

Project Fiche –IPA centralised programmes
Horizontal Programme on Environment in the Western Balkans

1. Basic information

- 1.1 CRIS Number:** 2007/019-285
- 1.2 Title:** Developing the capacity of environmental NGOs, through transfer of best practice from NGOs in the EU Member States
- 1.3 ELARG Statistical code:** 06.27 - Environment
- 1.4 Location:** Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia including Kosovo (as defined by UNSCR 1244).

Implementing arrangements:

1.5 Contracting Authority:
European Community represented by the Commission of the European Communities for and on behalf of the beneficiary countries¹.

1.6 Implementing Agency:

N.A

1.7 Beneficiary:

The main beneficiaries of the project are environmental NGOs in the candidate and potential candidate countries.

Financing:

- 1.8 Overall cost (VAT excluded):** €500,000 + co-funding of the selected grant beneficiary (at least 10% of the eligible project cost)
- 1.9 EU contribution:** €500,000
- 1.10 Final date for contracting:** 30/11/2008
- 1.11 Final date for execution of contracts:** 30/11/2010
- 1.12 Final date for disbursements:** 30/11/2011

2. Overall Objective and Project Purpose

2.1 Overall Objective:

To assist environmental NGOs in the candidate and potential candidate countries to develop their full potential as partners in the implementation of environmental policy.

¹ In this document, the use of the expressions "beneficiary countries", "pre-candidate countries" and "national authorities", should be considered as including Kosovo as defined by UNSCR 1244.

2.2 Project purpose:

This project will work to transfer some of the best practice of the EU Member States environmental NGOs to the environmental NGOs from the target beneficiary countries, through a programme of grants for short-term twinning or capacity exchange programmes between them.

2.3 Link with AP/NPAA/EP/ SAA

Continue alignment on the acquis and strengthen the institutional, administrative and monitoring capacity to ensure environmental protection. The importance of a continuous cooperation with NGOs is also a key theme in the AP/NPAA/EP/SAA and in the progress reports that come out for the candidate and potential candidate countries annually.

2.4 Link with MIPD

The multi-beneficiary MIPD foresees support to civil society (section 2.2.6). The Commission recognises the promotion and active participation of non-governmental organisations in the government decision-making process as a priority, namely through the increased involvement of civil society organisations in the definition, implementation and monitoring of policies.

2.5 Link with National Development Plan

N.A.

2.6 Link with national/ sectoral investment plans

N.A.

3. Description of project**3.1 Background and justification:**

All of the NPAA's and the regular reports stress the importance of proper implementation of the environmental acquis, and respect for the commitments made during the negotiations. While the official responsibility for compliance lies with the administration of the candidate countries, particularly in the domain of environment, the NGO community has a very important role to play in this task. NGOs in EU Member States complement the work of the administration by signalling infractions, collection information, coordinating pilot projects and educating citizens about their rights and obligations. DG Environment experience has shown that complaints from NGOs are the most important source of information about the application of Community environmental legislation in the Member States. In addition, support to the work of environmental NGO's has also strengthened the capacity and competencies of civil society organisations at large and ultimately, contributed to promotion of basic freedoms, political reform and better governance. Furthermore, developing the capacity of NGOs contributes directly to raising the capacity of the beneficiary countries to meet their obligations under the Aarhus Convention.

In the candidate and potential candidate countries, environmental NGOs have developed considerably over the past decade. However, the environmental NGOs have not yet acquired the full range of necessary organizational and institutional skills. While they have developed some competence in signalling infractions in certain fields, they need to develop the capacity and learn how to work as full and complementary partners of the administration in implementation of the environmental acquis.

This project will raise the capacity of the environmental NGOs in the beneficiary countries, through transfer of experience from the successful environmental NGOs in the EU Member States to environmental NGOs in the beneficiary countries, through mentoring and information exchange.

3.2 Assessment of project impact, catalytic effect, sustainability and cross border impact (where applicable)

The NGO twinning grants programme was set up with the aim to provide assistance in capacity building of environmental NGOs in the candidate and potential candidate countries. NGO twinning grants aim at transfer of best practice from NGOs in the EU Member States, in particular as regards organizational and institutional skills in order to become complementary partners of the administration in implementation of the environmental acquis.

This project should ensure that the capacity of the environmental NGOs in the beneficiary countries will be strengthened through transfer of experience from the successful environmental NGOs in the EU Member States, thus the NGOs will become more efficient and effective in signalling infractions in implementation of environmental legislation in the beneficiary countries and contributing to better governance.

Finally, there will also be some catalytic effects in terms of increased partnership between NGOs from the beneficiary countries and NGOs from the EU Member States, environmental authorities, industry and the general public thus better targeting of environmental protection challenges in the beneficiary countries. Furthermore, strengthened capacity of NGOs will contribute to sustainability of their operations. Through this programme, NGOs in the target beneficiary countries will become more efficient and effective in accessing and managing grants.

3.3 Results and measurable indicators:

- NGOs in the target beneficiary countries are more efficient and effective in accessing and managing grants and also in developing work programmes.
- Models for other NGOs in the region to improve their administrative capacity
- Better links with EU Member States' NGOs
- Cooperation and communication between NGOs and environmental authorities, industry and the general public has improved.

3.4 Activities:

- Mentoring and information exchange on capacity building for NGOs through short term twinning or exchange programmes between EU Member States environmental NGOs and the environmental NGOs from the beneficiary countries;
- Monitoring of projects;
- Final evaluation through workshop and report.

3.5 Conditionality and sequencing:

N.A.

3.6 Linked activities

The NGO Dialogue was established in 1999, with the objective of consulting and informing the environmental NGOs in the candidate countries about the enlargement process. It has met twice

each year and the final meeting took place in April 2004. As of 2005, a New NGO Forum was established and will continue in the similar activities as NGO Dialogue until 2008.

The Commission, DG Environment provides these kind of grants since 2003 and this IPA programme aims to complement the Phare 2006 programme on developing the capacity of environmental NGOs in Croatia and Turkey (and Romania and Bulgaria), through transfer of best practices from NGOs in the EU Member States.

3.7 Lessons learned

The NGO Dialogue and its successor NGO Forum have served an important role in diffusing information to the environmental NGOs in the candidate and potential candidate countries. It has also allowed these NGOs to move from a phase of information reception to active questioning and participation in consultations on policy development. However, it has been observed that these NGOs do not have the basic capabilities to assume the role played by NGOs in the EU Member States, thus the NGO twinning grants has been set up and administered by DG ENV, which aims at capacity building of environmental NGOs, through exchange of experience from EU Member States NGOs to NGOs in the beneficiary countries.

The NGO twinning grants' programme has proved to be successful in helping NGOs from the target region in improving their administrative capacity to play an active role in the harmonization process in the environment area. Through this programme, these NGOs are becoming more efficient and effective in accessing and managing grants, in creating links with EU Member States NGOs and cooperation and communication between NGOs and environmental authorities, industry and the general public is slowly improving. However, there is still need to improve the capacity of these NGOs.

The NGO twinning grants' programme is unique in its substance, as it provides operating grants to environmental NGOs in the candidate and potential candidate countries. In most of the cases, the beneficiary countries do not have this kind of support in place.

4. Indicative Budget (amounts in €)

	TOTAL COST	SOURCES OF FUNDING										
		EU CONTRIBUTION				NATIONAL PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION					PRIVATE	
		Total	% *	IB	INV	Total	% *	Central	Regional	IFIs	Total	% *
Contract		100,000	100	100,000								
Individual grants		400,000	90	400,000							44,444	10
TOTAL	544,444	500,000	100	500,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	44,444	10

Amounts net of VAT

* expressed in % of the Total Cost

5. Indicative Implementation Schedule (periods broken down per quarter)

Contracts	Start of Tendering	Signature of contract	Project Completion
Call for Proposals	Q4 2007	Q2 2008	Q2 2009
Contract	Q1 2008	Q2 2008	Q2 2009

6. Cross cutting issues

6.1 Equal Opportunity

The European Commission is fully committed to a policy of equal opportunity. In all activities during this project, but particularly in training, steps will be taken to ensure the equal participation of men and women.

6.2 Environment

Target sector.

6.3 Minorities

N.A

ANNEXES

- 1- Log frame in Standard Format
- 2- Amounts contracted and disbursed per Quarter over the full duration of Programme
- 3- Details per EU funded contract

ANNEX 1: Logical framework matrix in standard format

LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR PROJECT FICHE	Programme name and number: Horizontal Programme on Environment in the Western Balkans	
DEVELOPING THE CAPACITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL NGOS, THROUGH TRANSFER OF BEST PRACTICE FROM NGOS IN THE EU27	Contracting period expires: 30/11/2008	Disbursement period expires: 30/11/2011
	Total budget: €0.5 million	IPA budget: €0.5 million

Overall objective	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	
To assist NGOs to develop their full potential as partners in the implementation of environmental policy	NGOs more capable of performing the tasks necessary to participate in the implementation of the environmental acquis	Reports on implementation from countries and information collected through accession monitoring process.	
Project purpose	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project will work to transfer some of the best practice of EU27 NGOs to the candidate and potential candidate country NGOs, through a programme of grants for short-term twinning between EU27 and these countries and capacity exchange programmes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of twinning grant projects successfully completed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports from these projects and from the selected contractor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sufficient uptake by NGOs, including interest by EU27 NGOs in participation in the project.
Results	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NGOs in the target beneficiary countries are more efficient and effective in accessing and managing grants and also in developing work programmes. Models for other NGOs in the region to improve their administrative capacity Better links with EU Member States' NGOs Cooperation and communication between NGOs and environmental authorities, industry and the general public has improved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of NGOs with clear work programmes and financial sources. Number of applications to Community programmes that actively involve NGOs as partners (with industry or authorities) Number of joint projects between EU27 and beneficiary countries' NGOs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting to the Commission in the framework of the Progress Reports and other monitoring instances, prior to accession. Commission services responsible for receiving project applications for specific programmes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Willingness of government administrations and industry to welcome NGOs as partners. Continued progress of the IPA countries in the accession process.
Activities	Means	Costs	Assumptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mentoring and information exchange on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All registered NGOs in the beneficiary 	€0,5 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sufficient quality of applications

<p>capacity building for NGOs through short term twinning or exchange programmes between EU Member States environmental NGOs and the environmental NGOs from the beneficiary countries;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring of projects; • Final evaluation through workshop and report. 	<p>countries will be eligible to submit proposals. Proposals will be awarded on merit, but with the objective of ensuring at least two awards per candidate/potential candidate country if minimum requirements are met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The selection of proposals will be in accordance with the IPA practical guide. • The monitoring and evaluation activities will be implemented through a service contract, overseen by DG Environment. • Part of the budget will be reserved for a final workshop including all beneficiaries to evaluate the results of the project. 		<p>for twinning activities.</p>
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ANNEX II: Amounts (in €) contracted and disbursed by quarter for the project

Contracted	2nd 2008	3rd 2008	4th 2008	1st 2009	2nd 2009	3rd 2009	4th 2009
Cumulated	500.000	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Disbursed	2nd 2008	3rd 2008	4th 2008	1st 2009	2nd 2009	3rd 2009	4th 2009
1 service contract	40.000						60.000
Individual grants	320.000						80.000
Cumulated	360.000	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	140.000

ANNEX III: Details per EU funded contract

Grant contracts for approximately €100,000 (max. of €40,000 per grant – approximately 10 grants foreseen for award) to be signed following call for proposals administered by DG Environment.

A negotiated procedure according to Article 242 2 (b) of the Implementing Rules will be initiated with the contractor selected to implement the technical assistance for an identical project for Croatia, Turkey, Bulgaria and Romania. The contractor will assist in monitoring and evaluating the results of the project.

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