

Standard Summary Project Fiche – IPA centralised programmes

Project Fiche: 14

1. Basic information

- 1.1 CRIS Number:** 2011/023-173
- 1.2 Title:** Support for Participation in Union Programmes
- 1.3 ELARG Statistical code:** 4.65
- 1.4 Location:** Montenegro

Implementing arrangements:

- 1.5 Contracting Authority:** Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro
- 1.6 Implementing Agency:** N/A

1.7 Beneficiary (including details of project manager):

The beneficiaries are governmental institutions (ministries) which are in charge of the coordination of the selected Union Programmes and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, which is in charge of the overall coordination of the Union programmes.

The National IPA Coordinator (NIPAC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, under the competence of the Cabinet of the NIPAC – State Secretary for European Integration, will be the main national coordinator for participation in Union Programmes. The Sector for Programming, Monitoring and Evaluation of EU technical and financial assistance within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, is in charge of the programming and monitoring of the project. The work, mandate and authorizations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration are regulated by the Law on Public Administration¹.

The project manager is: Ivana Petricevic, acting Director General for Coordination of the EU Assistance Programmes

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¹ Article 19, (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro” No. 59/09“) and in conjunction with Article 37, paragraph 2 (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro” No. 38/03, “Official Gazette of Montenegro”, No. 22/08) and in conjunction with Article 24 of the Decree on Job Groups, Criteria for Internal Organisation and Systematisation, Job Nomenclature and Draft Number of Executors in the Public Administration Bodies (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro” No. 54/04), in accordance with the scope defined by the Decree on Public Administration Organisation and Manner of Work (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro”, No. 54/04, 78/04, 6/05, 61/05, 6/06, 32/06, 42/06, 56/06, 60/06 and 72/06, 06/07, 25/07, 32/07, 35/07, “Official Gazette of Montenegro”, No. 06/07, 16/07 and 26/08).

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For each selected programme, the respective line Ministry will be responsible for co-ordination of project activities (see details in Annex 3)

Financing:

1.8 Overall cost (VAT excluded): 562,017.6 €

1.9 EU contribution: 326,273.5 €

1.10 Final date for contracting: Three years after the signature of the Financing Agreement

1.11 Final date for execution of contracts: Two years after the final date for contracting

1.12 Final date for disbursements: 1 year after the final date of execution of contract

2. Overall Objective and Project Purpose

2.1 Overall Objective

To improve the understanding of Montenegro and its citizens on European Union policies and working methods.

2.2 Project purpose

To co-finance the costs of the "entry-tickets" which Montenegro has to pay in accordance with the relevant Memorandum of Understanding establishing its participation in Union programmes.

2.3 Link with AP/NPAA/ AP/ SAA

In line with **Thessaloniki Agenda** for Western Balkan countries, approved by the Council on 20th June 2003, Union Programmes may be opened to potential candidate countries in line with the approach followed for the candidate countries.

Protocol 8 of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement provides the legal basic principles of Montenegro's participation in Union Programmes, which was signed with the European Union on October 15, 2007. As a follow up, Montenegro signed an Agreement¹ with European Union in views of exchange of letters on the Interim implementation of the Protocol 8 to the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, dealing with basic principles of participation of Montenegro in Union Programmes, on 15th of November 2007 and entered into force on the same date.

In the **National Plan for Integration** (NPI) of Montenegro, Union Programmes are expected to be part of the pre-accession strategy to EU (e.g., regarding the FP7, under the mid-term priorities (3.25.1.3), the "entry ticket" is planned for using IPA funds).

¹ The Agreement was signed on the basis of the European Communities Decision, adopted on the 13th of November 2007, defining general principles of participation of Montenegro in Union Programmes.

2.4 Link with MIPD

The MIPD (2009 – 2011) indicates that “assistance is foreseen to allow Montenegro to participate in Union agencies and institutions; as well as in Union programmes” (section 2.2.2). it is foreseen under “Support programmes” sub-component (section 4) that *"Montenegro shall receive assistance to participate in Union programmes, complementary to IPA in several fields. Assistance is also available for participating to Union Agencies where appropriate."*

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

In its Communication “Agenda 2000” (July 1997), the European Commission proposed the progressive opening-up to the candidate countries of a broad range of Union programmes, as one of the intermediate objectives of accession. The objective of participation in the programmes is to enable the countries to familiarise themselves with the methods and policies of the European Union.

The “*Thessaloniki Agenda for the Western Balkans: Moving towards European Integration*”, endorsed at the European Council on 20 June 2003 indicates that the “*Union programmes will be opened to SAP countries along the lines established for the participation of candidate countries*”

The Framework Agreements establishing the general principles for the participation of the candidate countries and Western Balkan countries in Union programmes provide that these countries shall contribute financially to the general budget of the European Union corresponding to the specific programmes in which they participate and may apply for Union external assistance. The former state union of Serbia and Montenegro had signed Framework Agreement on participation in Union Programmes on 29th June 2005, which came into force on 27 July 2005.

Following its independence, Montenegro signed the Agreement² with the European Union on the Interim implementation of the Protocol 8³ of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement,

² The Agreement was signed on the basis of the European Communities Decision, adopted on the 13th of November 2007, defining general principles of participation of Montenegro in Union Programmes.

³ In Article 1 of the Protocol 8, it is mentioned that Montenegro may participate in the following Union Programmes stipulated in Annex to the *Framework Agreement between the European Union and Serbia and Montenegro on general principles of participation of Serbia and Montenegro in the Union Programmes* (O.J. L92, 22. 7. 2005., p. 29) and in the programmes introduced or amended after the 27th of July 2005 as well as in those mentioned in the introductory clause of Montenegrin participation.

dealing with basic principles of participation of Montenegro in Union Programmes, thus being its constituent part.

Consequently, the IPA programme can be used as a complement to the national funds to co-finance the financial contribution ("entry-ticket") to be paid each year by the candidate countries and Western Balkan countries to participate in the Union programmes. IPA funds of a given year co-finance the financial contribution for the participation in the programmes in the following years. The part of the financial contribution which is financed from the national budget should increase progressively, and a gradual and selective approach to participation should be maintained in Union programmes.

In accordance with the Protocol 8 of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, the specific terms and conditions regarding each particular programme, in particular the financial contribution payable, are determined by agreement, in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), between the Commission and Montenegro.

Such MoUs are already in force concerning the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Development (FP7), the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP), Culture 2007-2013 Program and ICT Policy Support Programme 2011.

It is foreseen that Montenegro will sign the the MoU to join Customs 2013 in the current of 2011, thus formally access this programme.

Further details on the institutional set up are provided under Annex 3 of this project fiche

3.2 Assessment of project impact, catalytic effect, sustainability and cross border impact

For Montenegro, participation in Union Programmes represents a major step in meeting the criteria towards EU accession in the field of science, culture, employment, entrepreneurship and innovation. It represents a key measure to make the country and its citizens familiar with the Union's policies and working methods.

Increased participation in Union Programmes is an important element in the EU integration process, as it implies participation in knowledge sharing, awareness raising and acquiring knowledge from member states of EU practices in various sectors. This knowledge can subsequently be utilised in the design and application of future projects and actions in Montenegro.

Participation in Union programmes will also encourage the active involvement of public and private institutions, NGOs, civil society institutions, universities to benefit from the EU accession process. It is expected that the knowledge and skills developed through participation in Union Programmes will be retained within the participating institutions and within the responsible ministries. It is also expected that the institutions will be able to maintain and develop the EU networks established through Union programme participation into longer term formal and informal collaboration.

3.3 Results and measurable indicators

Result 1: Ensured payment by Montenegro of its entry tickets for the Union programmes for which a Memorandum of Understanding is in force (in particular FP7, CIP-EIP, CIP-ICT PSP, Culture 2007-2013 and Customs 2013).

Indicator:

- Date of effective payment by Montenegro of its entry-tickets and date of transfer of IPA funds, as a partial reimbursement.

3.4 Activities

The main activity consists of providing IPA funds as reimbursement of a part of the entry ticket for participation in the Union Programmes for which a Memorandum of Understanding is in force.

The EU contribution to the entry ticket will be negotiated between the beneficiary and the EC, normally before the MoU is signed. The participation of the beneficiary in Union Programmes shall follow the specific terms and conditions set out for each such programme in the MoU.

The Montenegrin Government has a commitment, not only to provide for the national co financing, but also to advance the funds necessary for the payment of the total entry ticket, before it gets the partial IPA reimbursement.

Contracting Arrangement:

The activity will be implemented as a reimbursement of a part of the entry ticket after the entry ticket has been paid, on the basis of a specific contribution agreement.
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3.5 Conditionality and sequencing

The main conditionality is signature of the Memorandum of Understanding on participation in selected Union Programmes between the European Commission and the Government of Montenegro which is a precondition for participation.

Dates of signature and entry in to force of the Memorandum of understanding for each Union Programme:

Title of Union programme	Date of MoU's signature	Entry into force
FP7	January 25, 2008	January 1 ,2008
CIP- EIP	March 3, 2008	May 20, 2008
CIP-ICT PSP	April 01, 2011	April 27, 2011
CULTURE	November 23, 2009	January 1, 2010
CUSTOMS 2013	June 2011	Expected in April 2011

Sequencing:

After the signature of the IPA Financing Agreement, the responsible line ministries sign a contribution agreement with the EU Delegation for each programme or group of programmes under their responsibility as per the following procedure:

- The various Commission services responsible for the different programmes will send to the Mission of Montenegro to the EU a request for the total financial contribution (“entry ticket” for the participation in a given programme or agency (“call for funds”).
- The responsible line ministries must ensure the timely payment of the total entry ticket, within the deadlines requested in the call for funds. When making the payment for each programme, the authority in charge should quote the reference number indicated in the call for funds for the programme concerned, and send simultaneously a copy of the payment order to the relevant Commission service.
- Upon reception of the copy of the payment order, the EU Delegation prepares the contribution agreement for each programme or group of programmes to be signed with the responsible line ministries or the National IPA Coordinator⁴.
- In case the IPA funds are transferred to the National IPA Coordinator⁵, IPA funds are transferred as reimbursement of a part of the contribution paid, on the basis of a specific contribution agreement and request for funds by the beneficiary with a proof of payment. The National IPA Coordinator then transfer the amount of the IPA support for each programme to the authority which made the payment of the financial contribution to the programme concerned.

3.6 Linked activities

The 6th Framework Programme for Research (2003-2006) had its main objective to strengthen the science and technological bases of industry and encourage its international competitiveness while promoting research activities in support of other EU policies. 7th Framework Programme (2007-2013) is its successor.

Being associated to the 7th Framework Programme for Research (FP7) as of January 1, 2008, possibilities were provided for Montenegro to participate in this programme with a status of a third country in the first year of the programme implementation. Therefore, the participation has been limited and 7 projects with Montenegrin team have been approved for financing and started with implementation. In addition, there are 10 additional projects from 2008 that are either about to start or are still in the negotiation phase. The Ministry of Education and Science is the coordinating institution for the programme, its support activities, ranging from direct, one-on-one communication with researchers, over organization of info days, targeted workshops, etc., to provision of expert help for development of individual project proposals. It also provides financial support to both – prospective and successful participants (preparatory grants, support to participants in the proposals that have reached evaluation threshold).

⁴ IPA funds may be transferred also directly to the line ministries, subject to prior consultations with the Delegation and with the country

⁵ IPA funds may be transferred also to the line ministries, subject to prior consultations with the Delegation and with the country.

Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP) of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (2007 to 2013) is available to Montenegro as of March the 3rd this year, by signing the MoU between the EU and Montenegro. For 2008, Montenegro paid its participation in amount of € 29.329. In the third quarter of 2008, European Commission awarded the first grant to the Consortium, consisting of the national institutions⁶, resulting, to date, by opening of the European Centre for Information and Innovation⁷, which will be responsible for the implementation of this 2008-2011 year project.

Negotiations regarding Memorandum of Understanding for Customs 2013 are in progress and Montenegro authorities are expecting that this memorandum will be signed as it is stated above in section 3.1.

3.7 Lessons learned

The experience of neighbouring countries shows that participation in Union programmes is an extremely important feature of a successful pre-accession strategy. Citizens, companies and national administrations of the candidate or potential candidate countries are joining in co-operation and exchange networks with their counterparts in EU countries in very different areas covered by Union programmes.

Montenegrin research Union did not participate significantly in 6th Framework Programme for Research, and Montenegro took part only in 4 projects: ERA West Balkan, SEE-ERA-NET, SEEREN2 and SEEGRID2. Even though it was poor, it contributed to building the capacity of the Ministry, and setting grounds for development of networks between Montenegrin and researchers from the region among themselves as well as their partnerships with European researchers. New opportunities were open not only to the experienced researchers, but to young scientists as well, which is considered to be an important feature of this process. However, participation in the first two years of FP7 has shown that the number of successful projects with Montenegrin participants is increasing, and it is expected that the positive trends will continue through the Programme implementation, especially since institutional support to participants has developed.

The experience shows that exchange of practices with the candidate countries and member states, who already took part in Union programmes, is valuable and important lessons to Montenegrin institutions to learn how to prepare and organize. This is of particular importance on capacity building of institutions on how to prepare good project proposals.

In addition, in order to mobilize and involve more private and public organizations to participate in Union programmes, it is absolutely necessary to organize awareness-raising campaigns and to work more on building their capacity as to be able to use as effective as possible available EU funds and learn more about EU procedures and mechanisms.

IPA programming experience has shown that line ministries should increase their planning capacities. In addition, for Union Programmes which requires different institutional arrangements like agencies, line ministries should ensure their establishment and capacity

⁶ Consortium of the grant contract, No: Montenegro, 225257 EIICM: Directorate for the development of Small and Medium Enterprises, the Chamber of Commerce, the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and the Business Start – up Centre Bar. European Commission participates in amount of €180.000 (55%), while partners in the Consortium participate with the remaining €148.460 (45%).

⁷ The Innovation and Information Centre was opened in Podgorica, on the 28th of November, 2008.

improvement prior to their participation in Union Programme. In Montenegro, preparations have been taken in terms of planning the establishment of the national agency that is going to be responsible for implementation of the Life Long Learning Programme.

In order to enable to its citizens successful participation in Union programmes in future, Montenegro should build its administrative capacities and carefully plan financial contributions and mechanisms for taking part in the management and financial control provisions.

4. Indicative Budget (amounts in €)

			TOTAL EXP.RE	SOURCES OF FUNDING								
				IPA UNION CONTRIBUTION			NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION					PRIVATE CONTRIBUTION
ACTIVITIES	IB (1)	IN V (1)	EUR (a)=(b)+(c)+(d)	EUR (b)	% (2)	Total EUR (c)=(x)+(y)+(z)	% (2)	Centr al EUR (x)	Regio n/ Local EUR (y)	IFIs EU R (z)	EUR (d)	% (2)
Entry Ticket for selected community programmes (year of the call)	X		562,017.7	326,273.5	58%	235,744.1	42%		0	0	0	0
FP7 (2011)	X		388,397.66	194,198.83	50%	194,198.83	50%		0	0	0	0
CIP-EIP (2012)	X		78,213	54,749	70%	23,464	30%		0	0	0	0
CIP-ICT PSP (2012)	X		30,407	24,325.6	80%	6,081.4	20%		0	0	0	0
Culture (2012)	X		20,000	17,000	85%	3,000	15%		0	0	0	0
Customs (2012)	X		45,000	36,000	80%	9,000	20%		0	0	0	0

The exact total financial contribution to be paid by Montenegro for the participation in listed programmes is or will be specified in the Memorandum of understanding establishing the terms and conditions for participation in the Union programme concerned.

The contribution from the national budget covers the difference between the total financial contribution of Montenegro to the programmes as indicated in the above mentioned Memorandum of Understanding and the IPA support.

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

Union programme (year of the call for funds)	Call for funds	Payment entry tickets by Montenegro	Signature contribution agreements by EUD (Contracting)	Reimbursement of part of the entry ticket by EUD (Disbursement)
FP7 (2011)	Q2 2011	Q4 2011	Q1 2013	Q1 2013
CIP-EIP (2012)	Q1 2012	Q2 2012	Q2 2013	Q3 2013
CIP-ICT PSP (2012)	Q1 2012	Q2 2012	Q2 2013	Q2 2013
Culture (2012)	Q1 2012	Q2 2012	Q2 2013	Q2 2013
Customs 2013 (2012)	Q1 2012	Q2 2012	Q2 2013	Q2 2013

6. Cross cutting issues:

6.1 Equal opportunity

The beneficiary has to ensure that selection of and selection criteria for participants to Union Programmes are based on the principle of equal treatment and non-discrimination for grounds as outlined in the European Charter of Fundamental Rights.

6.2 Environment

The European Union has a longstanding commitment to address environmental concerns in its assistance programmes (as part of a wider commitment to sustainable development). Key references include art. 6 of the Treaty and also the Cardiff process, which foresees the systematic consideration of environmental aspects in EC development cooperation and in other policies.

6.3 Minorities

As regards minorities, the beneficiary has to ensure that selection of and selection criteria for participants to Union Programmes are based on the principle non-discrimination of minorities.

ANNEXES

- 1- Log frame in Standard Format
- 2- Amounts contracted and Disbursed per Quarter over the full duration of Programme
- 3 - Description of the Institutional Framework

Reference to laws, regulations and strategic documents:

- a) Reference list of relevant laws and regulations
- b) Reference to AP /NPAA / EP / SAA
- c) Reference to MIPD
- d) Reference to National Development Plan
- e) Reference to national / sectoral investment plans

ANNEX 1 LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX

Project Fiche 14		Support for Participation in Union Programme	
Programme name and number:	IPA2010 Component 1 - Montenegro	Total budget: EUR: 562,017.7	IPA budget: EUR: 326,273.5
Overall objective	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
The overall objective of the project is to support the beneficiary country to participate in Union Programmes	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Project purpose	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
Co-finance the costs of the "entry-tickets" which the beneficiary country has to pay for the participation in Union Programmes.	Payments to the beneficiary in order to co-finance the various entry tickets	CRIS	EUD process the reimbursement of the costs of the "entry-tickets"
Results	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The beneficiary participates in the Union Programmes as outlined in the Project Fiche. • To achieve appropriate participation in the Union Programmes in line with the provisions outlined in the respective MoUs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of persons participating in Union Programmes relative to the respective costs (and relative to entry ticket); • Number of projects; • Number of projects relative to the respective costs (and relative to entry ticket); • Comparison of these indicators with past experience and other beneficiaries. 	Evaluation reports provided by the respective line DGs responsible for the management of a specific programme.	Line DGs send evaluation reports to EUD.
Activities	Means	Costs	Preconditions
To co-finance the participation of the beneficiary in the selected Union Programmes:	Partial reimbursement of the "entry ticket" to the Union programmes	See section 4 of PF	Signature and ratification of the respective MoU. The respective MoUs are respected and the beneficiary is paying the entry ticket.

ANNEX 2 Amounts contracted and Disbursed per Quarter over the full duration of Programme

Contracted	Q1 2013	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013
FP7 (2011)	194,198.83			
CIP-EIP (2012)	54,749			
CIP-ICT PSP (2012)	24,325.6			
Culture (2012)	17,000			
Customs (2012)		36,000		
Cumulated	290,273.43	326,273.43		
Disbursed	Q1 2013	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013
FP7 (2011)	194,198.83			
CIP-EIP (2012)		54,749		
CIP-ICT PSP (2012)		24,325.6		
Culture (2012)		17,000		
Customs (2012)		36,000		
Cumulated	194,198.83	326,273.43		

Note:

Contracted: period of signature of contribution agreement by AOSD, following the entry into force of the MoU and payment of entry ticket by the beneficiary.

Disbursed: period of execution of the reimbursement by EUD.

ANNEX 3 Description of the Institutional Framework

The beneficiaries are governmental institutions (ministries) which are in charge of the coordination of the selected Union Programmes and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, which is in charge of the overall coordination of the Union programmes.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integrations governs the association and accession process of Montenegro to the EU, coordination of the negotiation process with the EU, coordination of the harmonisation of Montenegrin legislation with the EU legislation, coordination of translation and management of data basis for the process of support to the translation process and coordination and evaluation of the programmes of technical and financial EU support

For each selected programme, the respective line Ministry will be responsible for coordination of project activities as follows:

Union Programme	Line Ministry in charge of coordination
7 th Framework Programme (FP7):	Ministry of Science Branka Zizic e-mail: branka.zizic@gov.me phone: ++382 67 808 222
Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) - Entrepreneurship and Innovation Framework Programme (EIP):	Ministry for Economy Maja Jokanovic e-mail: maja.jokanovic@gov.me phone: ++382 20 482 302
Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) - ICT Policy Support Programme (ICT PSP):	Ministry for Information Society Ivan Lazarevic, Ministry for Information Society, Department for International Cooperation and European Integration e-mail: ivan.lazarevic@gov.me phone: ++382 69 042 785
Culture 2007-2013	Ministry of Culture Aleksandra Boskovic e-mail: aleksandra.boskovic@gov.me phone: ++382 69 372 933
Customs 2013	Ministry of Finance and Customs Administration Azra Becovic, Custom administration, Department for international customs cooperation e-mail: cooperation@carina.gov.me phone: ++382 20 442 021

SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (FP7)

The Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) bundles all research-related EU initiatives together under a common roof playing a crucial role in reaching the goals of growth, competitiveness and employment; along with a new Competitiveness and Innovation

Framework Programme (CIP), Education and Training programmes, and Structural and Cohesion Funds for regional convergence and competitiveness. It is also a key pillar for the European Research Area (ERA).

The broad objectives of FP7 have been grouped into four categories: Cooperation, Ideas, People and Capacities. For each type of objective, there is a specific programme corresponding to the main areas of EU research policy. All specific programmes work together to promote and encourage the creation of European poles of (scientific) excellence.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the European Union and Montenegro on the participation of Montenegro to the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Development (FP7) was signed and entered into force on the 1st January 2008.

The next call for fund is expected in Q1 2010, Montenegro contribution is expected to be paid during Q2 2010. The reimbursement of part of the entry cost with IPA 2010 funds under this project fiche is expected for Q3 2010.

COMPETITIVENESS AND INNOVATION FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME 2007-2013

According to the decision No 1639/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 establishing the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme for the period 2007-2013, Montenegro is eligible to apply. Within the CIP programme there are three main sub-programmes:

- Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP).
- ICT policy support programme (ICT PSP)
- The intelligent energy-europe programme (IEE).

Montenegro participates to EIP and expressed interest in participating to ICT PSP.

a) ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION SPECIFIC PROGRAMME (EIP)

With this programme, the European Commission seeks to support innovation and SMEs and focuses in particular on the following objectives:

- Facilitate access to finance for the start-up and growth of SMEs and encourage investment in innovation activities.
- Create an environment favourable to SME cooperation, particularly in the field of cross-border cooperation.
- Promote all forms of innovation in enterprises.
- Support eco-innovation.
- Promote an entrepreneurship and innovation culture.
- Promote enterprise and innovation-related economic and administrative reform.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the European Union and Montenegro on the participation of Montenegro to the Union Programme “Entrepreneurship and Innovation specific Programme (EIP) of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (2007 to 2013)” was signed and entered into force on the on 20 May 2008.

The next call for fund is expected in Q1/Q2 2010, Montenegro contribution is expected to be paid during Q2 2010. The reimbursement of part of the entry cost with IPA 2010 funds under this project fiche is expected for Q3 2010.

b) ICT POLICY SUPPORT PROGRAMME (ICT PSP)

This programme aims at stimulating innovation and competitiveness through the wider uptake and best use of ICT by citizens, governments and businesses, particularly Small and Medium-sized Enterprises. Public organisations can take further advantage of advances in ICT to provide more efficient and higher quality services. The ICT policy support programme will help overcome the hurdles hindering the wider and better use of ICT in high growth sectors of public interest like health, inclusion or public administrations.

Montenegro expressed its interest to join ICT PSP in December 2009. The MoU entered into force on 27 April 2011.

According to this timetable, Montenegro can join this programme in 2011, and should start paying “entry ticket” from that year on (Q1/Q2 2011). The reimbursement of part of the entry cost is covered under IPA 2010 national Programme

The reimbursement of part of the entry cost for the year 2012 to be covered with IPA 2011 funds under this project fiche is expected for Q3 2012.

CULTURE 2007-2013

The Programme has been established to enhance the cultural area shared by Europeans the development of cooperation activities among cultural operators from countries taking part in the Programme, with a view to encouraging the emergence of European citizenship. The Programme is aimed at three specific objectives organised in strand (more information available on http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/culture/programme/documents/programme_guide_culture_11_2009_en.pdf): promotion of the trans-national mobility of people working in the cultural sector, circulation of cultural and artistic works and products, and inter-cultural dialogue. Co-financing of the projects from the European Commission cannot exceed 50% of the total eligible cost of the cooperation cultural projects of the Strand 1. Under Strand 2 of the programme support is also given to organizations operating or wanting to operate at European level in the field of culture, acting as European Cultural Ambassadors. Strand 3 relates to support for analyses and for the collection and dissemination of information and for maximising the impact of projects in the field of cultural cooperation.

One of the main pre-conditions for participation is the establishment of a Cultural Contact Point (CCP), which can be financed through the annual Budget of the Programme, IPA, or through the national budget. The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Media in February 2009 has established and decided to finance the CCP from its budget for the period 2010-2013.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the European Union and Montenegro on the participation of Montenegro in the Culture programme signed on 23 November 2009 in Brussels and Memorandum of Understanding came into the force from January 1, 2010.

The reimbursement of part of the entry cost for the year 2012 to be covered with IPA 2011 funds under this project fiche is expected for Q3 2012.

CUSTOMS 2013

This programme⁸ gives the national customs administrations of the EU and of candidate and potential candidate countries, together with the European Commission, the opportunity to cooperate in areas of common and high interest. It is designed to help to facilitate trade and to combat fraud so as to safeguard the financial and security interests of the Union and its citizens. It contributes to reinforce security and safety within the Union and at the external borders, as well as support to the development and business strategies, and preparation of candidate country and potential candidate countries.

This programme includes activities in the field of communication system and exchange of information, comparative analysis, seminars and workshops, project groups and steering groups, work visits, training activity and monitoring activity.

In April 2009, the Customs administration of Montenegro expressed the interest to participate in Programme CUSTOMS 2013, by addressing the letter to the Directorate of Taxation and Customs Union (DG TAXUD). Montenegro authorities are expecting that DG TAXUD shall prepare and submit the Memorandum of Understanding, by which the terms for participation in referred program shall be stipulated (activities and annual financial contribution). Based on the relevant data on Montenegro and experience from the countries that joined this Program, DG TAXUD noted that the exact amount shall be specified in the Memorandum of Understanding.

In the light of all necessary financial and legal actions to be undertaken, DG TAXUD indicated that the realistic deadline from entering into force of this MoU would be April 2011.

The reimbursement of part of the entry cost for the year 2012 to be covered with IPA 2011 funds under this project fiche is expected for Q3 2012.

⁸ established by the Decision No 624/007 of the European parliament and of the Council, of 23 May 2007

Reference to laws, regulations and strategic documents:

.a) Reference list of relevant laws and regulations

Not applicable.

.b) Reference to AP / NPAA / EP / SAA

Link to AP : Not applicable.

Link with NPAA : In the **National Plan for Integration** (NPI) of Montenegro, Union Programmes are expected to be part of the pre-accession strategy to EU (e.g., regarding the FP7, under the mid-term priorities (3.25.1.3), the “entry ticket” is planned for using IPA funds).

Link with EP: Not applicable.

Link with SAA: ARTICLE 132 of the SAA stipulates that "The general principles for the participation of Montenegro in Union programmes are laid down in Protocol 8".

c) Reference to MIPD

The MIPD (2009 – 2011) indicates that “assistance is foreseen to allow Montenegro to participate in Union agencies and institutions; as well as in Union programmes” (section 2.2.2). it is foreseen under “Support programmes” sub-component (section 4) that *"Montenegro shall receive assistance to participate in Union programmes, complementary to IPA in several fields. Assistance is also available for participating to Union Agencies where appropriate."*

d) Reference to National Development Plan

Not applicable

e) Reference to national / sectoral investment plan Not applicable