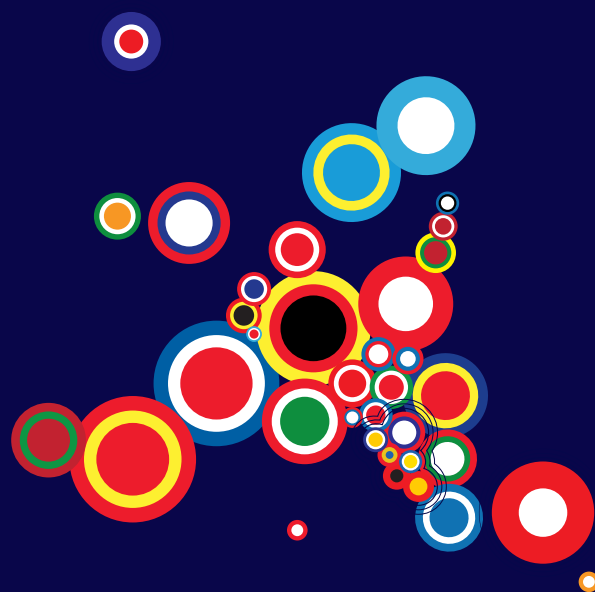




INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE (IPA II) 2014-2020

COUNTRY

Support to participation in
Union Programmes
and Agencies



Action Summary

Turkey has participated in different Union Programmes and Agencies under the previous IPA framework, and participation in the new generation of programmes is foreseen for: Erasmus+, Horizon 2020, Creative Europe, COSME, Customs, Fiscalis and the European Environmental Agency. Turkey might decide to also participate in additional programmes.

The objective of the action is to ensure Turkey's participation in Union programmes and agencies by co-financing the costs of the entry-tickets/participation

Expected results of this action are: Enhanced participation of Turkey in Union programmes and agencies, including increased exchanges with EU Member States; Strengthened ownership and responsibility of Turkey (including in financial terms) for participation in Union programmes and agencies

Action Identification	
Programme Title	Annual Action Programme for Turkey 2014
Action Title	Support to participation in Union Programmes and Agencies
Action Reference	IPA/2014/ 031-874/3/TR/Union Programme
Sector Information	
ELARG Sectors	Investing in Democracy and Rule Law/Democracy and Governance
DAC Sector	15150 - Democratic participation and civil society
Budget	
Total cost	418.136.226,00
EU contribution	167 304 624
Management and Implementation	
Method of implementation	Indirect management
Indirect management: Responsible Unit or National Authority/Implementing Agency	Ministry for EU Affairs Directorate for Social, Regional and Innovative Policies Mr Hasan Turgay TURSUN
Implementation responsibilities	Ministry for EU Affairs
Location	
Zone benefiting from the action	Turkey
Specific implementation area(s)	N/A
Timeline	
Deadline for conclusion of the Financing Agreement	At the latest by 31 December 2015
Contracting deadline	3 years following the date of signature of the Financing Agreement
End of operational implementation period	6 years following the date of signature of the Financing Agreement

1. RATIONALE

CONTEXT ANALYSIS

On the basis of Association Council decisions or Framework Agreements, candidate countries may participate in certain European Union Programmes and Agencies.

Pre-accession financial assistance can be used to help a candidate country to meet part of the costs of participation in those programmes and agencies, on the basis of an increasing contribution from the Candidate Country.

The Framework Agreement between Turkey and the European Community on the General Principles for the Participation of Turkey in Community Programmes was signed on 26 February 2002, and entered into force on 5 September 2002. Thus, Turkey's participation in a number of programmes has been materialised through separate Memoranda of Understanding until 2014. From 2014 and onwards, Turkey and the European Commission will sign new international agreements on the participation of Turkey in the next generation of Union Programmes.

Over the 2007-2013 period Turkey has participated in Fiscalis, Customs, Progress, Lifelong Learning, Youth in Action, Competitiveness and Innovation framework Programme - the ICT Policy Support Programme (CIP ICT PSP), Competitiveness and Innovation framework Programme - Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (CIP EIP), Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7) and Culture Programme. Turkey is a member of European Environment Agency since 2003.

The European Commission in its Enlargement Strategy for 2011-2012 published on 12 October 2011 proposed to develop a "Positive Agenda" between Turkey and the EU. The Commission mentioned a broad range of areas as the main elements of the Agenda including also the "further participation of Turkey in Union Programmes". Turkey has ratified the agreement on participation in the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA).

Overall coordination of Turkey's participation in Union Programmes and Agencies is carried out by the Ministry for EU Affairs (MEUA). MEUA is responsible of the decision on the participation in Programmes or on the termination of the participation, monitoring and evaluating the performance of Turkey in the actions of the Programmes and Agencies.

This action document for the 2014 Financing Agreement shows EU support for Turkey's participation, inter alia, in the Programmes and Agencies listed in the table below.

RELEVANCE WITH THE IPA II STRATEGY PAPER AND OTHER KEY REFERENCES

Union Programmes and Agencies form part of the move towards ever closer relations between the partners within the EU and those in Turkey; and familiarises them with policies and working methods while facilitating exchanges of experience and best practices.

Participation in Union Programmes and Agencies is an important element covered under Democracy and Governance; an area where Turkey has been active and developed capacities. Turkey's participation in Union Programmes which allows for exchange between Turkish and EU citizens is an important complementary measure in this regard. Allowing for exchanges between Turkish and EU citizens, some of the Union Programmes can also contribute to civil society dialogue. As the Strategy Paper states, an active civil society mirrors an effective pluralism which implies the respect for fundamental rights and freedoms, the rule of law and the possibility for social and political change. Civil society activities can stimulate and expand the space for dialogue and cooperation.

Continuing participation in Union Programmes and Agencies is important for both Turkey and the EU.

Regarding Competitiveness and Innovation the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK), partner in the Union Programme Horizon 2020, is moving towards more collaboration with economic operators. The Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology (MoSIT) has also started supporting clusters through calls for proposals. There are other well-institutionalised partners in the system like KOSGEB, the SME Development Agency and the Turkish Patent Institute with wide outreach activities to the private sector. KOSGEB will be the coordinating institutions for Turkey's participating in COSME. As one of the core themes in the Competitiveness and Innovation sector will be Capacity-building and support programmes, including for increased participation in Union Programmes, there is an important link to Turkey's participation in Horizon 2020, COSME and the Employment and Social Innovation programme.

Concerning the accession negotiations under the science and research chapter, the implementation capacity relate to the existence of the necessary conditions for effective participation in the Horizon 2020. In order to ensure the successful implementation of the acquis in this field, Turkey has created the necessary implementing capacities for a further effective participation.

With regard to the accession negotiations under the education and culture chapter, the acquis *mainly* consists of the action programmes. The implementation capacity relate to the existence of the necessary conditions for effective participation in Erasmus+ and Creative Europe. The applications for Erasmus+ continue to grow considerably and Turkey has created the necessary implementing capacities for a further effective participation in Creative Europe.

The Agreement for the participation in Erasmus+ was signed on 19 May 2014; and Horizon 2020 on 4 June 2014. The Agreements for Fiscalis 2020 and Customs 2020 have been signed on 16 July 2014.

The Agreement for COSME was signed on 16 October 2014; and Creative Europe on 6 November 2014.

The Agreement for participation for participation in EaSI has been signed on 17 February 2015 and will take effect by the beginning of 2015.

The Agreement for participation in Civil Protection Mechanism was signed on 6 May 2015. Payment is subject to the ratification of the participation agreement.

LESSONS LEARNED AND LINK TO PREVIOUS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

With regard to the participation of Turkey to Union Programmes **in 2013** (*rounded figures*):

Under the Lifelong Programme, 2.600 projects received 105 million Euros of funding and mobility of 60.000 people was achieved. Erasmus supported the mobility of 20.000 students and 4.500 staffs.

Youth in Action Programme supported 800 projects with 15 million Euros of funding and supported the mobility of 25.000 people.

83 applications have been retained for funding under FP7. Turkish partners received 20 million Euros funding. Mobility of 23 Turkish researchers was also supported.

Projects including Turkish cultural actors received 200.000 Euros under the Culture Programme.

The number of the projects with Turkish partners CIP-EIP was 6; with a total budget of 300.000 Euros (*excluding credit guarantees*).

Under the Customs 2013 Programme, 68 Turkish officials participated in 42 meetings, working visits, workshops and other events and Turkey organized 1 Project Group Meeting as well as hosting 18 customs officers in 6 working visits.

Fiscalis Programme supported 66 officials to take part in 58 events.

Under the Progress Programme, there were 2 project submissions with Turkish partners that were not retained.

Following lessons can be drawn:

1. Regarding FP7/Horizon 2020: There is room for improvement especially for Food, Climate and Future and Emerging technologies. Turkey is active in Marie Curie actions, SME, Environment and ICT. Smart Specialization Strategy needs to be used / improved.
2. Lifelong Programme and Youth in Action were extremely popular and successful. Erasmus+ is expected to maintain this interest.
3. A result oriented and targeted approach needs to be used for cultural and creative operators.
4. The results of the implementation of the Progress Programme in Turkey should be analysed comprehensively with the line Ministry and should be considered for the continuation of participation in the successive programmes.
5. To increase the efficiency of the EEA cooperation, *concrete proposals* for future cooperation should be analysed; negotiations on the amendment of the *financial envelope* is on-going.

2. DESCRIPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

INTERVENTION LOGIC

Objective:

The objective is to ensure participation in Union Programmes and Agencies by co-financing the costs of the entry-tickets/participation.

Turkey wishes to maintain the already existing cooperation via participation in the successive programmes, primarily: Erasmus+, Horizon 2020, Creative Europe, COSME, Fiscalis 2020 and Customs 2020 and the European Environment Agency.

Participation in Civil Protection Mechanism and Employment and Social Innovation are being discussed with the line Ministries.

Union Programmes and Agencies establishes ever closer relations between the EU and Turkish partners; and familiarises them with policies and working methods while facilitating exchanges of experience and best practices.

Result:

- Enhanced participation of Turkey in Union Programmes and Agencies, including increased exchanges with EU Member States;
- Strengthened ownership and responsibility of Turkey (including in financial terms) for participation in Union Programmes and Agencies.

Indicators:

- Number of programmes and agencies for which an International Agreement has been concluded: 7 (2014) – 9 (2017 target)
- Participation rates in the different Union Programmes
- Number of successful application
- By 2014, Turkey will participate in 5 Union Programmes; the International Agreement for participation in Creative Europe will take effect by 2015; the International Agreement for participation in EaSI will be signed in the last quarter of 2014 and will take effect by 2015, as proposed by the European Commission

2014 targets are as follows¹:

Erasmus+: Mobility of around 70.000 people,

Horizon 2020: 90 applications retained for funding with 35 million euros funding,

Customs 2020: 70 officials participated in meetings,

Fiscalis 2020: 70 officials participated in meetings,

COSME: Financial instruments, Loan Guarantee Facility and Equity Facility for Growth will be used effectively,

Creative Europe: 750.000 Euros of funding and participation in training events & festivals (MEDIA) for 2015

EaSI: 1 application retained for funding for 2015

IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

IPA funds of year N co-finance entry tickets / participation fees for year N+1 or in case of front-loading also for years N+1 and N+2 [e.g. participation fees for 2014 are co-financed by IPA 2013; IPA 2014-2020 would co-finance 2015-2021 fees, i.e. the last year of IPA co-financing is falling outside this financial framework].

The participation of the IPA II beneficiary in Union Programmes, including payment by the country of the entry ticket/participation fees, shall follow the specific terms and conditions set out for each programme in the relevant International Agreement. Co-financing rates from previous participation shall be taken into account, and in line with the principle of increasing Turkey's ownership and responsibility IPA funding rates shall decrease over the years in real or relative terms.

Turkey shall pay its total financial contribution as stipulated in the relevant international agreements signed between Turkey and the European Commission, and within the deadline specified in those agreements. In case the Financing Agreement is not signed by the deadline, IPA funds will be transferred later to the National Fund on the basis of its request (upon signature of the financing agreement) and shall be used to reimburse the financial contribution paid by Turkey.

This IPA 2014 Action will cover the participation fees / entry tickets for two years, i.e. for 2015 and 2016. Related payments will be made in two separate instalments.

¹ For the years 2015 – 2016 the targets will be amended accordingly after having the figures of 2014

The NIPAC will regularly monitor the participation rates and reports on them as well as on co-financing trends in the context of IPA monitoring committees.

3. BUDGET BREAKDOWN

The Agreement for the participation in Erasmus+ was signed on 19 May 2014; and Horizon 2020 on 4 June 2014. The Agreements for Fiscalis 2020 and Customs were signed on 16 July 2014. .

The Agreement for COSME has been signed on 16 October 2014 Turkey started to participate in Creative Europe by 2015 with the agreement signed on 6 November 2014.

The Agreement for participation in Civil Protection Mechanism was signed on 6 May 2015. The Agreement for participation in EaSI was signed on 17 February 2015 and will take effect by the 1st of January.

Turkey has ratified the agreement on participation in the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and started participation in the actions of the center.

To increase the efficiency of the EEA cooperation, concrete proposals for future cooperation should be analysed. Several meetings were organised between May – July. . Financial envelope for participation is also an important factor for a sustainable cooperation.

The budget of Erasmus+ was amended by 2015 so as to increase it to 126 million euros (+9 million for external action)

Participation in 2015 and 2016	Total expenditure	IPA II contribution		IPA II beneficiary contribution	
	EUR	EUR	%	EUR	%
Erasmus+	270.000.000,00	126.000.000,00	46,67	144.000.000,00	53,33
Horizon 2020	115.888.000,00	31.302.624,00	27,01	84.585.376,00	72,99
Creative Europe	5.130.000,00	2.500.000,00	48,73	2.630.000,00	51,27
COSME	19.699.226,00	4.000.000,00	20,31	15.699.226,00	79,69
Customs 2020	490.000,00	60.000,00	12,24	430.000,00	87,76
Fiscalis 2020	215.000,00	60.000,00	27,91	155.000,00	72,09
EaSI	400.000,00	60.000,00	15,00	340.000,00	85,00
European Environment Agency	6.254.000,00	3.127.000,00	50,00	3.127.000,00	50,00
European Monitoring Center for Drugs and Drug Addiction	360.000,00	195.000,00	54,17	165.000,00	45,83
Civil Protection Mechanism	400.000,00	0,00	0,00	400.000,00	100,00
TOTAL for ACTION	418.836.226,00	167.304.624,00	39,95	251.531.602,00	60,05

[click twice on the table to open the embedded Excel file]

ANNEX

Overview of Turkey's public institutions that have signed International Agreements with the European Commission and dates of entry into force or latest amendments to the International Agreements

[As appropriate]

The Agreement for the participation in Erasmus+ was signed on 19 May 2014. The Council of Ministers' Decree was published in the Official Gazette on 17 June 2014.

The Agreement for the participation in Horizon 2020 was signed on 4 June 2014. The Council of Ministers' Decree will be published in the Official Gazette 12 July 2014.

The Agreement for the participation in Custom 2020 was signed on 16 July 2014. The Council of Ministers' Decree was published in the Official Gazette on 30 September 2014.

The Agreement for the participation in Fiscalis 2020 was signed on 16 July 2014. The Council of Ministers' Decree was published in the Official Gazette on 2 October 2014.

The Agreement for participation in COSME has been signed on 16 October 2014. The Council of Ministers' Decree was published in the Official Gazette on 18 December 2014.

The Agreement for participation in Creative Europe has been signed on 6 November 2014. The Council of Ministers' Decree was published in the Official Gazette on 26 December 2014. The

The Agreement for participation for participation in EaSI has been signed on 17 February 2015 and will take effect by the beginning of 2015.

The Agreement for participation in Civil Protection Mechanism was signed on 6 May 2015. Payment is subject to the ratification of the participation agreement..