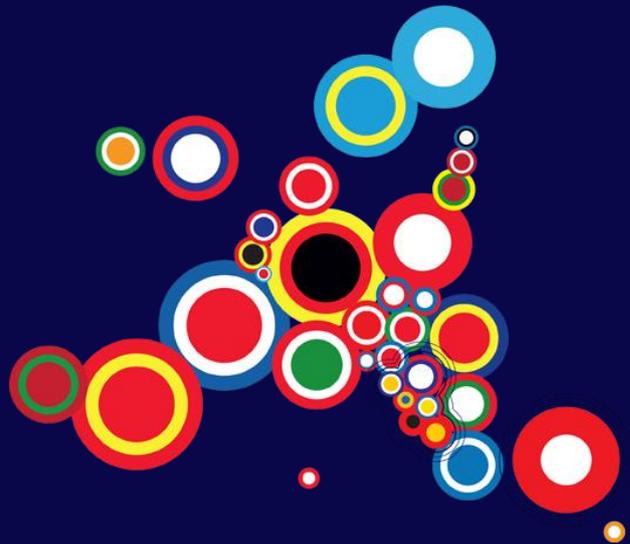




INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE (IPA II) 2014-2020

TURKEY

Support to participation in
Union Programmes
and Agencies



Action summary

In the framework of the Pre-Accession Strategy, Turkey participates in 7 Union Programmes and 2 Agencies. These are Erasmus+, Horizon 2020, COSME, Customs, Fiscalis, Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI), Civil Protection Mechanism, European Environment Agency and European Monitoring Centre For Drug and Drug Addiction. Turkey may decide to participate in additional programmes.

The specific objective of this action is to ensure Turkey's participation in Erasmus+ Programme (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 Erasmus+ Programme (Union Programmes and Agencies), including increased exchanges/cooperation with EU Member States; Strengthened ownership and responsibility of Turkey (including in financial terms) for participation in Erasmus+ Programme; Strengthened Turkey-EU citizens' involvement in the European integration project in complementarity with institutional and political cooperation.

Action Identification	
Action Programme Title	Annual Action Programme for Turkey 2018
Action Title	Support to participation in Union Programmes and Agencies
Action ID	IPA 2018/.../Turkey/ Union Programmes
Sector Information	
IPA II Sector	Democracy and Governance
DAC Sector	43010 (multisector aid)
Budget	
Total cost	EUR 135 000 000.00
EU contribution	EUR 63 000 000.00
Management and Implementation	
Method of implementation	Indirect management
Indirect management: National authority or other entrusted entity	The National Fund is responsible for the allowable pre-accession financial assistance share of the financial contribution to be paid by the country to participate in Union programmes and agencies
Implementation responsibilities	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate for European Union Affairs General Directorate for Financial Cooperation and Project Implementation Directorate for Social, Regional and Innovative Policies
Location	
Zone benefiting from the action	Turkey
Specific implementation area(s)	Turkey
Timeline	
Final date for concluding Financing Agreement(s) with IPA II beneficiary	At the latest by 31 December 2019
Final date for concluding procurement and grant contracts	3 years following the date of conclusion of the Financing Agreement, with the exception of cases listed under Article 114(2) of the Financial Regulation
Final date for operational implementation	6 years following the conclusion of the Financing Agreement
Final date for implementing the Financing Agreement (date by which this programme should be de-committed and closed)	12 years following the conclusion of the Financing Agreement

Policy objectives / Markers (DAC form)			
General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Aid to environment	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trade Development	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
Biological diversity	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Combat desertification	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change mitigation	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change adaptation	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1. RATIONALE

PROBLEM AND STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

On the basis of the Association Council decisions or the 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 Understandings until 2014.

From 2014 and onwards, Turkey and the European Commission have signed new international agreements on the participation of Turkey in the next generation of Union programmes. The Agreement for the participation in Erasmus+ Programme was signed on 19 May 2014. The Council of Ministers' Decree was published in the Official Gazette on 17 June 2014.

Turkey is aiming at increasing its participation in the programmes and agencies. Overall coordination of Turkey's participation in Union Programmes and Agencies is carried out by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) Directorate for European Union Affairs. The MFA's Directorate for European Union Affairs is responsible for the coordination of the participation in Union Programmes and Agencies, the monitoring and evaluation of the performance of Turkey in the actions of the Programmes and Agencies. Affiliated with the MFA's Directorate for European Union Affairs, the Centre for European Union Education and Youth Programmes (Turkish National Agency) is established for the implementation of the Erasmus+ Programme in Turkey. The Centre receives applications, evaluates and finances the projects and activities under these programmes. On behalf of National Authority Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate for European Union Affairs participates in Erasmus+ Programme Committee meetings.

In 2014-2020 period Turkey is participating in EU's Erasmus+ Programme for education, training, youth and sport, Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for research and innovation, COSME Programme for the competitiveness of enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises, EaSI Programme for employment and social innovation, Customs 2020 Programme, Fiscalis 2020 Programme to improve the operation of taxation systems, Civil Protection Mechanism and two EU agencies (the European Environment Agency and the European Monitoring Centre For Drug and Drug Addiction).

This action document for the 2018 Financing Agreement shows EU support for Turkey's participation, inter alia, in the Erasmus+ Programme - which is the foreseen EU contribution to Erasmus+ Programme in 2019 - listed in the table below. For the other EU Programmes and Agencies, EU co-financing for the 2019 fees was already frontloaded in the 2017 Action Document (AD).

OUTLINE OF IPA II ASSISTANCE

IPA II assistance for Union Programmes facilitates Turkey's participation in the different programmes and agencies for which international agreements have been signed between the European Commission and relevant Turkish institutions.

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 familiarise 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.

In addition, Union Programmes and particularly Erasmus+, is using gender sensitive selection criteria to encourage female students to participate actively.

Principles of equal opportunity for female and male and non-discrimination on grounds of gender are considered throughout the programme implementation. Therefore, measures to ensure equal opportunities and non-discrimination regardless of gender are integrated in the design and the implementation of this programme. As such, the Action will ensure that equally qualified female and male students will be given equal opportunity to participate and benefit from it.

Continuing participation in Union programmes and agencies is important for both Turkey and the EU.

Regarding the accession negotiations under the education and culture chapter, the acquis mainly consists of the action programmes. The implementation capacity highly relates to the existence of the necessary conditions for effective participation in Erasmus+ Programme. The applications for Erasmus+ continue to grow considerably and cooperation between Turkey and the EU is enhanced through activities carried out under the Programme.

LESSONS LEARNED AND LINK TO PREVIOUS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

With regard to the participation of Turkey to Erasmus+ Programme **in 2014-2017** (*rounded figures*):

Erasmus+ is the EU Programme receiving most financial support from IPA II funds. The financial contribution “entry ticket” to be paid by Turkey to the General Budget of the European Union to participate in the Erasmus+ Programme for the period 2014-2020 shall be EUR 933 million. IPA II funds co-finance close to 50% of these participation fees, with EUR 437 million.

Under the Erasmus+ Programme, Turkish National Agency received EUR 306.408.359, which is less than the half of the participation cost.

In the period 2014-2017, Turkey actively participated in Erasmus+ Programme and approximately 395 million Euros were allocated to finance a wide range of projects. As a result, more than 35.000 project applications were received and nearly 5.800 applications were granted benefiting nearly 235.000 participants.

Project applications from all regions of Turkey exceed the budget allocated for the Programme. Thus, despite the fact that most of these applications met the eligibility requirements, only 1/4 of the project applications could be approved in the period of 2007-2013, and currently this ratio is less than 1/6 for the Erasmus+ period.

2. DESCRIPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

INTERVENTION LOGIC

Objective:

- To ensure the participation of Turkey in Erasmus+ Programme by co-financing the costs of the entry-tickets/participation fees to be paid in areas such as education, training, youth and sports.

Result:

- Enhanced participation of Turkey in Erasmus+ Programme, including increased exchanges with EU Member States;
- Strengthened capacity, ownership and responsibility of Turkey (including in financial terms) for participation in Erasmus+ Programme;
- Strengthened Turkey-EU citizens' involvement in European integration project in complementarity with institutional and political cooperation.

Indicators:

- The number of applications/projects submitted to Calls
- Number of successful projects
- The total amount of grants allocated to the projects
- The sex-disaggregated number of people participating in the projects
- Erasmus+: Number of participants (sex-disaggregated) in the mobility programmes (Final target (2020) 450.000 in total).

IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

IPA funds of year 2018 co-finance entry tickets / participation fees for year 2019 only for Erasmus+ Programme.

Entry tickets / participation fees for year 2019 of other EU Programme and Agencies Turkey is participating - Horizon 2020, COSME, Customs, Fiscalis, Employment and Social Innovation, Civil Protection Mechanism and two EU agencies (the European Environment Agency and the European Monitoring Centre For Drug and Drug Addiction) was already front-loaded in 2017 Action Document (AAP).

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 must not only provide the co-financing but also the funds necessary for the payment of the total entry ticket, prior to receiving the partial reimbursement from IPA II. The reimbursement will be paid as a grant to Turkey.

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.

COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

Communication and visibility activities shall be implemented in accordance with the rules of each Union programme. The relevant programme managing entity shall be responsible for monitoring of the visibility

activities. The NIPAC office needs to make sure that the national institution participant of the respective Union Programme establishes direct contacts with the EU Delegation in order to plan and implement together visibility actions linked to the implementation of the respective Union Programme.

3. BUDGET BREAKDOWN

	Total expenditure	IPA II contribution		IPA II beneficiary contribution	
Participation in 2019	EUR	EUR	%	EUR	%
Entry ticket for Erasmus+*	135.000.000	63.000.000	46,67	72.000.000	53,33
TOTAL for ACTION**	135.000.000	63.000.000	46,67	72.000.000	53,33

*2019 entry ticket for Erasmus+ Programme is submitted under 2018 Financing Agreement. For the other EU Programmes and agencies Turkey is participating, EU co-financing for the 2019 fees was already frontloaded in the 2017 Financing Agreement.

**In case of withdrawal from any Programme, the figure allocated to the relevant Programme shall be reallocated to other programmes.

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

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.