The RIA exercise has been carried out with full involvement of country's stakeholders. RIA activities (including MTEF) are still to be completed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Turkey.

On Monitoring, bilateral work with the countries has continued in order to finalise the list of common indicators, analysis and selection of relevant national indicators.

On Regional cooperation: a peer learning activity on Foresight took place in Malta in May 2014. The ETF has been represented in all the regional events/workshops (i.e. SEEIC meetings, NGCI workshops, Danube Strategy, etc.).

Promotional material has been produced to ensure wide dissemination of the FRAME initiative.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

The Foresight Guide is published. The Foresight Skills 2020 vision paper is in process to be finalised for all countries.

The RIA Guide is finalised.

The monitoring tool has been further developed in full compliance with the EU 2020 and SEE 2020 strategies and in cooperation with RCC.

The country reports, summarising the results of the Foresight, RIA and Monitoring exercises in the countries are under preparation, as well as the FRAME regional report.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

The RIA Guide will be published and the Monitoring Tool Guidelines will be finalised and published.

Foresight and RIA exercises will be finalised in all countries including the development of Skills 2020 Vision Papers and related roadmaps, the identification of gaps in institutional arrangements and related capacity development plans.

The FRAME final validation event will take place in Tirana on 6 October 2014.

Additional visibility actions will be also carried out.

CONTACT

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Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary programmeIPA 2012/022-966
Project title:	EC/RCC/World Bank/Western Balkans Countries Partnership on Employment and Social Inclusion
EU contribution:	EUR 1.0 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans (except Croatia)
Type of contract:	Administration Agreement with World Bank
Contract reference:	CN 2013/325-267

Duration of activities:	16/10/2013 – 15/01/2016
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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 (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

Creation of a draft website to host regional learning network on employment and social inclusion; completion of field work for a skills measurement survey in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and start of survey activities in Serbia (household and employer surveys). Over the period January to June, the World Bank has also completed draft labour market assessments in Montenegro and in Serbia; and completed qualitative surveys and corresponding reports on barriers to employment for vulnerable groups in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia. Initial work to prepare the employment strategy post-2015 has also begun and a workshop with different stakeholders on the current action plan was held in June in Skopje and connected virtually with Washington, DC. For Montenegro, an analysis of the design of the active labour market programme was completed and technical assistance was provided on the drafting of the Employment Action Plan.

OUTPUTS

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia have requested operational support to elaborate a project that operationalises the cross-sectoral jobs agenda while developing more effective active and passive labour market programmes. In addition, the technical assistance and analytical work in Montenegro has led to more evidence-based design of active labour market programmes.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE NEXT SEMESTER

Piloting of the website for the regional learning network and finalisation and launch of website; preparation of Serbia's poverty mapping; finalisation of a policy note on labour demand and tabulation of the draft results of skills survey in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; and completion of field survey employers in Serbia.

CONTACT

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

PURPOSE

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

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

- Developments in entrepreneurial learning as a key competence for the ISCED levels of education 1,2,3,5 and 6:
 - Regional thematic working groups established.
 - Meeting of the Working Group for ISCED 3 level focusing on general parts of secondary education.
 - 12 pilot schools across 3 partners (Kosovo, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia) trained on curriculum adjustment, teacher readiness and school support modalities for integration of learning outcomes into school teaching and learning framework.
- Small Business Act Assessment Methodology:
 - 1 ETF-SEECEL planning meeting (8 participants) addressing first phase of ‘4 point plan’ including the regional workshop (50 experts and policymakers) to upgrade SBA indicators.
 - 1 regional high-level meeting (SBA Coordinators, SEECEL, DG ENTR, ETF, OCED) for planning of 2015 SBA assessment drive.
 - Sharing of pre-accession SBA human capital indicators with ENP SBA Coordinators
 - Peer learning methodology for the SBA assessment drafted;
- Other activities:
 - New functions introduced to SEECEL on-line knowledge sharing platform
 - Networking and know-how exchange through DG EAC Thematic Working Groups.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

- Enhanced regional ownership and capacity for SBA assessment through revised indicators and SBA preparatory assessment workshop
- Methodological framework and guidance for ISCED 1 implementation developed including finalised entrepreneurial learning outcomes; curriculum examples and training modalities ready for publishing; teacher and school management modalities developed for ISCED Levels 1, 2 and 3;
- pilot institutions familiar with the entrepreneurial learning as a key competence concept and ready for the strategic piloting
- Second generation training needs assessment Toolbox developed and translated into national languages.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- Piloting all developed instruments and methodologies related to introducing the entrepreneurial learning as a key competence in 104 pilot institutions.
- Analysing the data collected by the regional on-line survey run in 8 countries under the training needs assessment
- Organising the preparatory workshop for country experts for the upcoming SBA Assessment

CONTACT

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3.6 TRADE

Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2011/022-964
Project title:	Reducing Regulatory and Administrative Constraints Related to Trade Logistics and Harmonising Cross-Border Clearance Systems and Services in the Western Balkans
EU contribution:	EUR 1.5 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans
Type of contract:	Administration Agreement with International Finance Corporation (IFC), World Bank Group
Contract reference:	CN 2011/276-335
Duration of activities:	21/11/2011 – 20/11/2014
Link:	http://www.ifc.org

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 (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

- Trainings of regional sanitary and phyto-sanitary (SPS) agencies on risk-based import controls;
- Regional Training for customs staff on post-clearance audit, together with World Customs Organization (WCO);
- Analysis of the documents required by regional SPS agencies for import of heat-treated dairy products, and recommendations for simplification and harmonization, per request by CEFTA;
- WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement workshop in Serbia, together with UNCTAD, as part of regional initiative in collaboration with USAID and CEFTA;
- Analysis of, and recommendations for Customs Brokers Regulation in Kosovo, including study visit to Slovenia;
- 13 workshops/training events held with over 600 participants, about 25% of whom women; over 30 media appearances.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

- The Food & Veterinary Agency and State Sanitary & Health Inspectorate of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Bosnian Veterinary Directorate adopt risk-based import controls, with reduction in sampling of up to 40%;
- Transit Facilitation Agreement signed between Albania and Kosovo;
- Contract signed with Albania Customs and UNCTAD to upgrade its Customs IT system (Albania Customs co-funds 80%). Costs savings per year estimated at \$700,000, in addition to reduction in transit documents and elimination of duplicative customs guarantees;
- Development of software for Montenegro Customs that randomly assigns customs declaration for processing – led to reduction in processing time of close to 50%;
- 10 reports produced; 20 procedures proposed for improvement, 8 drafted and enacted.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- Assistance to additional regional SPS agencies with development of risk based import controls to achieve a regionally consistent approach;
- Continued assistance to customs agencies with risk management and post clearance audit;

- Jointly with CEFTA, consult with regional technical agencies regarding implementation of the recommendations made in report on documents required for import of dairy products;
- Jointly with UNCTAD, help Albania Customs upgrade its Asycuda IT system to higher version (same as Kosovo). This will also facilitate implementation of the bilateral transit agreement;
- Continue work with Podgorica and Belgrade Airports and border agencies working on the Danube to achieve reductions in number of documents / time;
- Jointly with WTO and USAID, organise WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement self-assessment workshop in Montenegro, and potentially in Serbia or Bosnia and Herzegovina.

CONTACT

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Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2011/022-964
Project title:	Support to CEFTA Secretariat 2011-2014
EU contribution:	EUR 0.68 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans (and Moldova)
Type of contract:	Contribution agreement with the CEFTA Secretariat
Contract reference:	CN 2011/271-151
Duration of activities:	15/09/2011 – 30/11/2014
Links:	http://www.cefta.int/

PURPOSE

The overall objective is to enhance economic development and regional co-operation in South Eastern Europe through supporting the region's efforts to liberalise and facilitate intra-regional trade in the context of the enlarged and amended Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA) 2006. The Project supports the operation of the CEFTA Secretariat, which provide technical and administrative support to the CEFTA Chair in Office (CiO), the CEFTA Joint Committee (comprising ministers responsible for international trade from each CEFTA Party), and CEFTA Subcommittees.

ACTIVITIES

In the reporting period the CEFTA Secretariat assisted the CEFTA Parties in drafting all the work programmes of CEFTA Structures (i.e. the CiO, CEFTA Subcommittees and Working Groups), in the organisation of all the regular meetings of the CEFTA Subcommittees and Working Groups and of two Special Joint Committee meetings. Furthermore, the CEFTA Secretariat organised several technical workshops in cooperation with TAIEX, IFC and GIZ.

Moreover, the Secretariat took part in a joint working group with the RCC on investment and promotion and contributed to the organisation of a regional conference on “Dialogue on Regional Mobility of Professionals in CEFTA”, which gathered around 40 participants from the CEFTA Parties, international and regional organisations and initiatives.

In that conference, the participants discussed (i) professional mobility in the context of economic growth and integration; (ii) the tools for achieving greater professional mobility such as Multi-lateral Recognition Agreements in qualification; (iii) temporary movement of natural persons; (iv) and facilitation of labour mobility at the regional level.

The CEFTA Secretariat also attended three meetings organised within the framework of SEE 2020.

OUTPUTS

- Work Programmes of CEFTA Structures (i.e. CiO, and CEFTA Subcommittees and Working Groups)
- Regular meetings of the CEFTA Subcommittees and Working Groups
- Two Special Joint Committee meetings.
- Technical workshops in cooperation with TAIEX, IFC and GIZ.
- Decision of the CEFTA Parties to launch the negotiations on liberalisation of trade in services
- Exchange of information between the CEFTA Parties on their national customs risk management system.
- Implementation of CEFTA Decision 3/2013 regarding the Pan-Euro-Mediterranean Convention entered into force as of April 1, 2014 for the Parties who have signed and ratified the Convention.
- Drafting monitoring indicators related to the Integrated Growth of the SEE2020.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

The actions and activities related to the implementation of the CEFTA Work programmes and according to the relevant priorities of SEE 2020 will continue. In addition the CEFTA Secretariat will organise all Subcommittee and Working Group meetings foreseen in the second half of 2014 and will contribute to 5 different technical workshops. Furthermore, the Secretariat will assist the Chair-in-Office in organising the 'CEFTA Week', and CEFTA Joint Committee meeting in November.

CONTACT

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Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, 2011/022-964
Project title:	Supporting the implementation of CEFTA 2006
EU contribution:	EUR 0.6 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans (and Moldova).
Type of contract:	Contribution Agreement with OECD
Contract reference:	CN 2012/288-783
Duration of activities:	15/03/2012 – 30/11/2014
Links:	http://www.oecd.org/trade ; http://www.cefta.int/

PURPOSE

The overall objective is to assist the CEFTA Parties in implementing the Free Trade Agreement negotiated in 2006 by the beneficiary economies. 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 (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

The OECD continued to monitor progress in the reduction and elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers in CEFTA 2006. Part of this NTB monitoring analysed inter-CEFTA and CEFTA-EU trade-flow data and examined inter-CEFTA supply chains.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

The OECD showcased the initial quantitative trade flow and regional supply chain analysis at two CEFTA sub-committee meetings in the spring of 2014.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

The OECD will continue all work related to supply chain analysis. The OECD plans to contract regional experts as consultants to map out regional supply chains, by undertaking a survey of businesses within the agro-business sector, in the late summer (the agro-business sector was agreed by the CEFTA parties as a sector of high interest). The OECD plans to monitor and participate in the undertaking of these surveys within the CEFTA economies.

The OECD will draft and publish a report on “NTBs elimination in CEFTA” that will cover all three policy areas assessed in the course of the project. A new NTBs assessment cycle will start by focusing on the area of Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary measures.

The OECD will also present all assessments and publications related to the project, during the 'CEFTA week' in November, 2014.

CONTACT

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Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2011/022-964; IPA 2013/024-091
Project title:	CEFTA Project Facility
EU contribution:	EUR 0.2 million; EUR 0.46 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans (and Moldova)
Type of contract:	2 Contribution agreements with the CEFTA Secretariat
Contract reference:	CN 2013/319-423; CN 2013/335-161
Duration of activities:	01/05/2012 – 31/10/2014; 18/12/2013 – 17/12/2015
Links:	http://www.cefta.int/

PURPOSE

The overall objective of the CEFTA Project Facility (CPF) is to support enhancing economic development and regional co-operation in CEFTA Parties through supporting the Region's efforts to facilitate the intra-regional trade in goods and liberalise trade in services. The specific objective of the CPF is to provide technical assistance in undertaking priorities identified by the CEFTA Structures for successful implementation of the Agreement, during which specific technical knowledge and experience are considered critical.

ACTIVITIES

An international expert was hired to assist the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Chair of the Working Group on Trade in Services, in facilitating the negotiating process on liberalisation of trade services as well to assist the CEFTA Secretariat in steering the technical preparation for the negotiation.

The CEFTA Secretariat continued to cooperate with Austria to develop a regional strategy and a roadmap for the preparation and implementation of a CEFTA Authorised Economic Operators (AEO) Programme. To this aim, the CEFTA Secretariat and Austria organised a study visit of CEFTA AEO Contact Points in Austria, which was the occasion to transfer experiences on how Austria has prepared and implemented the EU AEO Programme at strategic and operational level. As a follow-up, the Austrian Customs Authority has assisted

the Secretariat and CEFTA Parties in drafting CEFTA AEO Strategy which has been endorsed by the latest Deputy Ministers' Meeting of CEFTA Parties in July 2014.

Furthermore, a part-time project assistant and a technical consultant were hired in order to provide assistance to the Secretariat in drafting non-thematic Terms of References and tender dossiers which are to be launched by the end of 2014.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

- Work Programme of the CEFTA Subcommittee on Customs and Rules of Origin. As a side output, the ownership of Moldova has also been raised as their involvement in drafting the Work Programme was ensured.
- First round of negotiations to liberalise trade in services (held on 8 July 2014).
- Study visit in Austria on preparation and implementation of the EU AEO Programme.
- Draft CEFTA AEO Strategy and roadmap.
- Terms of References for tendering new contracts foreseen in the next period.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

The Secretariat is to finalise all tendering and contracting before 31 December 2014, deadline of contracting for the CPF. In addition to the projects under implementation such the one related to TA on services negotiations, contracts are planned to sign TA to the Secretariat to organise regional conferences and workshops. Furthermore, a TA is planned to prepare a needs assessment for trade policy formulation and coordination capacity of Ministries of Trade in CEFTA Parties. In addition, IT experts are to be hired to assist the CEFTA Parties in their discussions for electronic exchange of data. Some funds are to be allocated to finance at least three regional meetings by December 2014.,

CONTACT

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Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, 2011/022-964
Project title:	Quality Infrastructure in the Western Balkans and Turkey
EU contribution:	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)
Contract reference:	CN 2011/270-456
Duration of activities:	08/08/2011 – 15/06/2014

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 (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

- 6 Hands-on Trainings;
- 2 ordinary Steering Committee meetings and 1 extraordinary Steering Committee meeting
- 4 networking events, among which two in the context of the CEFTA Working Group on technical barriers to trade (TBT)
- Submission of the last interim report, the draft final report and the final report;
 - 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.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

Key officials from ministries and quality infrastructure bodies learned in a highly practical manner about the latest developments in EU technical legislation and best practice in quality infrastructure fields.

The horizontal networking component has enabled officials from ministries and quality infrastructure bodies to share best practice and learn from each other how best to manage their quality infrastructure systems, thereby increasing trust which is a precondition for cross-border trade.

Better coordination of the works within the CEFTA Working Group on TBT in which the representatives of the project beneficiaries sit and discuss.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

The project ended on 15 June 2014.

CONTACT

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CHAPTER 4: TRANSPORT AND ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE, NUCLEAR SAFETY

One of the priorities for IPA assistance is to help Beneficiaries to overcome the economic and financial crisis and to prepare for sound recovery by jointly working on increasing competitiveness and investments in infrastructure. Interventions in this sector have the ultimate goal of supporting the modernisation of their economies, also with a view to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy. Under the Municipal Window of the Infrastructure Projects Facility, grant co-financing is provided investment projects in the fields of environment (water supply, wastewater collection and treatment), energy (district heating) and transport (urban transport). Close coordination with International Financial Institutions (IFIs) is essential.

4.1 WESTERN BALKANS INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK (WBIF)

The Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) was 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 260 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 result of consultation with the other relevant DGs (Environment, Climate change, Move, Energy, Regional Policy, Economic and Financial Affairs) and ensures coordination with their activities in the region.

ACTIVITIES

Key issues under the WBIF work programme for the first part of 2014 included in particular the 11th call for proposals for WBIF support; the on-going discussions on the evolution of WBIF, including the Detailed Review of the WBIF Project Pipeline and the introduction of a PPP-window in the WBIF; the proposal from the European Commission on a new methodology to support infrastructure investments in the Western Balkans; the handover of the co-chair of the Project Financiers' Group (PFG) from the EBRD to CEB; and the 10th WBIF SC meeting in Berlin on 11-12 June 2014.

In January 2014, the call for project proposals – round 11 – was launched and 15 project applications were received. A Project Financiers Group (PFG) meeting took place in May 2014 to assess the projects.

The 10th Steering Committee (SC) meeting of the WBIF was held in Berlin on June 11-12 2014, hosted by the German Ministry of Finance, co-chair of the WBIF SC. Based on the recommendations of the PFG, the SC approved 8 WBIF grants requested for a total of approx. EUR 9.09 million. All of the applications approved are for technical assistance grants. The SC also cancelled 5 grants leading to EUR 3.65 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 the economic developments in the EU. The importance of enacting structural reforms to improve overall competitiveness and to create additional fiscal space was once again stressed.

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 should continue its work and consultations concerning the new methodology to support infrastructure investments in the Western Balkans. This methodology implies changes in the working methodology for the WBIF:

1. More systematic identification and prioritisation of investment needs and projects;
2. Stronger ownership by the beneficiaries;
3. Distinction between project preparation and mature projects;
4. Direction of IPA Multi-beneficiary funds towards co-financing of regional projects.

The Task Force established following the Athens SC meeting presented the potential for the WBIF to increase the use of public private partnerships (PPPs) for 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 the second half of 2014. A limited call for proposals (round 12) will be launched in August 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. All of the proposals must have a regional dimension. The deadline for the 12th call for proposals is 31 August 2014.

The next SC meeting will take place on 9 December 2014 and will be held in Luxembourg, hosted by EIB, the current co-chair of the PFG. The next PFG will be held in Belgrade in November 2014.

CONTACT

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4.2 HORIZONTAL SUPPORT TO IFI COORDINATION

Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2013/024-091
Project title:	Horizontal Support to Coordination with International Financial Institutions (IFIs) – IFI Coordination Office
EU contribution:	EUR 3.88 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans
Type of contract:	Service contract with Mott MacDonald Limited
Contract reference:	CN 2014/340-622
Duration of activities:	01/04/2014 – 31/03/2016
Link:	www.wbif.eu/

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 IFI Coordination Office provides a range of technical, management and communication services to support 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 (IN THE PERIOD APRIL – JUNE 2014)

- Organisation and follow-up of the Project Financiers' Group and WBIF Steering Committee meetings.
- Update of the WBIF Public Private Partnerships Strategy.
- Introduction of the new WBIF methodology and National Investment Committees (NICs) needs assessment carried out by IFI Coordination Office.
- Active participation in various internal and external working groups and task forces.
- Support to beneficiaries with their applications for the (limited) call for projects Round 12.

- Drafting the Terms of References for IPF 4.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD APRIL – JUNE 2014)

- Submission (and start of implementation) of the Communication and Visibility Action Plan.
- Submission (and start of implementation) of the MIS and Website (merger) Action Plan.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- Support to the preparation and organisation of WBIF related meetings.
- Screening of applications from the (limited) call for projects Round 12.
- Organisation of a regional NIPAC workshop in Belgrade in November 2014.
- Preparation for the 11th WBIF Steering Committee in Luxembourg in December 2014.
- On-going update and maintenance of the WBIF website and databases of investment and IPA flows.
- Delivery of the 1st interim report on IFI Coordination Office project achievements.

CONTACT

Olav Reinertsen; Olav.REINERTSEN@ec.europa.eu

Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary programme, IPA 2008/020-300
Project title:	Horizontal Support to Coordination with the International Financial Institutions – IFI Coordination Office
EU contribution:	EUR 4 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans
Type of contract:	Service contract with Project Management Limited
Contract reference:	CN 2009/225-076
Duration of activities:	27/01/2010 – 26/03/2014

PURPOSE

The main aim of this project was to ensure that adequate and effective coordination takes place between the EC, IFIs and bilateral donors at policy, technical and operational level contributing to the overall socio-economic development of the Western Balkan countries.

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY – MARCH 2014)

- Support to the 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 Public Private Partnerships 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 Steering Committee 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 the 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 including research and analysis, seminars and workshops on specific topics within sectors of relevance for the EC and IFI cooperation in the Western Balkans.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY – MARCH 2014)

Delivery of final report and handover documents

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

All modules of this project have been successfully completed.

CONTACT

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

4.3 WBIF INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS FACILITIES (IPF)

Programme reference:	CARDS Regional Action Programmes for the years 2005 and 2006, CARDS 2005/017-628, CARDS 2005/017-886, CARDS 2006/018-474; Multi-beneficiary programme, IPA 2010/022-028
Project title:	Infrastructure Projects Facility 1 – Technical Assistance Window
EU contribution:	EUR 30.24 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans
Type of contract:	Service contracts with WYG International Limited
Contract reference:	CN 2008/157-799; CN 2008/157-807; CN 2008/158-121; CN 2010/241-182
Duration of activities:	18/06/2008 – 18/01/2015

Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary programmes, IPA 2008/020-300, IPA 2011/022-964
Project title:	Infrastructure Projects Facility 2 – Technical Assistance Window
EU contribution:	EUR 29.78 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans
Type of contract:	Service contract with COWI AS
Contract reference:	CN 2009/224-490; CN 2011/273-396
Duration of activities:	27/11/2009 – 27/06/2014

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

PURPOSE

The Infrastructure Projects Facilities (IPF) under the Western Balkans Infrastructure Framework (WBIF) refer to consultancy service contracts awarded by DG Enlargement to assist beneficiary institutions in the Western Balkans with project preparation for priority investments in transport, environment, energy and the social infrastructure.

The core task of the IPF teams is to carry out assignments for the projects approved by the WBIF Steering Committee and which are allocated as IPF projects (i.e. EU-funded). The IPF facilities provide technical assistance for project preparation (feasibility studies, designs and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), etc.) and implementation (tender dossiers, works supervision).

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

In addition to the implementation of projects, until April 2014, IPF 1 was mandated to provide also 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 was also in charge of upstream activities on projects in support of NIPACs and Beneficiaries in preparing project applications for the WBIF. Similarly, IPF1 was responsible for preparing the terms of reference. Since April 2014, these tasks have been taken over by the IFI Coordination Office.

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

IPF 2 activities came to an end in June 2014 with all 36 sub-projects implemented.

IPF 1 activities were extended until January 2015 to allow further support on some sub-projects.

With the June 2014 Steering Committee approval of 8 grants, the IPF portfolio now comprises 100 grants (excluding cancelled projects), 58 are completed, 27 are being implemented and 15 have their terms of reference in preparation.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

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

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- Continuation of IPF active sub-projects
- Expected completion of all ongoing IPF 1 projects by contractual deadline in January 2015.
- 2014 Compendium.

CONTACT

Élodie LOPPÉ, Elodie.LOPPE@ec.europa.eu

4.4 MUNICIPAL WINDOW

Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary programme, IPA 2008/020-300
Project title:	Municipal Window of the Infrastructure Project Facility
EU contribution:	EUR 13.2 million
Beneficiary region:	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia
Type of contract:	Contribution Agreement to CEB-KfW
Contract reference:	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 (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

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, develop a tariff adjustment plan and draft business plans. Tendering construction services was delayed as the municipalities needed more time to meet the performance milestones, but construction contracts are now being awarded.

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. 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 half 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.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

Improved quality of service, infrastructure management and financial performance

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Continuation of construction works.

CONTACT

Élodie LOPPÉ, Elodie.LOPPE@ec.europa.eu

Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary programme, IPA 2008/020-300
Project title:	Municipal Window of the Infrastructure Project Facility
EU contribution:	EUR 16.00 million
Beneficiary region:	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia
Type of contract:	Contribution Agreement to EIB
Contract reference:	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 6 municipalities;
- Montenegro: Rehabilitation and construction of water and wastewater infrastructure in 5 municipalities;
- Serbia: Reconstruction of two roads in the city of Belgrade

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

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. Construction works have now started in Pljevlja. For the municipalities of 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.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

Improved quality of service, infrastructure management and financial performance

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Signature of work contracts, beginning or continuation of construction works.

CONTACT

Élodie LOPPÉ, Elodie.LOPPE@ec.europa.eu

Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary programme, IPA 2008/020-300
Project title:	Municipal Window of the Infrastructure Project Facility
EU contribution:	EUR 3.00 million
Beneficiary region:	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Type of contract:	Contribution Agreement to EBRD
Contract reference:	CN 2009/225-824
Duration of activities:	30/11/2009 – 31/12/2015

PURPOSE

The project is part of Bijeljina Wastewater System – Phase II and covers the construction of the wastewater treatment plant.

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

After a period of inactivity due to a change of contractor, the implementation of this project is now progressing well. The wastewater treatment plant is under construction and the works should be completed in April 2015.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

Improved quality of service, infrastructure management and financial performance

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Continuation of construction works.

CONTACT

Élodie LOPPÉ, Elodie.LOPPE@ec.europa.eu

Programme reference:	Annual Programme 2008 II for Kosovo, IPA 2008/020-454
Project title:	Municipal Window of the Infrastructure Project Facility – Kosovo Window
EU contribution:	EUR 25.00 million
Beneficiary region:	Kosovo
Type of contract:	Delegation Agreement to KfW
Contract reference:	CN 2009/221-084
Duration of activities:	11/12/2009 – 31/12/2015

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 (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

For the water and sanitation sub-project in Pristina, all works and supply contracts were signed in 2013 but are facing delays in implementation. Construction works are now expected to be concluded in Q3 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 now expected by the end of 2015.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

Improved quality of service, infrastructure management and financial performance

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Continuation of construction works.

CONTACT

Élodie LOPPÉ, Elodie.LOPPE@ec.europa.eu

4.5 ENERGY EFFICIENCY, GREEN FOR GROWTH

Programme reference:	Energy Efficiency Finance Facility, IPA 2007/019-340
EU contribution:	EUR 34.7 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans and Turkey
Type of contract:	Contribution Agreements with EBRD, EIB, CEB/KfW
Contract reference:	CN 2008/163-440, 163-442, 163-444
Duration of activities:	28/11/2008 – 31/12/2016
Link:	www.webseff.com

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 participating banks (PBs) and end-borrowers to facilitate investments.

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

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. By end of June 2014, EUR 60 million credit line was fully disbursed to PBs, in comparison to EUR 58.9 million at the end of December 2013.

The PBs have on-lent more than EUR 57.8 million in energy efficiency and renewable energy loans (still to utilise remaining headroom under their respective credit lines).

EUR 3.57 million has been disbursed in Technical Assistance in the first semester 2014.

Under the Western Balkans Sustainable Energy Finance Facility (WeBSEFF), 131 projects have been signed, out of which 120 have been verified for a total incentive amount of more than EUR 7.69 million at end of June 2014.

The Turkey component of the EIB credit line counts 15 sub-projects for a total grant amount of EUR 4.3 million. This amount has decreased since the last period following the withdrawal of one sub-project that no longer fits the eligibility criteria. At the end of the first half of 2014, 11 sub-projects have been positively verified. Under the Croatian component, 6 sub-projects are allocated for a total grant amount of EUR 2.3 million and as at the end of the first semester 2014, 3 sub-projects have been positively verified. So far most sub-projects concern RE investments.

As at 30 June 2014, EIB has disbursed EUR 3.4 million of grants to verified sub-projects.

The KfW credit lines (partly refinanced by CEB) continued to advance in Serbia. So far, positive energy audits have been carried out for 15 sub-projects. In the first semester of 2014, two IPA grant payments were disbursed to end clients.

For eight of these sub-projects loans have been disbursed. A total of four IPA grant payments were allocated to end clients. The allocation of at least two IPA grant payments is expected during the second semester of 2014.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

N/A

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Continue credit line utilisation by EBRD to ensure remaining credit lines which are fully allocated and signed. Continue sub-project implementation, completion and verification. Project Consultant to provide clarification as necessary on the Final report, submitted to EBRD for review and approval.

Under EIB's Turkey component the consultant will verify the 4 remaining projects in the portfolio. Following the first grant disbursements the participating banks have regained confidence in the programme and have resumed pipeline development. As the EIB loan is fully utilised, new project agreements with the participating banks are being amended to include the EEFF. Under EIB's Croatian component the consultant will continue sub-project identifications and verifications according to sub-project progress; the consultant will also carry out a feasibility study.

On KfW's Serbian component the consultants will continue to verify the remaining projects in the portfolio and will assist the partner banks in further pipeline development.

CONTACT

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Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2009/021-373; 2010/022-471; 2010/022-028
Project title:	Green for Growth Fund (GGF)
EU contribution:	EUR 25.264 million
Beneficiary region:	13 countries including Western Balkans
Type of contract:	Trusteeship Agreements with the European Investment Fund (EIF) (3 contracts for fees and subscription to shares, 2 contracts for TA facility)
Contract reference:	CN 2009/228-006; 2009/228-008; 2011/267-146; 2010/257-202; 2010/257-207
Duration of activities:	17/12/2009-30/11/2015
Links:	http://www.ggf.lu

PURPOSE

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

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

ACTIVITIES

GGF signs further senior loans with partner institutions in Serbia as well as in Bosnia and Herzegovina to provide energy efficiency financing.

GGF has been awarded the LuxFLAG Environment Label for the third consecutive year. The Luxembourg Fund Labelling Agency (LuxFLAG) supports the financing of sustainable development by providing clarity for investors by awarding Labels.

OUTPUTS

GGF figures as at end Q2/2014	
1. Total Invested Portfolio	EUR 185.1 million
2. Number of active Partner Institutions	20
3. Number of target countries	13
4. Measures financed	38% Improvement in processes, process related equipment, 37% Buildings, 11% Use of RE for commercial energy generation, 5% Agri-equipment, 4% Use of RE by households and businesses, 5% Others
5. Sectors financed since inception	Households 36%; Manufacturing 35%; Services 15%; Commercial 6%; Agriculture 5%; Transportation 1%; Other 2%
6. CO ₂ Savings / CO ₂ Reduction	428,447 tCO ₂ /yr / 62%
7. Energy Savings	1,049,745 / 50%

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

n/a

CONTACT

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Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2012/022-966
Project title:	Regional Energy Efficiency Programme for the Western Balkans
EU contribution:	EUR 20 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans
Type of contract:	Contribution agreement with EBRD
Contract reference:	CN2013/311-406
Duration of activities:	24/06/2013 – 31/12/2019
Links:	http:// www.webseff.com/

PURPOSE

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

to implement infrastructure investments and improve the investment climate for business development.

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

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

Window 1 includes technical assistance to support Energy Service Companies (ESCO) in the public sector (theme 1) and policy dialogue on energy efficiency (theme 2) across the region.

THEME 1 - ESCO SUPPORT

Two assignments have been launched in the reporting period, in Croatia (contracted in June 2014) and Serbia (May 2014). The objectives of both assignments is to identify public sector energy efficiency investment projects and support the respective public authority to prepare related Energy Performance Contracting (EnPC)¹⁴ tenders in the coming 18 months.

Both assignments are still at an early stage of implementation.

THEME 2 – ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICY DIALOGUE

The policy dialogue should lay the foundations for, and support, energy efficiency investments in the Western Balkans, including EBRD finance facilities.

This objective will be achieved through activities that support legislators and investors to eliminate market barriers to energy efficiency, and accelerate the take up of energy services. This will involve work across three domains that have been selected in consultation with regional stakeholders.

All assignments under Theme 2 were launched in 2013.

Assignment 1 - Prioritisation

The consultant is required to summarise the current status of the REEP-relevant policies in the Western Balkans countries and to identify and describe the priority areas that require further policy assistance. The priority assignments will be spread as evenly as possible across Western Balkans countries.

Assignment 2 - Support for Transposition of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD)

The EPBD 2010/31/EU is a vital instrument of energy efficiency policy in the built environment in the EU as well as Western Balkans/Energy Community. The transposition and implementation of the EPBD poses a significant work load and technical challenges for all countries in the Western Balkans.

The aim of this assignment is to assist Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Serbia and Albania to develop the necessary primary legislation (Kosovo and Albania) and required secondary legislation, regulations and guidelines necessary for the transposition of the EPBD (all countries). The approximate scope

¹⁴ Energy Performance Contracting (EnPC) is an energy service concept as supported under EU Directive 2012/27/EU, article 18.

of specific assistance for each country has been established in consultation with each Beneficiary and was further refined during the kick-off events held by the Consultant and the Technical Working Groups (TWGs) established in each country.

Assignment 3 - Support for Development of Public Energy Efficiency Procurement Policies, Guidelines and Codes in Montenegro and Serbia

The aim of this assignment is to further develop the energy efficiency procurement frameworks to ensure consistency with both, existing obligations and those that are likely to be adopted in relation to the implementation of Directive 2012/27/EU.

In addition, the assignment entails the development of more detailed regulations needed to ensure the effective implementation of the requirements of the relevant Directives. Moreover, the Consultant is developing procurement guidelines consistent with these regulations in order to provide sufficient guidance to selected central or local government entities for practically adopting the new procurement rules.

Assignment 4 - Support for the Development of Utility Energy Efficiency Obligation Schemes in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina

The aim of this assignment is to develop enabling frameworks for the implementation of utility energy efficiency programmes that will be embodied in a specific rulebook/regulation. This assignment is being undertaken under the direction of a technical working group (TWG) in each Beneficiary. This TWG will comprise government officials from relevant agencies and representatives from stakeholder groups. The Beneficiary countries were required to establish the TWG by 30 June 2014. The technical work in this Assignment is beginning in Q3 of 2014.

Window 2¹⁵ – Sustainable Energy Credit Lines

Two agreements with Participating Financial Institutions (PFIs) were signed under the Facility: with Erste Croatia for EUR 10 million and with NLB Tutunska in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for EUR 3 million.

The Project Consultant (PC) assessed a total of 26 projects for EUR 17.66 million.

- Six verification site visits were successfully conducted by the Verification Consultant (VC).
- The Public Procurement expert held a training session on public procurement procedures for Erste Bank Croatia, 13 relationship managers responsible for the public sector attended.
- The Western Balkans Sustainable Energy Finance Facility (WeBSEFF) website was upgraded with more information for potential clients. The PC continued to market the Facility by regular updates and news announcements on the site.
- A WeBSEFF Information letter was prepared during Q1-Q2/2014; 104 municipalities and/or offices for Local Economic Development (LED) have been contacted and sent marketing materials and proposal for presentation and cooperation, in efforts to increase awareness and identify potential clients/projects.

¹⁵ Part of EBRD's WeBSEFF programme (Western Balkans Sustainable Energy Finance Facility).

- In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia presentations were organised with representatives from the Ministry of Economy of Macedonia and Ohridska Banka, 268 participants attended.
- During Q2/2014, marketing activities in Croatia aimed to initiate more projects and identify new clients in the public and private sectors. Contacts were established with regional offices of the Croatian Chamber of Commerce, regional development agencies, regional energy agencies and more than 30 Energy Efficiency offices. WeBSEFF was further presented at various events in the region: Mostar / Bosnia and Herzegovina – International Economic Fair; Gradacac / Bosnia and Herzegovina – Gradacac Fair; Opatija / Croatia – Negawatt Forum; Belgrade / Serbia – RENEXPO Fair and Belgrade /Serbia – EastAgri Annual Meeting Event.

Window 3¹⁶ – Sustainable Energy Direct Financing Facility

Funding for Window 3 is to be used to provide incentive grants to projects under the EBRD Western Balkans Sustainable Energy Direct Lending Facility (WeBSEDF) which provides direct financing to: 1) industrial companies in the Western Balkans for improvements in the energy efficiency of their operations; and 2) investors willing to develop (small-scale) renewable energy projects. The Facility has so far provided direct loans to 15 renewable energy and energy efficiency projects for EUR 63.9 million, generating 386.4 GWh of renewable energy and reducing emissions by 446,765 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent yearly.

In the reporting period no funds were committed. This is due to the fact that associated projects have to be constructed and fully verified before any incentive payment can be made.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

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

THEME 1 - ESCO SUPPORT

In Serbia, more than 10 municipalities have been contacted regarding potential street lighting energy efficiency ESCO projects. Six municipalities have signed letters of interest to tender street lighting projects EBRD technical assistance is progressing with the first tender planned to be launched in Q4/2014. Projects in five additional municipalities are being evaluated and if technically and commercially feasible these could be tendered from Q1/2015 onwards. Looking forward, the intention is to identify and prepare additional street lighting projects. It is also proposed to extend project preparation support to public building energy efficiency ESCO projects and potentially water pumping energy efficiency ESCO projects.

In Croatia, two municipalities have signed Letters of Interest to launch street lighting projects. EBRD is supporting the tender preparation and tenders are expected to be launched in Q3-Q4/2014. A total of 22 municipalities and cities have been contacted and further discussions are on-going with six municipalities considering street lighting projects.

THEME 2 - ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICY DIALOGUE

¹⁶ Part of EBRD's WeBSEDF programme (Western Balkans Sustainable Energy Direct Finance Facility).

All assignments under theme two are long-term multi-year assignments and are progressing well. Workshops have been held in each of the beneficiary and Working Groups have been created as required. All beneficiaries are demonstrating strong engagement with the Consultant and to-date have welcomed the support provided to-date. During the reporting period the EBRD continued to receive requests for support from beneficiaries. To enable the Bank to provide assistance to priority areas, the EBRD provided an additional EUR 500 000 from the EBRD Shareholder Special Fund to fund an additional 3-5 assignments.

Regarding EPBD transposition, as at 30 June 2014, a scoping paper (implementation plan) for drafting Kosovo's Law has been approved. The Kosovo draft Law is now in preparation.

Scoping papers, policy papers and regulations are in preparation covering boiler inspections regulations (Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Kosovo), minimum energy performance requirements of buildings (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo), energy performance certification (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo), national calculation methodology (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina), registry of certified buildings (Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina) and software for calculation of energy performance of buildings (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo). As at 30 June 2014, inspection scoping papers had been submitted and approved by Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Republika Srpska) and Kosovo. A subsequent policy paper was completed and approved by Croatia and draft inspection regulations were delivered to Bosnia and Herzegovina (Republika Srpska). The EPC registry design issues paper was submitted and approved by Croatia.

Regarding Green Public Procurement, as at 30 June 2014, Phase 1 report (Recommendations for inclusions in Green Public Procurement (GPP)) have been submitted to both Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina (Republika Srpska).

Window 2 - Sustainable Energy Credit Lines

To date seven PFIs have signed to the credit line for a total of EUR 64 million.

18 sub-projects have been approved and loans signed by PFIs for a cumulative total of EUR 10,185,100. Of those, 15 were signed in Q1-Q2/2014 for EUR 9,217,290 - (3 in the Public sector (2 in Bosnia and Herzegovina and 1 in Croatia) and 12 in the Private sector (6 in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 3 in Croatia, 1 in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and 2 in Serbia). 1 ESCO project has been signed to date in Croatia.

To date the total (equivalent) primary energy savings is 69,000 (MWh/y), with CO2 emissions saving of 34,000 (tonnes/y).

6 sub-projects were successfully verified in the first half of 2014, and EUR 68,000 was paid in investment incentives to sub-borrowers.

The website structure was modified and the content placement was changed in the English segment of the site.

Information about new PFIs included under WeBSEFF and contracts signed between the PFIs and EBRD was communicated in the media:

- <http://www.nlbtb.com.mk/Default.aspx?mid=87&lid=2&eid=9620>
- <http://kurir.mk/en/2014/04/16/ebrd-loans-to-increase-energy-efficiency-and-competitiveness/>

- <http://renewables.seenews.com/news/ebd-to-lend-6-0-mln-euro-to-macedonias-nlb-tutunska-banka-to-back-smes-415531>

WeBSEFF also received media coverage through Government webpages, newspapers, magazines and 5 national and local TV channels.

Window 3 - Sustainable Energy Direct Financing Facility

In the reporting period no funds were committed. This is due to the process that associated projects have to be constructed and fully verified before any incentive payment can be made.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

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

THEME 1 - ESCO SUPPORT

Assignments in Serbia and Croatia will continue. In Bosnia and Herzegovina the EBRD will start procurement of the consultant with the intention that work will commence in Q4 2014. Due to a different regulatory framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the project focus is likely to be initially on hospitals and other large public buildings as well as to identify and prepare additional street lighting projects.

Assignments in the remaining Western Balkan countries are at early stages with the regulatory framework and political support of public authorities still having to become clearer. It is expected that these will begin in 2015.

THEME 2 – ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICY DIALOGUE

The aim for the next quarter is to complete the drafting of Albania and Kosovo's primary energy efficiency legislation. Similarly, the regulations associated with EPBD transposition across all countries are aimed to be completed, or near completion by the end of the year.

Using the additional EBRD funding, the Bank has launched a new assignment in Albania to assist the government in drafting the EPBD primary law. This work is expected to be completed by the end of 2014. The EBRD is currently assessing which countries will be assisted using the remaining EBRD funds.

Window 2 – Sustainable Energy Credit Lines

Continuation of project assessments and sub-loan signings by the PC and PFIs.

The reconstruction of the website will continue through Q3/2014 and will focus on the local languages segments.

Information about WeBSEFF results and achievements, including Case Studies, will be prepared during Q3/2014. This information will be disseminated to the media, in the form of a press-release and Case Studies, in October, one year after the Regional Launch Event.

Direct marketing activities in Croatia (contacts and meetings) will continue throughout Q3/2014.

The presentation of WeBSEFF at public events (conferences, fairs and other events) will continue in all four countries in order to promote the Facility and help identify new clients and eligible projects to be signed.

Window 3 - Sustainable Energy Direct Financing Facility

It is not expected that during the next semester any EU funds under this Programme will be utilised. However, a number of projects are currently in the EBRD pipeline for development and signing under the WeBSDEFF facility.

CONTACT

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4.6 RADIATION PROTECTION

Programme reference:	Horizontal programme on nuclear safety and radiation protection, IPA 2008/020-350
Project title:	Establishment of a calibration laboratory for ionising radiation in Bosnia and Herzegovina
EU contribution:	EUR 0.4 million
Beneficiary:	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Type of contract:	1) Service contract with COWI AS 2) Supply contract with Canberra Packard
Contract reference:	CN 2012/280-420; CN 2012/298-495
Duration of activities:	1) 01/02/2012 – 24/01/2014; 2) 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

Both components of the project were successfully implemented. This project is now completed.

CONTACT

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

Programme reference:	Horizontal programme on nuclear safety and radiation protection, IPA 2009/021-640
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Project title:	Strengthening the system of dosimetry control for occupationally exposed workers and patients in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo
EU contribution:	EUR 0.33 million
Beneficiary region:	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo
Type of contract:	Supply of equipment
Contract reference:	Lot 1 – 3: CN 2013/315-914; Lot 4: CN 2013/315-647; 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 contractors, the delivery of the equipment was however delayed until the end of the year 2013, first half of the year 2014 (Lots 1-3, Lot 5). After the installation and testing of the equipment, the contractors provided training to the personnel. Subsequent establishment of the Final Acceptance Certificates.

Delivery of equipment to beneficiary institutions with respective training of staff for remaining Lot 4 (National dosimetry data bases).

CONTACT

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Programme reference:	Horizontal programme on nuclear safety and radiation protection IPA 2009/021-640
Project title:	Management of sealed radioactive sources, including lightning rods in Montenegro
EU contribution:	EUR 0.454 million
Beneficiary	Montenegro
Type of contract:	Grant contract with the Centre for Eco toxicological Research (CETI)
Contract reference:	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 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

This project was finalised in July 2014. Completion of field work consisting in the removal, transport and storage of radioactive Sources.

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

CONTACT

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

Programme reference:	Horizontal programme on nuclear safety and radiation protection, IPA 2008/020-350
Project title:	Support to the Vinca Institute Nuclear Decommissioning programme (VIND part II)
EU contribution:	EUR 3.20 million
Beneficiary :	Serbia
Type of contract:	Contribution Agreement with the IAEA
Contract reference:	CN 2010/235-591
Duration of activities:	23/07/2010 – 22/09/2016

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
- characterisation and conditioning of radioactive waste, and
- strengthening of radiation safety capabilities and infrastructure.

ACTIVITIES

Radioactive survey of the Vinca site conducted 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.

Due to long delays this project has now been extended until the end of July 2016. The extension of the contract necessitated an extension of the deadline for implementation, which was granted through an amendment of the programme.

CONTACT

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

Programme reference:	Horizontal programme on nuclear safety and radiation protection IPA 2008/020-350
Project title:	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
EU contribution:	EUR 1.2 million
Beneficiary region:	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia
Type of contract:	Contribution Agreement with the IAEA
Contract reference:	CN 2011/261-655
Duration of activities:	20/03/2011 – 19/02/2015

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.

Due to long delays this project has now been extended until the end of February 2015. The extension of the contract necessitated an extension of the deadline for implementation, which was granted through an amendment of the programme.

CONTACT:

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

Programme reference:	Horizontal programme on nuclear safety and radiation protection, IPA 2010/022-503
Project title:	Further steps to approximate the Albanian legislation and regulations in accordance with the EU <i>acquis</i> in the field of radiation protection, nuclear safety and security
EU contribution:	EUR 0.2 million
Beneficiary:	Albania
Type of contract:	Framework contract with COWI AS
Contract reference:	CN 2013/328-365
Duration of activities:	21/10/2013 – 14/04/2015
Links:	http://www.atomforum.org.ua/eng/enconet

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

During the reporting period, the main activities performed consisted in the revision of the Albanian “Regulation on the safe transport of radioactive materials” (approved by the Decision No.488/2010 of the Prime Minister of Republic of Albania) against the international standard (IAEA TS-R-1 2012 Edition).

Also, the preparations for the first training session to be organized 29.09.2014 – 3.10.2014 in Tirana are ongoing.

No comments have been received to the draft regulations or the revised regulations submitted to RPO for review during the last reporting periods.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

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.

Start of last project task "Quality Control of X-ray machines", including the establishment of regulations and procedures for QC tests and subsequent training courses.

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

CONTACT

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

Programme reference:	Horizontal Programme on Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection (Montenegro centralised part), IPA 2011/023-388
Project title:	Strengthening Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety in Montenegro through capability upgrading of the technical support institution (CETI)
EU contribution:	EUR 0.3 million
Beneficiary region:	Montenegro
Type of contract:	Supply contract(-s)
Contract reference:	publication reference: EuropeAid/135712/DH/SUP/ME
Duration of activities:	not yet known

PURPOSE

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

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

ACTIVITIES

Prior contract information notice published on 01/04/2014

OUTPUTS

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

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

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Tender publication on 01/07/2014

Tender evaluation and contracting during second half of year 2014

CONTACT

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CHAPTER 5: ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

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

5.1 ECRAN	
Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2013/024-094
Project title:	Environment and Climate Regional Accession Network (ECRAN)
EU contribution:	EUR 5 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans and Turkey
Type of contract:	Service contract to Hulla & Co. Human Dynamics KG
Duration of activities:	October 2013 – October 2016
Link:	http://www.ecranetwork.org/

PURPOSE

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

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

The Project held its first Steering committee Meeting on 20 January in Brussels. A kick-off meeting of the NGOs environment and climate forum took place in May in Budva, Montenegro. The first annual meeting of the Environmental compliance and enforcement network for accession (ECENA) working group took place in January in Skopje and a first regional training (common inspection training) for capacity building on compliance with environmental legislation in May in Croatia.

A number of Working Groups (WG) started their activities, notably:

- under the CLIMA component: a workshop on climate policy development on 23 January in Zagreb; meetings on training needs assement in February in Belgrade, Ankara and Tirana and in March in Skopje, Pristina and Podgorica; a regional training on the greenhouse gas (GHG)

inventory development process with a focus on the energy sector on 5 - 7 March in Croatia; a regional training on possible inclusion of aviation into the EU Emission Trading Scheme in April in Istanbul; a regional training on climate acquis in May in Tirana; as well as an expert mission to Albania on GHG.

- under the ENVIRONMENT component: the first annual meeting of the working group on strategic planning and waste management, and the first annual meeting on industrial emissions/chemicals took both place at the end of January in Skopje; the first annual meeting of the water management WG on 10 February, Istanbul; the WG on strategic planning and investments organised a regional training in March in Podgorica; a first regional training on approximation of environmental legislation and accession negotiations took place in April in Brussels; a kick-off meeting of the working group on environmental assessments in April in Podgorica; the Nature WG held meetings and carried out site visits in May in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in June in Serbia and Turkey; a regional training on IPA II was organised by the WG on strategic planning and investments in Brussels in June; a water screening workshop at the pilot site Drina river basin was organised by the water management WG in June in Podgorica.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

Agenda, work plans and minutes of working group meetings available on the website.

For training needs assessments with training methodology, training programme and proposed training materials: [www.ecranetwork.org/Files/1st Interim Report and Annexes.rar](http://www.ecranetwork.org/Files/1st_Interim_Report_and_Annexes.rar)

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Horizontal and cross cutting activities will continue with organising meetings and monitoring progress. Annual meetings of all working groups are planned for December 2014/January 2015.

Under the CLIMA component, the various working groups have meetings, workshop and training planned in the region such as: climate policy WG 27-28 October in Belgrade; 4-5 November in Istanbul, 6 – 7 November in Tirana.

Under the ENVIRONMENT component, the Nature WG plans a workshop on assessment screening in September in Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as well as in November in Turkey and will hold an annual meeting of representatives of the network of protected areas in December in Podgorica; the Air WG will hold its first workshop and annual meeting 29/09 – 1/10 in Podgorica; the WG on strategic planning and investments will hold a regional training on economic/financial analysis and cost recovery in the water sector; a regional training on the transposition and implementation of the Waste Framework directive is planned in October in Podgorica; the Water management WG will organise a regional training seminar on the water framework directive and marine strategy framework directive

on 17-18 November in Podgorica as well as a regional training to share results of the pilot river basin management plan development on 8-9 December in Ankara.

CONTACT

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5.2 INTERNATIONAL SAVA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2013/024-094
Project title:	Support to the International Sava River Basin Commission in the development of the Sava Geographic Information System
EU contribution:	EUR 150,000
Beneficiary region:	Sava River Basin area (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia and Montenegro)
Type of contract:	Direct grant to the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC)
Duration of activities:	October 2013 – October 2016

PURPOSE

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

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

In the first quarter the Sava Commission established a core working group for implementation of the project to assist the Secretariat in expert issues related to the establishment of the system.

In the second quarter the preparation of several tender documents was completed: Contracts C1- Engagement of associate GIS expert; C2- Purchase of operational and Relational Database management software; C3- Purchase of GIS software; C4- Services for establishment of the Sava GIS.

After the catastrophic flood events in May 2014 in the Sava river basin, the Sava Commission decided to put all the resources of the Secretariat exclusively into the activities related to floods and this caused some delays in the implementation of the grant. However it is estimated that, in spite of a those delays, the Sava Commission will still be in position to implement the planned activities on time.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- 1 project meeting – Ad hoc GIS Expert Group (22.09.2014)
- 1 specific issue meeting –RBM (16-17.10.2014)
- 1 ISRBC session (14.10.2014)
- 2 specific task meetings (Core working group)

Planned outputs under the various contracts:

C2 – Purchase and installation of Operating system software (OS) and Relational Database Management software (RDBMS);

C3 – Purchase and installation of GIS software (ArcGIS server, ArcGIS desktop)

C4 – Services for establishment of SavaGIS – Inception report produced and approved.

CONTACT

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5.3 CIVIL PROTECTION COOPERATION

Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2012/ 023-626
Project title:	Civil Protection Cooperation with the candidate countries and potential candidates - phase II
EU contribution:	EUR 2 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans and Turkey
Type of contract:	Service contract
Contract reference:	ECHO/SER/2013/662411
Duration of activities:	05/11/2013 – 04/11/2015
Links:	http://www.ipacivilprotection.eu/

PURPOSE

- To increase Beneficiaries' capability to further develop effective national civil protection systems and collaborate regionally, including through drawing on the best European and regional practices.
- To increase 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 (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

- 7 Country-specific consultative meetings took place during the inception phase followed by the 1st steering group meeting in Brussels;

- 2 Exchange of experts events were organised to Italy and Sweden covering the topics of forest fire-fighting and 112 emergency number;
- Representatives from the beneficiaries participated as observers to two EU civil protection exercises;
- 1 Team Management course and 1 Exercise Planning Meeting were organised for preparing the countries for the regional civil protection field exercise to take place in Montenegro in October 2014.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

Inception report, Communication and Visibility Plan, - Newsletters 1 and 2, Exchange of Experts Action Plan and Guidelines, Curriculum for the Team Management course, Scenario and initial planning for the field exercise, First Progress report;

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Seminar on risk management capability followed by a civil protection Director-General meeting devoted on the same topic; 4 Exchange of experts events; 2 Table-top exercise on Host Nation Support; 1 training course on management of staff of emergency response teams; final planning conference for the field exercise and field exercise, 19-24 October, in Montenegro; steering group meeting.

CONTACT

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5.4 DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme under IPA 2011
Project title:	Building Resilience to Disasters in Western Balkans and Turkey
EU contribution:	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)
Contract reference:	CN 2012/290-552
Duration of activities:	21/05/2012 – 20/10/2014
Links:	http://www.preventionweb.net/ipadrr/

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 (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

- Two exchange visits from experts from Beneficiaries to EU member states;
- Completion a Disaster Risk Knowledge Management System (KMS);
- Finalisation of installation of the climate data management system (CDMS);
- Training on satellite Nowcasting applications, flood loss assessment in integrated flood management and the use of calibration kits were organised;
- Finalisation of the Policy on the Exchange of Hydrological and Meteorological Data and Information in the Sava River Basin;
- Integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Meteoalarm;
- Country visits related to the development of an Early Warning System were completed;
- Two disaster insurance training workshops in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania completed;
- Completed all local launches of disaster prevention activities with the cities of Tirana, Pristina, Cetinje, and Gazientep.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

- Enhanced DRR capacities through exchange of experts between IPA Beneficiaries and EU member states;
- Increased capacity in knowledge management and information sharing in the region through the delivery of the online Knowledge Management System available at <http://seekms.dppi.info/>;
- Increased capacities for data exchange and sharing through the finalisation of the Policy on the Exchange of Data and Information for the Management of the Sava River Basin;
- Increased capacities in hazard analysis and mapping through the implementation of the climate data management systems and training in flood loss assessment;
- Increased capacities in forecasting and provision of warnings related to extreme weather events through the integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Meteoalarm and organisation of DAWBEE Satellite Nowcasting Applications workshop;
- Enhanced institutional capacity through the ongoing gap analysis of the beneficiaries' capacities and needs related to the Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS);
- Enhanced capacity of 'Europa Re' countries (Albania, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) to mitigate disaster risk through insurance and reinsurance;

- Enhanced local awareness in DRR through events organised with the Mayors of Tirana, Pristina, Cetinje, and Gazientep and translation of the UNISDR “Making City Campaign Kit” in all beneficiaries’ languages.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- Organisation of the disaster insurance training in Serbia, the 'Europe Re' disaster insurance regional conference and video for promotion disaster insurance in the region;
- Completion of the compendium of good practices in disaster risk reduction at local level in the IPA region;
- Upgrade of the EUMETCast stations;
- Organisation of the secondment of experts from four beneficiaries to the Drought Management Centre/SEE;
- Organisation of the regional training on the role of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in support of activities in the field of insurance.
- Finalisation of the Gap analysis and the design document related to the MHEWS and organisation of the Design Team meeting. Organisation of the regional forum to present the design document and promote it for adoption at national and regional level.

CONTACT

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CHAPTER 6: CIVIL SOCIETY

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

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

Media freedom and freedom of expression are also seen as important in this context. In 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 constituted 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) were finalised in March 2014.

Link to the guidelines:

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

Civil society facility

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

The CSF consists of three strands of activities which aim 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;
- 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.
- 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.

However, recently TACSO has also taken over the management of the third strand, the P2P programme.

6.1 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS (TACSO)

Programme reference:	Civil Society Facility Programme 2011 - 2013, IPA 2012/023-324; IPA 2013/024-081
Project title:	Technical Assistance to the Civil Society Organisations (TACSO)
EU contribution:	EUR 10.6 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans and Turkey
Type of contract:	Service contract with SIPU International AB,
Contract reference:	2013/325-596, 2013/325-603
Duration of activities:	01/09/2013 – 30/08/2015
Links:	
Web site:	http://tacso.org/
Database:	http://tacso.org/cso-db-res/reg/
Forum:	http://forum.tacso.org/
Facebook:	http://www.facebook.com/TACSO2
LinkedIn:	http://www.linkedin.com/company/tacso?trk=fc_badge
YouTube:	http://www.youtube.com/user/tascotube#p/u
Twitter:	https://twitter.com/#!/TACSO1

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 (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

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.

The main activity pursued concerned the selection of so-called Resource Centres for each beneficiary country who eventually will take over the tasks of TACSO.

Worthwhile noting is the Central Regional Conference, held in Tirana, Albania from June 12-13, entitled “**Media and journalism in South East Europe – Captured by particular interests or turning to serve the public?**” It was co-organised by TACSO with the South East European (SEE) Media Observatory and supported by the Central European Initiative (CEI). The aim of the conference was to present and discuss the findings of the media integrity research and investigative journalism projects in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (hereinafter referred to as Macedonia) and Montenegro. The research employed a concept of media integrity to analyse and understand why the media (systems) in the region of SEE are as they are, and what influences their ability to serve the public interest and democratic processes.

Moreover, a Regional conference, named: ‘Improving institutional and legal framework for public funding’ was organised. Public funding is one of the major issues identified by the CSF Guidelines, that could hamper developing stronger and more effective CSO in the region. At the same time, the whole process related to the public funding in relation to available mechanisms, legal framework, available practices, is really under-developed which hampers full potential of utilisation of funds available from public institutions for CSOs. This event was preceded by the major CSF Guidelines promotion event, where a number of issues were opened, amongst which public funding.

The TACSO Regional Office also launched the « You talk, we listen: Submit your ideas! » campaign, under which CSOs could submit their ideas to TACSO for the topics they believe should be supported within the P2P activities. TACSO P2P topics are decided on a semi-annual basis. The final list of topics and activities will be decided upon consultations with the TACSO Local Advisory Groups (LAGs), DG ELARG and the EUDs in each country.

The following provides an overview of other actions implemented by the local offices:

TACSO Serbia

In Serbia TACSO carried out actions to strengthen numerous networks and coalitions. For this purpose TACSO Serbia launched an Open Call for networks and coalitions, both formal and informal, to submit application for TACSO TA for supporting particular initiatives and /or to providing capacity building. 30 applications were classified into two groups: the first for direct organisational and expert’s support (mainly advocacy) and a second group of 20

networks for various TA support, like strategic planning, management sessions, meetings with members and main stakeholders, dialogue with other stakeholders supporting activities and similar.

TACSO Turkey

A Thematic Workshop on EU Guidelines for Supporting Civil Society was held by TACSO TK, as part of the overall approach launched by DG Enlargement. Also, the Resource Centre for Turkey was assigned in this phase, being STGM/Tüsev.

TACSO the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

TACSO launched the call for reactions on the Country Strategy Paper, which sets out the priorities for EU financial assistance for the period 2014-2020. The country specific reform objectives of the SEE 2020 Strategy are important reform goals and IPA II will be used to support meeting these goals.

TACSO Bosnia and Herzegovina

TACSO has been organising tailored training/coaching and follow up mentorship package of technical assistance to 20 CSOs including rural and less developed membership CSOs. One of the main aims was to improve the CSOs' PR and Media relations. Ten organisations (20 CSO representatives) were selected for each training mentorship programme.

Under the wings of TACSO, CSOs took part in a study visit to Istanbul to learn more about Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and the use of Social Media in Advocacy campaigns. This visit had a follow up in a conference on CSR in Bosnia Herzegovina in June with speakers from out the Western Balkans and Turkey.

TACSO Montenegro

Early 2014, TACSO organised a training of 20 participants on Advocacy and Lobbying to enhance the knowledge and skills of selected CSO representatives in using various methods, techniques, tools and approaches in advocacy and lobbying. It targeted CSOs which had already some experience regarding Advocacy initiatives.

TACSO Kosovo

TACSO provided CSOs with training on “Financial management and Visibility of the EU funded projects” to strengthen the capacities of CSOs in project management. In total 14 new projects involving around 20 CSOs were concerned (around 60% of these beneficiaries received grants for the first time).

This training is in a way linked to the information session which TACSO organised on the CSF Call for Proposals launched by the EU Office in Kosovo.

TACSO Albania

TACSO Albania Office in coordination with the Albanian Government and the EU Delegation to Albania organised consultative meetings with representatives of CSOs from north and south Albania with the aim to facilitate the discussions for the preparation of a Road Map on Civil Society Policy of the Government of Albania in order to strengthen the collaboration between them.

In addition, TACSO Albania organised a three day workshop on “Organisational Development and Management of Civil Society Organisations” to build capacity in

development of internal systems of operations, strategic planning, staff development, financial management and fundraising, PR and media relations of CSOs. It was attended by some 15 organisations, with 2 representatives from each.

In September 2013, People to People (P2P) became a new component of the TACSO project.

The P2P component provides an excellent opportunity for CSOs in the Western Balkans and Turkey to expand their knowledge about the EU and the accession process through visits to the European Institutions, meetings with European CSOs and the opportunity to network internationally and regionally.

Under the guidance of DG Enlargement, TACSO has the overall responsibility to plan, organise and provide follow-up support for the realisation of P2P events.

The P2P events will be announced on TACSO social media channels and the TACSO Web page. In general, single beneficiary and multi- beneficiary activities are planned in the IPA countries, with occasional study tours to Brussels, other EU destinations and within the IPA region. P2P topics will be decided on a semi-annual basis, and CSOs can submit their proposals for the topics they believe should be explored. The final list of topics and activities will be decided upon consultations with DG ELARG, the EUDs and TACSO LAGs.

For more information, take a look at the P2P Brochure:

<http://tacso.org/documents/otherdoc/default.aspx?id=10361>

The calendar of P2P activities will be published on a six-month basis, however, please note that the list of events will be subject to change. People 2 People Calendar for 2014:

http://www.tacso.org/news/p2p/default.aspx?id=8688&template_id=73&langTag=en-US

Overview of past P2P events:

http://www.tacso.org/news/p2p/default.aspx?id=10314&template_id=73&langTag=en-US

The list of the newest P2P Open Calls and Applications are available here:

http://www.tacso.org/news/p2p/Archive.aspx?template_id=73&langTag=en-US&pageIndex=1

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

TACSO completed the P2P Manual which is based on the TAIEX P2P document, to guide organisers, applicants and participants.

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

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 implement the transfer of its tasks handing it over to the Resource Centre(s) present in the beneficiary countries. Already in September TACSO Turkey will be integrated into the STGM/Tüsev premises.

All TACSO offices will plan, organise and implement several P2P activities, according to its six months P2P calendar. TACSO's goal is to organise another 8 (4 multi-country and 4 single-country) events in the course of the next semester.

CONTACT

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6.2 FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

Programme reference:	Civil Society Facility Programme and Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2011/022-965, IPA 2011/022-964
Project title:	CSF, Framework Partnership Agreements (FPAs)
EU contribution:	EUR 11.2 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans and Turkey
Type of contract:	Grants
Duration of activities:	01/12/2012 – 31/12/2014

PURPOSE

The Framework Partnership Agreements come under the second strand of the CSF mentioned above.

They provide long-term support to 18 thematic networks of CSOs organised at regional level. Outputs include tools put into practice on advocacy, awareness-raising and constituency building. The FPAs were concluded following a call for proposals for up to 48 months but subject to review after 24 months.

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

A mid-term review of the 18 projects was carried out, which should provide input for the proposals the organisations need to submit in order to secure funding for the following two years. The results will be discussed at the final conference for the projects, while looking at their new proposals, and thus providing possible new directions.

As such the organisations and networks continued the implementation of their action programmes, but still some capacity had to be set aside in order to draft a good proposal for the 2nd phase.

Below, some projects illustrating the work for all.

Under the Action 'South East European Media Observatory: Building Capacities and Coalitions for Monitoring Media Integrity and Advancing Media Reforms', five national research reports on media integrity were completed and compiled in a book, monitoring reports for 4 beneficiary countries on independence of media regulators and public service broadcasting organisations were compiled using the Guidelines for EU support to media

freedom and media integrity, 5 investigative stories on media integrity issues were written by journalists-sub-grantees of the Observatory and published, 2 series of flash reports on integrity of journalists and on media self-regulatory practices in 5 beneficiary countries were produced and published; 5 advocacy projects aimed at promoting media integrity were selected among 27 applications, Regional advocacy workshop were organised for representatives of media CSOs/journalists associations and a central regional conference organised. Finally, hundreds of new content items were published on the web site of the Observatory (<http://mediaobservatory.net>)

One of the planned activities under the Action 'Balkans Act Now' is a capacity building exercise and learning about EU practices in prosecution of traffickers. To this end, court proceedings on human trafficking cases were analysed. It was found that there remain negative and disapproving attitudes of the employees of state agencies, which result from the lack of understanding of the situation of victims of trafficking and numerous prejudices and stereotypes. The campaign pursued by 'Balkans Act Now', is contributing to a better awareness and understanding of the issues at stake and hopefully to positive action

Under the Action 'Triple A for Citizens: Access to Information, Advice and Active help', a new website was launched (www.tripleacitizens.eu) in January 2014 and the quarterly newsletter re-designed. The website, with its regularly updated database of organisations providing Triple A services helps citizens to easily find centres providing free legal aid and active help in the region

From 3th to 8th March, the second and third study visits took place. Beneficiaries were provided with a first-hand experience of the expertise of citizen advice networks in England and the UK

The mentoring visits on 28th May and 20-24th June in Croatia helped the pilot projects to receive the best available expertise from colleagues active in the same line of work.

Under the Action 'Partnership for Reconciliation through Early Childhood Education and Development in Europe – PRECEDE', four regional training sessions were held and an evaluation of the first year of the project was conducted and the report was published. All partner countries piloted the chosen programmatic toolkits for three months. A Regional Advocacy Strategy was developed for PRECEDE, regional Monitoring Strategy and a regional toolkit for self-evaluation of the civil society organisations was developed and introduced to the partners. A Regional Case Study about the implementation of the child related policies was developed and presented at Eurochild in Brussels. The project was presented at the International Conference NetQ6, a conference organised by the Northern Ireland partner in Belfast and at the Peace Day event in Sarajevo.

Under the Action 'Cross-border citizens' network for peace, inter-communal reconciliation & human security', a number of stakeholder dialogue meetings, regional and international conferences as well as visibility/advocacy events took place focused on different aspects of the concept of human security, youth, women in armed conflicts and the plight of Syrian refugees.

Under the Action 'Balkan Civil society *acquis* – strengthening the advocacy and monitoring potential and capacities of CSOs', the first baseline Country Monitoring Reports were

presented in 8 countries to main national stakeholders from February through April. The 1st-ever Regional Report on 'Enabling environment for civil society development in Enlargement Countries' was presented at the Brussels-EU workshop on 27 May. During this period, the developed web platform (www.monitoringmatrix.net) was also promoted, which is a website containing all the monitoring reports, the tool-kit and the relation between the EC Guidelines and the MM. Members and partners of the network discussed future regional and national avenues of advocacy and exchange on the basis of the 8 Country [Monitoring Matrix Reports](#) on 16th April.

From April till June all sub-grant recipients held public presentations for the research paper they produced. Policy outputs and impact of their presentation can be found here- <http://www.balkancsd.net/index.php/policy-research-analysis/opportunities-for-csos-to-influence-policies/slovak-balkan-public-policy-fund>.

Regular activities for information sharing continued in this period as well, 12 E-mail alerts were distributed and 1 periodic newsletter was published. Promotion materials including a leaflet, a printed version of all monitoring matrix reports and their executives summaries were produced and distributed.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

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

A final event will be organised to take stock of the results achieved thus far, discuss the evaluation and to fine-tune the work programme for the next phase.

CONTACT

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6.3 MEDIA

Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2012/022-966
Project title:	Enabling the democratic role of public service media in the EU Enlargement region 'Start-up action plan: making a difference 2013-2014
EU contribution:	EUR 0.5 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans
Type of contract:	Grant Contract with European Broadcasting Union (EBU),
Contract reference:	CN 2013/312-411
Duration of activities:	07/03/2013 – 06/03/2015
Links:	http://www3.ebu.ch/cms/en/services/member-relations/partnership

PURPOSE

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

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

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.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Roma Task force Meeting - Tirana, September

Fact-finding mission to Skopje

Conference on PSM and Minorities - Pristina, November, in cooperation with the OSCE

Conference on PSM and Civil Society - Tirana November, in cooperation with UNESCO

Public Service News training - Continuation of the - Training of Trainers - December (tbc), Tirana

Investigative journalism scheme - Finalization of stories and broadcast

CONTACT

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Programme reference:	The Civil Society Facility Programme 2011, IPA 2011/022-965
Project title:	Alignment to International Standards in the Media Sector for SEE Countries
EU contribution:	EUR 0.5 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans and Turkey
Type of contract:	Contribution Agreement under joint management with UNESCO
Contract reference:	CN 2012/305-617
Duration of activities:	30/11/2012 – 29/11/2015

PURPOSE

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

Organisation of 2-days training seminars for professional journalists in cooperation with existing press councils in the region on the topic of access to information, media accountability and journalistic ethics in 5 target countries of the project. <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/resources/news-and-in-focus-articles/in-focus-articles/2014/legal-leaks>

The Legal Toolkit developed by Access Info Europe has been adapted, translated and printed for media professionals in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo.

Activities and campaigns to raise-awareness among the civil-society about the role and importance of media self-regulation mechanisms have been designed in 5 target countries of the project.

OUTPUTS

- Around 200 journalists from all kind of media trained on how to file freedom of information requests and on professional standards in journalism.
- Media self-regulation mechanisms strengthened in 5 countries through national events featuring their role and importance among the media community.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- Sponsoring the participation of representatives of press councils to the upcoming Annual meeting of the Alliance of Independent Press Councils in Europe in Brussels on 9 and 10 October 2014.
- Organisation of a regional conference in Skopje on 16 and 17 October 2014.
- Organisation of 2 training seminars in Turkey and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and adaptation, translation and printing of the Legal Toolkit.
- Reinforcement of the newly created press council in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia through training and through the funding of its website and of some printed materials
- Organisation with EBU of a regional conference for Public Service Broadcasters on the topic of media accountability.

CONTACT

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

PURPOSE

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

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

- In this period 2 partners' meetings were held
- Methodology for the flash situation assessment has been finalised and 6 country-specific reports were written
- Opening Conference in Zagreb
- Methodology for measuring the Media Clientelism Index is currently being finalised.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

- 6 country-specific flash assessment reports written
- results of the research presented to the general public in a conference in Zagreb;
- web page of the project (Fairpress.eu) designed and developed; presented to journalists and the general public on a conference in Zagreb
- 10 analytical articles written and published at Fairpress.eu web portal

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER (JULY – DECEMBER 2014)

- Publish and disseminate 150 copies of Flash Situation Assessment Report
- Develop methodology for measuring Media Clientelism and Politicisation Index
- Implement a 3-day capacity building training with 2 participants per partner organisation in Podgorica
- Begin implementation of country-specific research using the tool for monitoring Media Clientelism and Politicisation Index

CONTACT

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Programme reference:	Civil Society Facility Programme, IPA 2012/023-324
Project title:	South-East European Partnership for Media Development
EU contribution:	EUR 0.6 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans
Type of contract:	Grant Agreement
Contract reference:	CN 2013/332-771
Duration of activities:	30/11/2013 – 29/11/2017

Links:

<http://www.seenpm.org/south-east-european-partnership-for-media-development/>

<http://www.cji.ro/?p=5268>

PURPOSE:

To support the development of independent and accountable media in the Western Balkans. The focus is on creating the capacity of media organisations in Western Balkans to influence the policies regarding employment conditions and education needs of the journalists.

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014):

- Kick-off meeting in Bucharest
- Research on employment conditions for journalists started
- Freedom of Expression and media monitoring.
- Communication of the programme in the participant countries

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014).

- A network of researches is created
- A research methodology is created
- A more detailed communication plan is developed

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER:

- Research on employment conditions of journalists – due November 2014
- Freedom of expression and of media monitoring – first report due November 2014
- Communication and visibility of the project (including project webpage)
- Preparation of the National workshops on employment conditions of journalists.

CONTACT

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CHAPTER 7: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The strategic documents identify the support of reforms and regional cooperation in education as one of the priorities for IPA assistance. Support is mainly provided through established programmes such as “Erasmus Mundus” and “Tempus”, as well as the new "Erasmus+" programme (2014-2020). Good education accessible by all is key in developing a stable, peaceful and democratic society. Together with MB assistance in the area of cultural heritage they can promote regional cooperation, thus fostering reconciliation and mutual understanding.

7.1 TEMPUS

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

PURPOSE

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

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

This reporting semester must be considered as a transition period between Tempus and the launch of the new Action 'Capacity Building in Higher Education' of the Erasmus+ programme, intended to replace Tempus for the period 2014-2020. No call for proposals was launched during this period. Tempus activities during this period consisted mainly of monitoring on-going Tempus projects.

Since the beginning of the year, a total of 43 field monitoring visits of 155 on-going Tempus projects in the Western Balkans were carried out by the NEOs and EACEA staff.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

The field monitoring visits showed that the Tempus projects in the Western Balkans are progressing well and achieving good results.

The period from January to June 2014 has also been used to promote the new Erasmus+ programme and in particular the Capacity Building component replaces Tempus-type projects in the future.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

A coordination meeting of all NEOs-ICPs (newly established international contact points in the EU) will be organised end of September 2014 in Brussels to discuss the implementation of Tempus and Erasmus+.

An event will be organised for the benefit of the HEREs early December 2014 in Istanbul to discuss how higher education could support the development and modernisation of Vocational Education and Training (VET) in the Tempus partner countries.

The first call for proposals for the new Capacity Building in Higher Education action (replacing Tempus) is foreseen in the autumn with a deadline in February 2015.

CONTACT

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7.2 ERASMUS MUNDUS

Programme reference:	IPA 2013/935
Project title:	Erasmus Mundus Action 1 and Action 2
EU contribution:	Action 1: EUR 8.0 million Action 2: EUR 12.0 million
Beneficiary region:	Erasmus Mundus Action 1: Western Balkans (except Croatia) and Turkey Erasmus Mundus Action 2: Western Balkans
Type of contract:	The programme is implemented by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)
Contract reference:	n/a
Duration of activities:	n/a
Links:	http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/

PURPOSE

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

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

Erasmus Mundus Action 1

Erasmus Mundus Joint Programmes are operated by consortia of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) from the EU and (since 2009) other countries in the world. They provide an integrated course and joint or multiple diplomas following study or research at two or more HEIs. There are currently 138 Masters and 42 Doctorates offering EU-funded scholarships or fellowships to students and scholars.

Erasmus Mundus Action 2

Under Action 2, Erasmus Mundus Partnerships bring together HEIs from Europe on the one hand and those from a particular region in the world on the other. Together, the partnerships manage mobility flows between the two regions for a range of academic levels – bachelor, master, doctorate, post-doctorate – and for academic staff.

OUTPUTS

A large regional conference explaining the cooperation opportunities under Erasmus+ was organised under the Western Balkans Platform on Education and Training (EAC/ELARG initiative) on 17 and 18 January 2014 in Athens, Greece. This included the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees, now an action under the new Erasmus+ programme (replacing past Erasmus Mundus Action 1) and the Credit Mobility (as in past Erasmus programme for MS) offered for the first time to the Western Balkan countries.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

The scholarship selection of the 2015 intake of Master and Doctoral Programmes under Erasmus Mundus Action 1 will be prepared during the second semester of 2014. The foreseen deadline for submitting scholarship applications to the Agency by the consortia will be 27 February 2015.

CONTACT

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7.3 YOUTH IN ACTION

Programme reference:	IPA 2013/024-091
Project title:	Youth in Action Programme – Western Balkans Window
EU contribution (2013):	EUR 3 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans
Type of contracts:	Grants
Contract reference:	n/a
Duration of activities:	n/a
Links:	http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/results_compendia/results_en.php

PURPOSE

The Western Balkans "Youth in Action" Window promotes non-formal education and the youth sector in the Western Balkans by supporting youth projects with partner beneficiaries, in particular exchanges of young people and those active in youth work and youth organisations as well as initiatives that reinforce young people's sense of initiative and mutual understanding.

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

Due to the change between Programme generations, fresh funding for a Western Balkans Window to fund Youth projects, now included in the Erasmus+ programme, will become available only at the end of 2014.

The following types of activities are supported:

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. Beyond benefiting local communities, volunteers learn new skills and languages, enhance their employability and discover other cultures.

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.

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.
- 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 new projects.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

For the period under review, the implementation of projects selected in 2013 has continued as did the monitoring of projects selected in 2012 and 2013. This includes communication with project beneficiaries, dealing with project amendments and the receipt and payment of final report cost claims.

A large regional conference explaining the cooperation opportunities under Erasmus+ was organised under the Western Balkans Platform on Education and Training (EAC/ELARG initiative) on 17 and 18 January 2014 in Athens, Greece. This included cooperation in the youth sector, now an action under the new Erasmus+ programme (replacing past Youth in Action programme).

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

In the first semester of 2014, the European Commission has been preparing the launch of the Western Balkans Youth Window under Erasmus+, the new EU Programme for education, training, youth and sport which succeeds the Youth in Action programme and other programmes related to training and youth.

It is planned that activities will be submitted to, selected and managed by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) in Brussels.

CONTACT

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7.4 CULTURAL HERITAGE – LJUBLJANA PROCESS, HISTORY

Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2010/022-057
Project title:	RCC "Regional Task Force for Culture and Society" (TFCS)
EU contribution:	EUR 1.1 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans
Type of contract:	grant contract with RCC, responsible for Task Force for Culture and Society (TFCS)
Contract reference:	CN 2011/261-565
Duration of activities:	01/01/2011 – 30/11/2014
Links:	http://www.tfcs.rcc.int/en/

PURPOSE

Contribution to strengthening of regional capacities in rehabilitation of cultural heritage, promotion of regional cooperation in the sphere of culture and implementation of a common heritage rehabilitation management tool. The cultural heritage rehabilitation approach enables not only conservation and protection of heritage values, but also its enhancement and adaptation for suitable contemporary use, regeneration of its surroundings and revitalization of local communities.

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

Organisation of two TFCS and one Ljubljana Process Project Coordinators meetings; Preparation of a Ljubljana Process II Comprehensive Report for the period 2011-2014; Bilateral Consultations with Western Balkans Ministers of Culture; Involvement of Ljubljana Process Regional Expert Pool in more than 20 activities related to drafting and validating documents, monitoring and evaluation missions, promotional and educational publications, trainings; Production of video materials as a visibility action and six promotional brochures.

Implementation of activities by National Task Forces: integrated rehabilitation methodology documentation, 7 workshops organised, installation of equipment for valorization, promotion and visibility of sites, monitoring and assessment on condition of certain sites affected by the floods and landslides of May 2014; Coordination of input for Cultural and Creative Sectors Dimension of the SEE 2020 Strategy.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –17 JULY 2014)

Enhanced regional cooperation and information exchange; Facilitated networking and circulation of expertise in the region by greater involvement of the Regional Expert Pool; Increased visibility of the Ljubljana Process cultural heritage sites; Increased contribution to regional capacity building in cultural heritage management.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Organisation of Ljubljana Process high-level conference in October 2014; Production of video and printed promotional materials; Organisation of regional training workshops and expert missions; development and publication of integrated rehabilitation methodology documents and manuals on cultural heritage management issues.

CONTACT

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

Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2010/022-057
Project title:	Support to the Ljubljana Process II – Rehabilitating our Common Heritage
EU contribution:	EUR 0.4 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans
Type of contract:	Grant contract to the Council of Europe
Contract reference:	CN 2011/264-707
Duration of activities:	18/05/2011 – 18/07/2014
Links:	http://www.coe.int/irppsaah

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 (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –17 JULY 2014)

Implementation of the priority action plan based on the Heritage Assessment Reports;
Professional training (five workshops) in business planning targeting case studies;

Seminar on economic and social impact of the Ljubljana Process (presentation of the London School of Economics final assessment reports);

Publication of a reference book (280 pages) related to wider benefits of investments in the field of heritage

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –17 JULY 2014)

Training of regional experts in the fields of business planning and fundraising strategies in order to provide assistance to national authorities in developing case studies;

Business planning process on case studies leading to business plans;

Monitoring of the priority legal or management actions by international experts with a view to assisting future political decisions about the potential continuation of the process after the end of the project;

Essays collected from regional experts with a view to publishing a book on the wider benefits of heritage investments and impact of the Ljubljana Process.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Operational activities on this project finished on 17 July 2014.

CONTACT

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Programme reference:	Preparatory Actions for preserving and restoring cultural heritage in conflict areas in the Western Balkans for the year 2010, PHARE 2010/22-659
EU contribution:	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” (EUR 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. The remaining 6 will come to an end in November 2014.

OUTPUTS

Final reports

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Assessment of final reports; continued implementation of the work-plan presented in the interim reports and stakeholder workshops.

CONTACT

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Programme reference:	Preparatory Actions for preserving and restoring cultural heritage in conflict areas in the Western Balkans for the year 2011, PHARE 2011/023-372
Project title:	Sustaining the Rehabilitation of Cultural Heritage in the Western Balkans
EU contribution:	EUR 0.5 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans

Type of contract:	Grant contract with RCC (for TFCS)
Contract reference:	CN 2012/295-647
Duration of activities:	01/01/2011 – 30/11/2014
Links:	http://www.tfcs.rcc.int/en/

PURPOSE

Contribution to rehabilitation of monuments/sites within the Ljubljana Process by assisting at specific points (urgent interventions, preliminary investigations, master plans, project design, management plans). It aims to ensure the successful completion of consolidated projects and increase visibility of donors, managers, implementers and sites themselves.

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

Finalisation, reporting and evaluation for the 14 sub-grants for 10 monuments/sites; Production of documentation (project design for tendering and building permits to prepare for execution phase) for 6 monuments/sites; Procurement procedure for preparation of Site Management Plans for 7 cultural heritage sites; 2 workshops on implemented activities with 35 participants; Involvement of the Ljubljana Process Regional Expert Pool for 2 learning packages, 1 monitoring and 6 evaluation missions; Production of six plaques for urgent interventions; Production of promotional materials - 2 leaflets, brochure and promotional short video.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –17 JULY 2014)

Strengthened regional capacities in the field of cultural heritage rehabilitation through training, educational and promotional material and events; Increased contribution to regional capacity building in management of EU funds; Enhanced support to successful implementation of Ljubljana Process II methodology and actions; Increased opportunities to finding viable solutions to sustain rehabilitation projects and good examples provided; Increased professional collaboration of national and local authorities, companies, heritage professionals and NGOs in the field of heritage preservation.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Preparation and dissemination of seven cultural heritage management plans; regional training and preparation of a learning package on cultural heritage management planning; Reporting and promotion of implemented projects.

CONTACT

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Programme reference:	Preparatory actions for preserving and restoring cultural heritage in conflict areas in the Western Balkans for 2012, CARDS 2012/023-867
EU contribution:	EUR 3.0 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans
Type of contract:	Single works contracts; Evaluation: Service Framework contract
Contract reference:	n/a
Duration of activities:	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 following three projects were selected:

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

ACTIVITIES

The Beneficiaries of the selected projects prepare preliminary designs for the projects, 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

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Implementation of the works contracts by the respective EU Delegations.

The evaluation component (EUR 0.2 million) will be implemented through a Service Framework contract foreseen in 2016.

CONTACT

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Programme reference:	Multi-Beneficiary programme, IPA 2010/022-507
Project title:	Strengthening the Southeast European Joint History Project as a tool for reconciliation in Southeast Europe
EU contribution:	EUR 0.98 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans
Type of contract:	Grant contract to Centre for Democracy and Reconciliation in South East Europe (CDRSEE)
Contract reference:	CN 2011/260-676
Duration of activities:	01/04/2011 – 01/04/2014
Links:	http://www.cdsee.org/projects/jhp

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.

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.

On-going procedure of certification of teacher training in Albania, Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina. In all other countries, the workshops are officially certified.

February- April, 2014 - Evaluation Workshops with school directors, inspectors, and Ministry of Education or Pedagogical Institute in the Western Balkans.

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.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

The project ended on 01/04/2014.

CONTACT

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CHAPTER 8: OTHER HORIZONTAL ACTIONS

8.1 EU AGENCIES

Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2011/022-964; I{A 2013/024-091
Project title:	Preparatory measures for the participation of candidates and potential candidates in EU Agencies
EU contribution	EUR 8.5 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans and Turkey
Type of contracts:	Grant agreements with EU agencies
Contract reference:	CN 304-223, 279-348, 291-934, 276-973, 270-378

PURPOSE

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

Activities are designed to help Beneficiaries understand the function and operations of EU Agencies, and more importantly their role within them. EC support also permits 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 Agency for Gender Equality (EIGE)

As part of the project “Preparatory Measures for the Participation of Candidate Countries and Potential Candidates in EIGE’s Work”, the third meeting of officials from IPA countries took place on 18 March 2014 in Vilnius. The aim of the meeting was to enhance communication and information sharing between EIGE and candidate countries and potential candidates.

Consultation meeting on data collection on gender-based violence (GBV) took place on 19-20 March in Vilnius. It presented the ongoing and recently finalised studies by EIGE, and initiated discussions on the different methodological approaches to data collection and identifying the steps necessary to gather comparable data on GBV across all 28 Member States, especially focusing on data collection as called for by the Victims Directive.

Representatives of IPA countries were also involved in the White Ribbon Campaign where men demonstrate their support for the elimination of violence against women. By 1 January 2014 21 White Ribbon ambassadors have joined the campaign, 25 have signed the pledge and about 50 000 people have seen the White Ribbon postings in EIGE's social media.

European Aviation Security Agency

The EASA organised on 5 February 2014 a workshop on fatigue management highlighting the new rules on flight and duty time both for pilots and cabin crew with the aim to bring the security level to higher standards. The Western Balkan National Aviation Authorities are expected to adopt the new rules in the frame of the European Common Area Agreement.

EASA organised on 25-26 February 2014 a workshop on helicopter emergency medical services which provided the representatives of the beneficiaries with an overview on the regulatory framework. Furthermore risk management standards, definitions of air ambulance operations and requirements for helicopter performance were presented during the meeting.

In addition EASA offered on the spot support on demand in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The intervention of EASA was targeted on the improvement of flight oversight operations. It led to a series of proposals on the further updating and fine-tuning of the oversight system.

European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)

On 24-25 June 2014, ten participants representing the authorities for biocides in Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Serbia and Turkey attended ECHA's IPA workshop on biocides held in Istanbul, Turkey. The workshop provided the participants with introductory information on the Biocidal Product Regulation, the roles of the Biocidal Products Committee, its Working Groups and the Biocides Co-ordination Group, as well as ECHA and Member State tasks related to this Regulation. ECHA's IT tools and services to applicants were also presented.

Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO)

From 4 to 6 June 2014, training on testing methods of potato and barley varieties was given by the Polish examination office. 3 experts from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia participated in this activity.

From 16 to 27 June 2014, the University of Wageningen (NL) gave a course on the plant variety rights' system which combined lessons and practical exercises. The support enabled 6 experts from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo and Turkey to participate in this course.

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)

EFSA organised training on Pest Risk Assessment on 25-27 March 2014 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina for 23 beneficiary experts. The objective of the training was to improve the

knowledge of the participants on pest risk assessment and to increase the awareness in the Pre-Accession countries on EFSA's activities. The training was given by tutors from the Food and Environment Research Agency (EFRA, United Kingdom), and Aarhus University (Faculty of Science and Technology, Dept. of Agroecology Flakkebjerg Research Centre, Denmark) and a scientist from EFSA.

EFSA organised also a training on Risk Assessment in Genetically Modified Organism and other Biotechnologies on 17-19 June 2014 in Antalya, Turkey for 24 experts. The objective of the training was to improve the knowledge on risk assessment in GMOs and to increase the awareness on EFSA's activities in the Pre-Accession countries. The training was given by tutors from the Danish Technical University (DTU) and a scientist from EFSA.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

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

CONTACT

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8.2 SUPPORT TO PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION

Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2012/022-966
Project title:	Study on parliamentary cooperation
EU contribution:	EUR 0.108 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans
Type of contract:	Specific Contract under Framework Contract to COWI AS
Contract reference:	CN 2013/330-681
Duration of activities:	2/12/2013 – 30/11/2014

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 (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

- data collection and analytical review (e.g. documents from the SEE parliamentary cooperation institutions, national parliaments, EU enlargement related documents, etc); identification of relevant persons to interview
- finalisation of the methodology (e.g. of the dimensions, assessment areas, document sources, relevant experts and CSOs, etc.)
- field missions in the region, interviews with RCC and SEE CP PD and Brussels-based interlocutors; analysis of preliminary findings

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

Inception report prepared and delivered.

Preliminary options paper prepared by the Expert and consultations with DG Enlargement D3 held.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Further field missions, interviews, review of findings, conclusions, reflection on options on how to best streamline the initiatives and frameworks for regional parliamentary cooperation, recommendations;

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.

CONTACT

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8.3 REGIONAL COOPERATION COUNCIL

Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2010/022-507
Project title:	Improving cooperation in South East Europe by actions for strengthening of the RCC
EU contribution:	EUR 0.8 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans and Turkey
Type of contract:	Grant contract with Central European Initiative (CEI)
Contract reference:	CN 2011/278-252
Duration of activities:	30/11/2011 – 31/03/2014
Links:	http://www.rcc.int/ and http://www.cei.int/

PURPOSE

This project strengthened the operational capacity and capabilities of the RCC Secretariat. It assisted 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 (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

Workshop on Monitoring Models in view of establishing a regional public monitoring mechanism of the reform process in the Western Balkans (February 2014).

Three regional Sector Stakeholders Conferences 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 (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

Finalisation of workshops and events relevant for the RCC regional role and the implementation of SEE 2020 Strategy. Delivery of concept notes on SWP 2014-2016, new role of RCC in the framework of IPA II, ReSPA role in SEE 2020, RCC needs assessment for monitoring tasks.

Overall assessment of the results achieved by the action; presentation of the RCC strategic work programme 2014–2016; illustration and promotion of SEE 2020 Growth and EU Integration Strategy; dissemination of the documentary "How do I see my neighbour?".

CONTACT

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Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2013/024-091
Project title:	Support to the Operating Expenditures of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)
EU contribution:	EUR 3.575 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans and Turkey
Type of contract:	Grant contract with RCC
Contract reference:	CN 2013/335-168
Duration of activities:	01/01/2011 – 31/12/2013
Links:	http://www.rcc.int/

PURPOSE

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

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

The main activity of the project is to assist the RCC in implementing its strategic work programme (SWP) for 2014-2016. The RCC will continue to work towards increasing the value and substance of regional cooperation, thus promoting issues of importance to the entire region and further mainstreaming regional cooperation in the countries' political agenda. All RCC's actions will fit broadly into two main categories of activities: implementation of SEE 2020 Strategy, with a majority of resources being dedicated to this category and the Stability and Rule of Law interventions.

Key meetings: RCC Board (April 2014)/ Annual meeting and first meeting of the SEE 2020 governing Board (June 2014);

Preparation and launch of the complementary RCC pillar assessment.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

Finalisation of the SEE 2020 Baseline report, that provides the first comprehensive overview of achievements and challenges related to the implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy and an overview of plans at the regional and national level, outlining the main activities over the next two-year period.

National and regional action plans prepared.

Progress made in putting forward the monitoring system to help track progress in the attainment of the SEE 2020 Strategy objectives.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Continuation of the implementation of SWP 2014

RCC Board Meeting – October 2014

CONTACT

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8.4 CROSS-BORDER INSTITUTION BUILDING CBIB+

Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2011/022-964
Project title:	Cross-border Institution Building – CBIB+
EU contribution:	EUR 2.4 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans
Type of contract:	Service contract with GIZ International Services (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH)
Contract reference:	CN 2012/309-846
Duration of activities:	21/12/2012 – 30/11/2014
Links:	www.cbibplus.eu

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 that would achieve high quality of programme implementation.

ACTIVITIES

- Recruitment of non-key experts to act as regional trainers for result-oriented monitoring and ex-post evaluation, as well as for effective communication;
- finalisation and agreement on the rules of procedure for the constitution of a CBC Regional Consultative Forum;

- organisation of the first meeting ever of the Joint Technical Secretariats (JTSs) of 11 CBC programmes, with participation of Operating Structures (OSs) and Contracting Authorities (CAs), mainly devoted to the identification of common challenges and the formation of technical working groups that could propose common solutions to those challenges;
- organisation of ten training events on different subjects: result-oriented monitoring, administrative aspects of the evaluation process of a call for proposals, and IPA CBC grant contract implementation for beneficiaries under the CBC programme Albania-Montenegro;
- coordination and technical assistance to all the OSs and Joint Task Forces (JTF) involved in the preparation of 8 IPA II CBC programme documents (2014-2020) at intra-Western Balkans (WB) borders, including several public consultations;
- finalisation of a database of best practice examples;
- facilitation of a staff exchange between the national authorities of Serbia and Albania on the process of conferral of management powers;
- a call for thematic studies on impact of EU-funded CBC programmes was published in the project website and also promoted through social media and by a mailing list of relevant education and research institutions;
- further update of the project website www.cbibplus.eu and social media accounts (Facebook page), printing and distribution of the project visibility items, including a new project newsletter and monthly flash-news.

OUTPUTS

- All aspects of CBC programme/project implementation under an agreed institutional framework regionally discussed and experiences and lessons learnt shared amongst stakeholders;
- the initial steps for the setting up of technical or thematic working groups have been taken;
- staff from the JTSs, EUDs and OSs have become aware of the advantages of adopting and applying a result-oriented approach in project monitoring; new monitoring report templates have been proposed;
- the beneficiaries of the Albania-Montenegro CBC 3rd call for proposals have gained confidence in management the grant contract signed with the EUDs of the two countries;
- three new training modules designed;
- all 8 new IPA II CBC programme documents (2014-2020) have been further improved in line with comments received in public consultations and by the EC in December 2013 and April-May 2014;
- a highly successful transfer of know-how between Serbia and Albania took place on the transition from a direct to an indirect management mode;
- continuous attention to information and publicity of the EU-funded CBC intra-WB programmes, including a fully functional database of best practice examples.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- organisation of the second meeting of the CBC Regional Consultative Forum as well as several meetings or e-forums of its technical working groups;
- at least eight new training events on different subjects such as effective communication (plus toolkit), grant contract management (Albania-Kosovo, Montenegro-Kosovo) and CBC programme management (JTSs of the programmes the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia-Kosovo, and Montenegro-Kosovo, and the Albanian Back-Office for CBC), including the participation of staff from the Central Contracts and Finance Units (CFCUs) of Montenegro and Serbia;
- availability and continuous update of the database of best practice examples through the project's website;
- continuity and upgrading of the information and communication means available to the project team;
- preparing and publishing the 3rd issue of the Yellow&Blue magazine;
- evaluation of the received papers from the call for thematic studies on impact of EU-funded CBC programmes and publication of the three best ones;
- request for an addendum of the contract in order to extend the period of implementation as well as to reallocate resources between budget headings.

CONTACT

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8.5 MONITORING

Programme reference:	Monitoring Programme 2012, IPA 2012/023-718
Project title:	Results-Oriented Monitoring (ROM) in the Western Balkans and Turkey
EU contribution:	EUR 3.48 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans and Turkey
Type of contract:	Service Contract with Particip GmbH
Contract reference:	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. Each ROM mission reports on the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact

and sustainability of an IPA project. A mix of on-going and ex post ROM assessments is made in accordance with the ROM Handbook.

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

The contractor issued 107 ROM reports covering IPA expenditure of EUR 279.6 million.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

The ROM performance ratings (categories I to IV) in the reports were as follows:

	Reports	IPA funds MEUR	I	II	III	IV	Numerical
National on-going	79	204.9	3.8%	67.1%	20.2%	8.9%	2.78
National ex post	21	32.2	9.5%	66.7%	23.8%	0.0%	2.93
Regional on-going	7	42.3	0.0%	85.7%	14.3%	0.0%	2.85

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

The 2014 workplan is to issue 211 ROM reports covering 276 IPA contracts with a value of EUR 700 million. The project is on schedule to complete the work plan.

CONTACT

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8.6 UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, ENPI 2009/020-566
Project title:	Programme to support the participation of eligible candidate and potential candidate countries in the Union for the Mediterranean Measure 1 "Institutional Dialogue Euromed Events
EU contribution:	EUR 0.75 million
Beneficiary region:	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Turkey
Type of contract:	Service contract to GIZ
Contract reference:	CN 2009/226-503
Duration of activities:	addendum 2: 31/12/2013 – 30/09/2014

Links:<http://eeas.europa.eu/euromed/>**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:

- Working Group on Euro-Mediterranean Industrial Cooperation (21-22 January 2014, Brussels)
- Meeting on Foreign fighters with Euromed countries. (11 February 2014, Brussels. Participation of Turkey)
- UfM Industry Ministerial Meeting. (19 February 2014, Brussels)
- EUROMED Trade Senior Officials Working Group and Trade and Investment Facilitation Mechanism – Focal Points meeting. (20 February, 2014 Brussels. Participation of Turkey)
- Meeting of the Euromed Transport National Coordinators. (6 March 2014, Brussels)
- Preparatory meetings to the UfM Ministerial on Environment and Climate Change. (10-14 March 2014 Jordan)
- EUROMED Trade Senior Officials Working Group. (27 March 2014 Brussels. Participation of Turkey)
- Regional Civil Society Seminar. (30-31 March 2014, Jordan,. Participation of Turkey)
- WG on Trade (TIFM). (12-14 may 2014, Spain. Participation of Turkey)
- UfM Ministerial on Environment and Climate Change. (13 May 2014, Greece)
- Supporting the implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean. (13-15 May 2014, Greece)
- European Maritime Day 2014 Conference (19-20 May 2014, Germany)
- 4th IMP-Med Project Regional Meeting (21 May 2014, Germany)

- Meeting of the Euromed Transport National Coordinators. (16-18 June 2014, Brussels)
- International Workshop "Support activities for the development of maritime clusters Mediterranean and Black Sea areas" (16-17 June 2014 Brussels. Participation of Turkey and Montenegro)
- EMERG Workshop on Broadband Service Regulation. (EMERG regulatory approximation issue category). (16-17 June 2014, Jordan. Participation of Turkey)
- Regional Civil Society Seminar. (18-19 June 2014, Tunisia. Participation of Turkey)
- Ad hoc SOM for the preparation of the Digital Economy UfM Ministerial meeting. (25 June 2014, Brussels)

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- EUROMED Trade Senior Officials Working Group and Union for the Mediterranean Trade Senior Officials meeting. (3-4 September 2014, Brussels. Participation of Turkey)
- Meeting on Foreign fighters with Euromed countries. (16 September 2014, Morocco. Participation of Turkey)
- UfM Ministerial Meeting on the Digital Economy. (30 September 2014, Brussels)

CONTACT

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8.7 AREA BASED DEVELOPMENT (ABD)

Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2013/024-091
Project title:	Preparation for the implementation of the Area Based Development (ABD) Approach in the Western Balkans
EU contribution:	EUR 0.9 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans
Type of contract:	Grant Contract with the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in South-East Europe
Contract reference:	CN 2013/336-472
Duration of activities:	01/02/2014 – 30/04/2015
Links:	http://www.seerural.org/

PURPOSE

The overall objective of the second phase of the project is to further work on building capacities and structures within the SWG and “Drina-Tara”, “Drina-Sava”, “Prespa” and “Sharra” cross-border regions in order to be able to implement the forthcoming programmes related to regional and territorial cooperation.

The project objective is also to test the ABD in practice with the implementation of an integrated economic development approach in “Drina-Tara” and “Drina-Sava” cross-border regions.

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

The SWG Head Quarters as Project Implementation Unit has established the Implementing structures and prepared a Manual of Procedures for implementation of grant schemes.

Permanent Secretariats/ Project Management Units (PMUs) to support stakeholders are established and operational in the four target cross-border areas. A Regional Project Management Unit for coordination of activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Croatia is operating in Belgrade.

Promotional materials for each of the four target areas are in final stage of preparation and consist of: general informative and promotional brochure for the region, set of promotional leaflets: accommodation and dining facilities, tourist attractions, culture tourism, gastronomy, adventure tourism routes etc.

Application form for People-to-people actions as a toll for strengthening networking, cooperation, promotion of the regions and their cultural, traditional, natural heritage and economic potential is prepared and delivered to the Stakeholder Groups from all four target regions. Organisation of nine international events in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Macedonia, and Kosovo with 2000 international participants and more than 10 000 visitors were supported.

The implementation of a pilot grant scheme “Enhancing competitiveness with small grants for renewal of production facilities and purchase of equipment for introducing new production processes to improve or innovate products” for improvement of production processes, implementation of improved technology and improvement of quality of products and services is on-going in “Drina-Tara” and “Drina-Sava” cross-border regions.

A first Call for proposals was opened April 7th and closed May 8th, 2014. After the third stage of the evaluation, as well as ex-ante field control it has been decided that the following projects will be financed:

- Development of cycle adrenalin tourism in Middle Drina Basin with involvement of 5 project partners

- Development of Drina-Tara sweet souvenirs with involvement of 3 project partners

The first Project Steering Committee was organised during the 29th SWG Assembly Meeting and aimed at presentation of the new project and discussion of the future ABD actions in the Western Balkans.

A workshop on cooperation and partnerships among grant beneficiaries organized in “Drina-Tara” and “Drina-Sava” regions aimed at raising awareness of importance of functional partnerships for regional economic development, as well as establishment partnerships among the stakeholders for application on the grant call.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

- The local partnership in the form of local structure – Stakeholder Group (SHG) is operational in the “Drina - Tara”, “Drina - Sava”, “Prespa” and “Sharra” cross-border regions;
- Programmes for economic development through intensive cross-border cooperation in “Drina - Tara”, “Drina - Sava”, “Prespa” and “Sharra” cross-border regions have been prepared in close cooperation with SHG;
- Project Management Unit – Secretariats of SHG for coordination of the activities on a regional level are established in all four regions. All offices have two staff members: Regional Coordinator and Technical Assistant;
- Operational Protocols and rules and procedures for functioning of the SHG are developed and accepted by the Stakeholder Groups in both regions;
- Set of promotional material (general promotional brochure, routes and attractions, gastronomy, accommodation and dining ..) have been prepared;
- Nine international people to people actions for promotion of natural, cultural heritage and tradition are supported (e.g. Raspberry Day, Drina-Sava- Lim Regatta, Pet – recycling event, etc.);
- Communication and Publicity Strategy and Action Plan for ABDA grant scheme is developed;
- Manual of evaluation and approval procedures are developed for grant scheme;
- SWG Manual of Rules and Procedures is up-graded in preparatory phase for 4-pillar assessment and accreditation.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

- Second Call for proposals open from 7 July till 15 August, followed by Selection process;
- Organisation of 2nd Project Steering Group Meeting;
- Organisation of one more round of meetings of Stakeholder Groups by the end of the year;

- Finalisation of preparations for four-pillar assessment in September 2014.

CONTACT

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8.8 VISIBILITY AND COMMUNICATION

Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2012/022-966
Project title:	Improving the visibility and communication strategy of the IPA Multi-beneficiary projects
EU contribution:	EUR 0.05 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans and Turkey
Type of contract:	Specific Contract under Framework Contract with Danish Management A/S
Contract reference:	CN 2013/325-880
Duration of activities:	02/12/2013 – 18/07/2014

PURPOSE

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 (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

Advise ELARG D3 staff 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.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

Draft Inception report prepared and delivered.

Increased visibility of multi-beneficiary projects – more success stories published on DG Enlargement website and news items prepared and published on DG Enlargement Intranet.

Awareness of the communication/visibility needs and the readiness to share the results of the implemented projects raised among the project managers of the Regional Cooperation and Programmes Unit of DG Enlargement.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Delivery of the final report and all the required outputs.

CONTACT

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8.9 SUPPORT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SEEMIC FORUM

Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2012/022-966
Project title:	Support to the development of the SEEMIC forum
EU contribution:	EUR 0.1 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans
Type of contract:	Grant Contract with RCC
Contract reference:	CN 2012/299-621
Duration of activities:	18/12/2012 – 17/12/2014
Links:	http://www.rcc.int/

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 (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

Consultations NATO, Bulgaria, Serbia, Albania.

Training and Installation of the PGP in NATO, Serbia and Greece.

Consultations with the co-organisers of the 6th SEEMIC conference.

SEEMIC Expert Working group convened in Skopje and developed the third Regional Intelligence Assessment, to be offered to SEEMIC for endorsement. Agreed on the agenda of the 6th SEEMIC conference.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

Continued implementation of the secure communication line

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Consultations with MI from SEE Countries, NATO and EU.

Consultations with co-organisers of 6th SEEMIC.

SEEMIC Conference to be held in Skopje on 22 – 24 September 2014.

Implementation of the secure communication line in SEE MI's.

CONTACT

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8.10 IT INTERCONNECTIVITY

Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2011/021-964)
Project title:	Provision of Technical Assistance on IT Interconnectivity issues to candidates and potential candidates
EU contribution:	EUR 0.5 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans
Type of contract:	service contract to Lambard Management Consultants Ltd
Contract reference:	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, in the framework of IT interconnectivity and interoperability. Under the supervision of Directorate-General for Taxation and Customs Union of the European Commission, the contractor provides coaching and training, as well as monitoring of the progress related to interconnectivity and interoperability on their road towards EU accession

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –20 FEBRUARY 2014)

The Consultant has produced the last three monitoring mission reports and revised two other ones. A working session/workshop has been organised as well. The final report covering the overall project has been produced. Two terms of references and other IT strategic documents have been reviewed. The Consultant started to draft the new IT strategy of Tax administration in Montenegro.

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD JANUARY –JUNE 2014)

As an outcome of the workshop, the Tax administration in Montenegro has started to update its IT strategy. As an outcome of the overall project, the final report produced a series of recommendations for the better support of the beneficiaries and of DG TAXUD in eventual future regional projects.

The output of the assistance mission to the tax administration of Montenegro will be the future creation of an IT Strategy.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

Operational activities on this project finished on 20th February 2014.

CONTACT

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Programme reference:	Multi-beneficiary Programme, IPA 2013/024-091
Project title:	Provision of Technical Assistance on IT Interconnectivity issues to candidates and potential candidates (extension)
EU contribution:	EUR 0.5 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans
Type of contract:	service contract to Lambard Management Consultants Ltd
Contract reference:	CN 2014/338-933
Duration of activities:	21/02/2014 – 20/08/2015:

ACTIVITIES (IN THE PERIOD 21ST FEBRUARY 2014 –JUNE 2014)

The Consultants have carried out two monitoring missions and prepared two other ones. A number of four working sessions/workshops have been organised as well. A number of four project fiches, terms of references and other strategic documents have been reviewed for beneficiaries and for the EU Delegations. The Consultant started to draft the new IIS strategy of DG TAXUD, to be applied in the future by all candidate countries (the last version dates from more than ten years)

OUTPUTS (IN THE PERIOD 21ST FEBRUARY –JUNE 2014)

As an outcome of the workshop, the Tax administration in Montenegro has started to update its business strategy and as from Q3/2014, will also update the IT strategy. The Customs administration in Montenegro requested support for re-drafting the roadmap for EU accession in the chapter linked to IIS. The same happened in Serbia Customs administration.

Improved Terms of Reference have been produced in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and in Kosovo and will be further drafted in Serbia.

The visited tax and customs administrations 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.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR NEXT SEMESTER

During the period August – December 2014, 5 monitoring missions will be organised. A Regional seminar will be organised in Q3-Q4/2014 as well, on subjects linked to IIS. The IIS new strategy will be drafted and submitted for consultation within DG TAXUD. At least five workshops will be organised on different subjects as requested by beneficiaries

CONTACT

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8.11 ATA AND TAC

Programme reference:	Administrative and Technical Assistance Facility (ATA), IPA 2014/037-391
EU contribution:	EUR 2.99 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans and Turkey
Beneficiary region:	DG Enlargement and EU Delegations in the Western Balkans and Turkey

Programme reference:	Travel, Accommodation and Conference Facility (TAC), IPA 2014
EU contribution:	EUR 0.18 million
Beneficiary region:	Western Balkans and Turkey
Beneficiary institutions:	European Commission services

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

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 interpreting services

CONTACT

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DG ELARG UNIT D.3, ORGANISATION CHART - OCTOBER 2014

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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 WBIF (social sector)	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
Elzbieta STASIUK	Archives, invoice tracking, Organisation of Missions	81823

D3.002 Sector for Civil Society and Social and Territorial Cooperation		
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Dario DI BENEDETTO	Secretariat, Contracts Assistant	55397
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Bo CAPERMAN	Human Resource Development	95189
Liane ADLER	Fundamental rights , Minorities, Migration and Reconciliation	54310
Maite MARTIN BARRIGA	Coordination, Monitoring, Reporting	84556
Karolina VRETHEM	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		
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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.	53101
Bernd WILD	Statistical programmes, Inspiration, Chapter desk Statistics (Ch 18), EU Agencies	52467
Elodie LOPPE	Environment, Climate change, Management of IPFs, IPF Municipal Window, Financial Instruments (back-up).	88183
Genevieve OHL-ENGELBOS	Organisation of missions	93161

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AEI	Agency for European Integration
ATA	Administrative and Technical Assistance Facility
BAS	Business Advisory Services
BIRN	Balkan Investigative Reporting Network
BKA	Bundeskriminalamt/Federal Criminal Police Office Germany
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
