

2012 Annual Programme

General Technical Assistance Facility: 13 – 2012 / 04

1 IDENTIFICATION

Project Title	General Technical Assistance Facility
CRIS Decision number	2012/022-940
Project no.	13
MIPD Sector Code	9. Support and other activities
ELARG Statistical code	04.40
DAC Sector code	43010
Total cost (VAT excluded)¹	€2.0 million
EU contribution	€2.0 million
Management mode	Centralised.
EU Delegation in charge	European Union Office in Kosovo*
Implementation management	European Union Office in Kosovo
Implementing modality	Stand-alone projects (incl. service, supplies and works contracts, grants, twinning, twinning light, contribution agreements, delegation agreements).
Project implementation type	C01
Zone benefiting from the action(s)	Kosovo

¹ The total project cost should be net of VAT and/or of other taxes. Should this not be the case, clearly indicate the amount of VAT and the reasons why it is considered eligible.

* 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.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 PROJECT CONTEXT: ISSUES TO BE TACKLED AND NEEDS ADDRESSED

The European Union has repeatedly stated its commitment to stepping up its role in Kosovo. The December 2007 European Council underlined the EU's readiness to play a leading role in implementing a settlement, including a CSDP mission (EULEX) and a contribution to an international civilian office as part of the international presence. The importance of economic and political development in Kosovo, in line with the European perspective of the region, was also stressed. Implementing the European agenda is the key to long-term stability in Kosovo and the wider region. The UN has consistently highlighted the importance of the European approximation process for Kosovo's development.

All EU Member States agree that Kosovo shares a European perspective in line with the European perspective of the region, as confirmed by a series of Council Conclusions, most recently in December 2011.

In February 2012, the EU appointed an EU Special Representative (EUSR) in Kosovo, 'double-hatted' as the Head of the EU Office in Kosovo.

Following the General Affairs Council conclusions of December 2009 and in line with its October 2009 Communication 'Kosovo - Fulfilling its European perspective', the Commission has upgraded Kosovo's participation in the EU's Stabilisation and Association Process. High-level dialogues take place at plenary and sectoral levels. This process allows the Commission to follow legislative developments and comment on issues relevant to compliance with EU standards. In March 2012, the Commission launched a feasibility study for a Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Union and Kosovo, which was published on 10 October 2012.

The European Commission Liaison Office opened in September 2004. Following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, the ECLO became the European Union Office in Kosovo. It plays a key role in implementing EU policy in Kosovo by deploying all the enlargement tools provided by the Stabilisation and Association Process, maintaining a permanent technical and political dialogue with Kosovo and managing a substantial financial assistance budget from the IPA.

2.2 LINK WITH MIPD AND SECTOR STRATEGIES

EU assistance must be directly linked to Kosovo's development and action plans set in a clear European perspective, e.g. the Action Plan for implementation of the European Partnership priorities and Kosovo's Medium-Term Expenditure Framework.

Greater local ownership of EU assistance to Kosovo is essential for effective targeting and for achieving agreed results in line with EU standards. The planning and project preparation capacity of Kosovo's authorities therefore has to be improved.

2.3 LINK WITH ACCESSION PARTNERSHIP (AP) / EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP (EP) / STABILISATION AND ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT (SAA) / ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

The objective of Kosovo's Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) is for Kosovo to become more economically integrated into Europe. The MTEF therefore refers to standards necessary for EU integration and linked to policies and measures under the EPAP. The MTEF is also closely linked to the public administration reform strategy in the area of European integration, specifically policy area 8 'Policies and legislation'.

2.4 PROBLEM ANALYSIS

With the view to assisting Kosovo in advancing its European agenda, in line with the European perspective and agenda of the region, the General Technical Assistance Facility will support specific projects which cannot be programmed in advance. These aim, on the one hand, to help prepare and implement action responding to the challenges identified in the SAA Feasibility Study, which cannot be specified at this stage, and, on the other, any action found necessary to support the measures the EU could take in line with the recent developments, but which cannot be identified at this stage as they will depend on the progress made with Kosovo's legislation and institutions.

2.5 LINKED ACTIVITIES AND DONOR COORDINATION

Donor coordination structures are in place in Kosovo. Where ever possible and appropriate, the Commission and the EU Office in Kosovo will consult with other donors before and during the implementation of any action.

2.6 LESSONS LEARNED

Many projects have been successfully implemented under previous programmes, including CARDS and the 2007-11 IPA programmes. Experience confirms that this type of assistance is particularly useful for responding quickly to urgent needs identified in the course of implementation of the IPA and EU approximation. It gives Kosovo the possibility of addressing unforeseen tasks linked to further strengthening its administrative capacity in order to advance with its EU reform process.

3 DESCRIPTION

3.1 OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

To support Kosovo in creating an effective, efficient and transparent public administration at all levels that ensures sustained socio-economic development, strengthens sectorial approximation and constructively engages in regional cooperation.

3.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE(S) OF THE PROJECT

The purpose of the general technical assistance (GTA) facility is to strengthen technical and administrative capacity of the Kosovo administration in relation to the European integration

process and to support the effective and efficient management and absorption of EU pre-accession funds.

3.3 RESULTS

- Kosovo's Ministry of European Integration and relevant line ministries capable of rapidly preparing and carrying out urgent and unforeseen action related to Kosovo's EU approximation efforts and EU reform agenda.
- Kosovo's institutional and socio-economic development more sustainable, including its macro-economic and fiscal framework, private-sector development, improvement of employment and social policies and higher standards for education, training and research.
- Increased capacity of Kosovo's institutions to attract investment, stimulate growth and ensure sound socio-economic development.

3.4 MAIN ACTIVITIES

The GTA facility will support preparation and/or implementation of action identified as necessary within the IPA programme and Kosovo's EU reform agenda. It will support possible urgent priorities that arise from the EU integration process or other political developments that are beyond the Commission's control and which cannot be programmed in advance. Action supported will target, in particular, but not exclusively, areas such as the rule of law, decentralisation, trade, economic development and revitalisation (including macro-economic and fiscal mechanisms), private-sector development, public administration reform, employment and social policies, education, training and research, culture and the EU perspective and minority communities, sectorial approximation (energy, the environment and transport) and building institutional capacity.

Implementation will follow three guiding principles:

- Action will be based on priorities identified in the Commission's annual Progress Reports, the SAA feasibility study, the MIPD for Kosovo 2011-2013 or related strategy papers.
- Action will include institution-building and support for investment directly related to the EU approximation process and Kosovo's EU reform agenda.
- Action will target specific, achievable and sustainable results.

Standard PRAG implementation rules will apply, taking due account of the standard derogations they allow. Action financed under this heading can take the form of service, supplies and works contracts, grants, twinning, twinning light, contribution agreements, and delegation agreements.

3.5 ASSESSMENT OF PROJECT IMPACT, CATALYTIC EFFECT AND CROSS BORDER IMPACT (WHERE APPLICABLE)

Not applicable as the individual measures to be financed under this project cannot be identified yet.

3.6 SUSTAINABILITY

Not applicable as the individual measures to be financed under this project cannot be identified yet. Nevertheless this type of assistance has proved to be extremely useful for the sustainability of the overall EU assistance to Kosovo especially as the interest and ownership of MEI for these types of activities is increasing continuously.

3.7 ASSUMPTIONS AND PRE-CONDITIONS²

Beneficiary institutions should be fully associated with any action financed under either facility and should cooperate in planning all activities.

4 IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

Depending on the needs related to the EU integration process, the project will be implemented through a number of twinning/twinning light/service/framework/grant contracts as well as work contracts, supply contracts or direct agreements where the need for a rapid response of the Commission to non-programmable events is such that the duration of the procedure to amend this decision would frustrate the purpose of such response.

4.1 INDICATIVE BUDGET

² Assumptions are external factors that have the potential to influence (or even determine) the success of a project but lie outside the control of the implementation managers. Such factors are sometimes referred to as risks or assumptions but the Commission requires that all risks shall be expressed as assumptions. Pre-conditions are requirements that must be met before the sector support can start.

Indicative Project budget (amounts in €)

			TOTAL EXP.	SOURCES OF FUNDING								
				IPA EU CONTRIBUTION		BENEFICIARY CONTRIBUTION					PRIVATE CONTRIBUTION	
ACTIVITIES	IB (1)	INV (1)	€ (a)=(b)+(c)+(d)	€ (b)	% (2)	Total € (c)=(x)+(y)+(z)	% (2)	Central € (x)	Regional/ local € (y)	IFIs € (z)	€ (d)	% (2)
GTA Facility			1.0	1.0	100							
GTA facility	X		1.0	1.0	100							
Programme Support Measures			1.0	1.0	100							
Programme Support Measures		X	1.0	1.0	100							
TOTAL IB			1.0	1.0	100							
TOTAL INV			1.0	1.0	100							
TOTAL PROJECT			2.0	2.0	100							

NOTE: DO NOT MIX IB AND INV IN THE SAME ACTIVITY ROW. USE SEPARATE ROW

Amounts net of VAT

(1) In the Activity row, use "X" to identify whether IB or INV

(2) Expressed in % of the **Total** Expenditure (column (a))

4.2 INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE (PERIODS BROKEN DOWN BY QUARTER)

Approximately 10-15 contracts: Q1 2013 - Q4 2015.

4.3 CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

4.3.1 Equal Opportunities and non discrimination

Equal opportunities and non-discrimination against women, minority and vulnerable groups (including children, disabled and elderly people) will be taken into consideration in all aspects of EU-funded activities, particularly in relation to public services, legislative matters and socio-economic support programmes.

4.3.2 Environment and climate change

Environmental considerations will be duly reflected in all IPA-financed activities, in addition to specific action on the environment, in particular environmental impact assessments. This is particularly relevant where there could potentially be a strong environmental impact, such as in the case of co-financing of investments, new legislation, etc. Disaster resilience and risk prevention and management should be integrated in the planning, preparation and implementation of projects.

4.3.3 Minorities and vulnerable groups

The aim will be to contribute to multi-ethnic representation in the institutions benefiting from this project, which will address the ethnic groups fairly and equitably in accordance with the law, along with other marginalised groups.

4.3.4 Civil Society/Stakeholders involvement

Civil Society/stakeholder involvement will be taken into consideration in all aspects of EU-funded activities, particularly in relation to public services, legislative matters and socio-economic support programmes in order to support civil society organisations to strengthen their capacities and professionalism, allowing them to engage in an effective dialogue with public and private actors and to monitor developments in areas such as the rule of law and respect for fundamental rights.

ANNEXES

Documents to be annexed to the Project fiche

1. Log frame

2. Description of Institutional Framework

Not Applicable since the beneficiaries are still to be identified

3. Reference list of relevant laws and regulations only where relevant

Not Applicable since the projects are still to be identified

4. Details per EU funded contract(*) where applicable

Not Applicable since the projects are still to be identified

5. Project visibility activities

The European Union Office in Kosovo has developed clear visibility guidelines and ensures that all projects which are implemented in Kosovo are fully in line with these guidelines. Project visibility is also clearly stipulated in all contractual documents whereby the contractors/implementers are obliged to adhere to all EU visibility requirements.

ANNEX 1: Logical framework matrix in standard format

LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR Project Fiche		Project title and number		General Technical Assistance Facility: 12-2012/04
		Contracting period expires 3 years after signing the financing agreement.		Execution period expires 2 years following the final date for contracting.
		Total budget:	€2.0 million	
		IPA budget:	€2.0 million	
Overall objective	Objectively verifiable indicators (OVI)	Sources of Verification		
An effective, efficient and transparent public administration at all levels that ensures sustained socio-economic development, strengthens sectorial approximation and constructively engages in regional cooperation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU integration structures in place and operational. • Level of FDI in Kosovo invested in the private sector. • Number of regional cooperation initiatives undertaken by Kosovo institutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contractors' regular reports. • European Commission Progress Reports on Kosovo. • Policies and mechanisms developed and adopted by the government. 		
Specific objective	Objectively verifiable indicators (OVI)	Sources of Verification	Assumptions	
To strengthen technical and administrative capacity of the Kosovo administration in relation to the European integration process and to support the effective and efficient management and absorption of EU pre-accession funds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPAP priorities implemented as planned. • Increase in MEI's capacity to take responsibility for coordination and management of EU assistance programmes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring reports on implementation of the EPAP. • Regular reports from contractors. • IPA 2011 and 2012 project factsheets and ToRs. 	<p>Government allocates sufficient resources to implement the output of the project.</p> <p>Commitment from the beneficiaries to implement the project.</p> <p>Coordination of donors ensured by the government.</p>	

Results	Objectively verifiable indicators (OVI)	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kosovo's Ministry of European Integration and relevant line ministries capable of rapidly preparing and carrying out urgent and unforeseen action related to Kosovo's EU approximation efforts and EU reform agenda. • Kosovo's institutional and socio-economic development more sustainable, including its macro-economic and fiscal framework, private-sector development, improvement of employment and social policies and higher standards for education, training and research. • Increased capacity of Kosovo's institutions to attract investment, stimulate growth and ensure sound socio-economic development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPAP priority milestones achieved. • IPA programmes implemented with increased local ownership and involvement compared with previous years. • Level of progress made by the government on conducting effective trade policy. • Number of laws aligned in the areas of intellectual property rights and copyright. • Number of macro-economic and fiscal policies developed and implemented by the government. • Number of economic and fiscal reports prepared by the government. • Comprehensive strategy developed and put in place to guide Kosovo's efforts to meet EU requirements for visa liberalisation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring reports on implementation of the EPAP. • Project implementation reports and indicators. • Independent monitoring exercises. • Number of reports. • Strategy paper. 	<p>EU integration is the priority of the government and of the Assembly of Kosovo.</p> <p>Institutional framework in place.</p> <p>Kosovo makes progress towards negotiating and benefiting from the trade agreement.</p> <p>Progress made with document security, fighting organised crime, migration and border security.</p> <p>Progress made in the dialogue on visas.</p>
Activities to achieve results	Means / contracts	Costs	Assumptions
<p>The GTA facility will support preparation and/or implementation of action identified as necessary within the IPA programme and Kosovo's EU reform agenda. It will support possible urgent priorities that arise from the EU integration process or other political developments that are beyond the Commission's control and which cannot be programmed in advance.</p>	<p>Depending on the needs related to the EU integration process, the project will be implemented through a number of twinning/twinning</p> <p>light/service/framework/grant contracts as well as work contracts, supply contracts or direct agreements where the need for a rapid response of the Commission to non-programmable events is such that the duration of the procedure to amend this</p>	<p>€2.0 million</p>	<p>Government provides financial and political support to the beneficiary institutions.</p> <p>Beneficiaries show commitment to the project and allocate sufficient and appropriate staff.</p> <p>Public administration is capable of absorbing the activities.</p>

<p>Action supported will target, in particular, but not exclusively, areas such as the rule of law, decentralisation, trade, economic development and revitalisation (including macro-economic and fiscal mechanisms), private-sector development, public administration reform, employment and social policies, education, training and research, culture and the EU perspective and minority communities, sectorial approximation (energy, the environment and transport) and building institutional capacity.</p>	<p>decision would frustrate the purpose of such response.</p>	
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