

**IPA 2009 national Programme**

**Project Fiche N°16**

Support for participation to Community Programmes

**1. BASIC INFORMATION**

**1.1 CRIS Number:** 2009/021-642

**1.2 Title:** Support for participation to Community Programmes

**1.3 ELARG Statistical code:** 04.65

**1.4 Location:** Republic of Albania

**Implementing arrangements:**

**1.5 Contracting Authority:** Delegation of the European Commission to Albania.

**1.6 Implementing agency:** Delegation of the European Commission to Albania.

**1.7 Beneficiary (including details of project manager):**

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

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**1.8 Overall costs (VAT excluded):** EUR 2 200 000

**1.9 EC contribution:** EUR 2 000 000

**1.10 Final date for contracting:**

Two years following the date of the conclusion of the Financing Agreement.

**1.11 Final date for execution of contracts:**

Two years following the end date of contracting. These dates apply also to national co-financing.

**1.12 Final date for disbursements:**

One year following the end date for the execution of contracts.

## **2. Overall Objective and Project Purpose**

### **2.1 Overall Objective**

The overall objective of Albania's participation in Community programmes is to support Albania's efforts towards European integration by facilitating transfer of know-how and good practices, particularly in those areas of the *acquis* that serve as key reference points for its reform process, and to help Albania and its citizens to familiarise themselves with the Union's policies and working methods.

### **2.2 Project purpose**

The purpose of the project is (1) to co-finance the costs of the "entry-tickets" which the beneficiary country has to pay for the participation in the Community Programmes, and (2) to strengthen the capacity of the relevant administrative bodies to ensure proper participation of the beneficiary country in Community Programmes.

### **2.3 Link with NPAA / EP / SAA**

#### Link with EP

The European Partnership underlines the importance to promote and to strengthen the regional cooperation in the research and technological, in education and training system field, in order to ensure successful participation in the Community Programmes.

#### Link with SAA

There is also a link to the SAA on participation in Community Programmes. Article 100: Education and training (3) The relevant Community programmes and instruments shall contribute to the upgrading of educational and training structures and activities in Albania.(4).Cooperation shall take due account of priority areas related to the Community *acquis* in this field.

Article109: Cooperation in Research and Technological Development (2) Cooperation shall take due account of the priority areas related to the Community *acquis* in the field of research and technical development.

#### Link with NPAA

Not applicable.

### **2.4 Link with MIPD**

The MIPD 2008-2010 foresees that Albania shall receive assistance to participate in Community programmes, complementary to IPA in several fields through co-financing the entry-tickets and accompanying measures such as institutional capacity building and training of participants. Assistance is also available for participating to Community Agencies where appropriate.

### **2.5 Link with National Development Plan (where applicable)**

Not applicable.

## **2.6 Link with national / sectoral investment plans (where applicable)**

Not applicable.

## **3. Description of project**

### **3.1 Background and justification:**

With the prospect of enlargement of the European Union, in order to better prepare the candidate countries for adoption of *acquis communautaire* and for accession in the Union, the European Commission had proposed in 1997 the progressive opening-up to the candidate countries of a broad range of Community programmes. Encompassing most Community policies, these programmes are a major pre-accession instrument that familiarises the candidate countries and their citizens with the European Union policies and working methods.

The EU agreed in the Thessaloniki Agenda to open participation in Community Programmes to the Western Balkan countries, following the approach used in the past for candidate countries. The Commission proposed concrete steps in its Communication of 3 December 2003<sup>1</sup>, underlining the need for a selective and gradual approach.

Further to the Thessaloniki Agenda for the Western Balkans and in line with its Communication “Preparing for the participation of the Western Balkan countries in Community programmes and agencies”<sup>2</sup> the Commission negotiated respective Framework Agreements with the beneficiaries. Consequently, EU funds may be used to prepare for participation and to co-finance the costs.

These agreements were signed on 22 November 2004, on the occasion of the EU Western Balkans Forum, assent was then given by the European Parliament on 10 May 2005 and, finally, Council proceeded with the conclusion of the agreements on 2 June 2005<sup>3</sup>. The Framework Agreement has been ratified by the Parliament of the Republic of Albania by the law No. 9404 on 19 May 2005 and finally entered into force in June 2005.

The beneficiary currently participates in the following Community Programmes:

- 7-th Research Framework Programme
- Competition and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP)
- Europe for Citizens

The participation of the beneficiary in Community Programmes follows specific terms and conditions set out for each such programme in a so called Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

For the 7<sup>th</sup> Research Framework Programme, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the European Community and the Republic of Albania on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2007 confirming Albania's participation for the duration of FP7 as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008.

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<sup>1</sup> Communication of the Commission “Preparing for the participation of the Western Balkan countries in Community programmes and agencies” [COM (2003) 748 of 3.12.03] – accessible on the internet at: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/see/docs/com03\\_748\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/see/docs/com03_748_en.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> COM(2003) 748 final of 03/12/2003

<sup>3</sup> The Council decisions and the framework agreements have been published in the Official Journal *OJ L 192 of 22.07.2005*

For CIP, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the European Community and the Republic of Albania on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2008 confirming Albania's participation for the duration of FP7. The conditions for the entry into force of the agreement were fulfilled with effect from 4<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

A Memorandum of Understanding for the Community Programme 'Citizens for Europe' was signed between the European Community and the Republic of Albania on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2009. The Memorandum of Understanding has entered into force following its ratification by the by the Albanian Parliament. on 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2009.

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

The impact of the project will be manifold, reflecting the diversity of the listed Community Programmes in which the beneficiary intends to participate. The aim and supported activities of each programme can be found on the European Union's internet homepage.

On the one hand is expected that participation in Community Programmes will support the country's efforts towards faster integration and cohesion by facilitating transfer of know how and good practice, in particularly in those areas which are key reference points for the reform process. On the other hand the projects implemented will enhance public awareness and information on the EU. It will allow citizens, companies and national administrations of beneficiary country to join in co-operation and exchange networks in very different areas covered by those Community Programmes and thus benefit from experiences of other partners.

These programmes can help to spread more "European feeling" among ordinary Albanian citizens; they can be suitable also to bring in Albania's assets and thus improve Albania's image in the EU. Clearly, the expected impact of participating in Community Programmes as outlined above will most likely generate a series of positive catalytic effects. For instance, enlarged personal or institutional networks also enlarge the scope for follow-up activities and offers access to an increased information market. In cases of transfer of know-how and best practices, especially in more innovative areas, we may expect positive spill over effects thus multiplying the value added of the initial output.

### **3.3 Results and measurable indicators**

#### ***Expected Results***

The project implementation shall generate the following results:

- The beneficiary participates in the selected Programmes as listed above.
- Appropriate participation in the Community Programmes fully in line with the provisions outlined in the respective MoUs.

#### ***Measurable Indicators***

The measurable indicators include:

- Number of persons participating in Community Programmes;
- Number of persons participating in Community 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.

Qualitative assessment of the beneficiary's participation in Community Programmes will be done through the evaluation reports provided by the respective line DGs responsible for the management of a specific programme.

### **3.4 Activities:**

The aim is to co-finance the participation of the beneficiary in, inter alia, the selected Community Programmes in 2010 and, depending on the availability of funds, in subsequent years:<sup>4</sup>

For each programme, the Commission will conclude a Memorandum of Understanding with the beneficiary country wishing to take part in the programme. The Memorandum of Understanding lay down the rules governing participation, in particular the administrative capacities required, the planned financial contribution, the mechanism for taking part in the management of the programme and the financial control provisions. The exact financial allocation to be paid by the beneficiary for participating in Community Programmes and Agencies are determined in the relevant MoU signed between the beneficiary and the respective line DG. The EU's contribution to the entry ticket will be negotiated between the beneficiary and respective line DG, normally before the MoU is signed.

The participation of the beneficiary in Community Programmes shall follow the specific terms and conditions set out for each such programme in the MoU.

**The contracting arrangements** are as follows:

Following the signature of the MoU and following a request by the beneficiary, the Commission signs one or more grant contracts with the beneficiary over the co-financing amount. All contracting and payments are expected to be done 2010 and 2011.

Main activities are the following:

- Ministry of European Integration and respective ministries to be prepared for Albanian involvement in Community Programmes;
- Participation in Community Programmes advertised to target groups
- Possible contribution made towards Albanian participation in selected Programmes through grant agreements with the beneficiary
- Technical assistance
- Training and study visits

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<sup>4</sup> Where appropriate and depending on the availability of funds the participation in Community Programmes other than those mentioned in the list may be supported.

### **3.5 Conditionality and sequencing:**

The main conditionality is the fulfilment of the Memorandum of Understanding on participation in selected Community Programmes between the European Commission and the Government of Albania.

The responsible line ministries must ensure co-financing for entry ticket. In addition, potential applicants should provide co-financing of projects within a specific Community Programme

### **3.6 Linked activities**

CARDS 2005 (EUR 0.5 million) and CARDS 2006 (EUR 0.37 million), funds have been used to pay the entry tickets for participating in Community Programmes in the first year of participation. IPA 2007 has not envisaged any financing for covering the entry tickets for participation in CP and financing technical assistance activities. IPA 2008 has foreseen EUR 1.3 million.

### **3.7 Lessons learned**

The beneficiary currently has limited familiarity with participating in Community Programmes. Experience from the enlargement context, shows that successful participation in Community Programmes requires a high degree of ownership and initiative by the beneficiary. Active involvement by the beneficiary in gathering the necessary information on programmes, procedures and working methods as well as in establishing networks and structures and informing the public are essential in order to reap the benefits of participation in programmes and agencies. Against this background it is thus very important, that the beneficiary continuous to develop a good sense and plan of the overall activities to be followed. As the participation of Albania in Community programmes is also a test for the seriousness of its EU integration efforts / ambitions in general, the Albanian institutions which will manage the programmes should show maximum dedication and determination to implement their activities to the full satisfaction of the EU Commission.

#### 4. Indicative Budget (amounts in €)

			SOURCES OF FUNDING									
			TOTAL EXP.RE	IPA COMMUNITY 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)	Central EUR (x)	Regional/Local EUR (y)	IFIs EUR (z)	EUR (d)	% (2)
Activity 1: Entry Ticket for selected community programmes			1 674 781	1 474 780.9		200 000						
FP7 (2010)	X		1 052 000	923 278	87	128 721	10	0	0	0	0	0
CIP- EIP (2011)	X		58 248	52 423.2	90	5 824.8	10					
CIP- EIP (2012)	X		64 533	58 079.7	90	6 453.3	10					
CIP- IEE (2011)	X		90 000	81 000	90	9 000	10					
CIP- IEE (2012)	X		90 000	81 000	90	9 000	10					
Europe for Citizens (2010)	X		20 000	14 000	70	6 000	30					
Europe for Citizens (2011)	X		20 000	13 000	65	7 000	35	0	0	0	0	0
Culture (2010)	X		40 000	36 000	90	4 000	10					
Culture (2011)	X		40 000	36 000	90	4 000	10					
Progress (2010)	X		100 000	90 000	90	10 000	10					

Progress (2011)	X		100 000	90 000	90	10 000	10					
Activity 2: Technical Assistance			525 219	525 219		0						
Contract 1			525 219	525 219	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL IB			2 200 000	2 000 000	85.63	200 000						
TOTAL INV												
<b>TOTAL PROJECT</b>												

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))



## 5. Indicative Implementation Schedule (periods broken down per quarter)<sup>5</sup>

Not applicable

Contracts	Start of Tendering	Signature of contract	Project Completion
Activity 1: Entry Tickets	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2010	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2011	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2013
Activity 2: Technical Assistance	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2010	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2011	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2013

Project duration is 2 years for both grant agreements and provision of technical assistance including provision of training and carrying out of study visits.

## 6. Cross cutting issues

### 6.1 Equal opportunity

The beneficiary has to ensure that selection of and selection criteria for participants to Community 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 Community 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.

### 5.3 Minorities

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

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<sup>5</sup> where T=the date of the signature of the FA and xQ equals the number (x) of quarters (Q) following T.

## **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
- 4- 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
- 5- Details per EU funded contract (\*) where applicable.

**ANNEX 1: Logical framework matrix in standard format**

<b>LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR Community Programmes Project Fiche</b>	Programme name and number: Participation in Community Programmes		
	Contracting period expires two years from the date of the conclusion of the Financing Agreement	Execution period expires two years from the final date for contracting	Disbursement period expires one year from the final date for execution of contracts.
		Total budget: <b>EUR 2.200.000</b>	IPA budget: <b>EUR 2.000.000</b>
<b>Overall objective</b>	<b>Objectively verifiable indicators</b>	<b>Sources of Verification</b>	
The overall objective of the project is to support the beneficiary country to participate in Community Programmes	Not applicable	Not applicable	
<b>Project purpose</b>	<b>Objectively verifiable indicators</b>	<b>Sources of Verification</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
The purpose of the project is (1) to co-finance the costs of the "entry-tickets" which the beneficiary country has to pay for the participation in Community Programmes, and (2) to strengthen the capacity of the relevant administrative bodies to ensure proper participation of the beneficiary in Community Programmes.	Payments to the beneficiary in order to co-finance the various entry tickets	CRIS	None
<b>Results</b>	<b>Objectively verifiable indicators</b>	<b>Sources of Verification</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The beneficiary participates in the Community Programmes as outlined in the Project Fiche.</li> <li>• To achieve appropriate participation in the Community Programmes in line with the provisions outlined in the respective MoUs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of persons participating in Community Programmes;</li> <li>• Number of persons participating in Community Programmes relative to the respective costs (and relative to entry ticket);</li> <li>• Number of projects;</li> <li>• Number of projects relative to the respective costs (and relative to entry ticket);</li> <li>• Comparison of these indicators with past experience and other beneficiaries.</li> </ul>	<p>Evaluation reports provided by the respective line DGs responsible for the management of a specific programme.</p>	<p>None</p>
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<b>Activities</b>	<b>Means</b>	<b>Costs (IPA; in EUR)</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
To co-finance the participation of the beneficiary in the selected Community Programmes: <b>TOTAL(“entry tickets”)</b>	Grant with the beneficiary		The respective MoUs are respected and the beneficiary is paying the entry ticket. Beneficiary institutions have identified their needs for technical assistance and training
<b>Technical Assistance</b>	Grant with the beneficiary Service Contract following tendering procedure		
<b>TOTAL</b>	Grant with the beneficiary and service contract/s following tendering procedures		

### **Preconditions**

Signature and ratification of the respective MoU.

**ANNEX 2: Indicative planning of the amounts contracted and disbursed by quarter for the project**

**ANNEX II**

Amounts (in €) Contracted and disbursed by quarter for the project

<b>Contracted</b>	<b>Q1 2011</b>	<b>Q2 2011</b>	<b>Q3 2011</b>	<b>Q4 2011</b>	<b>Q1 2012</b>	<b>Q2 2012</b>	<b>Q3 2012</b>	<b>Q4 2012</b>	<b>Q1 2013</b>	<b>Q2 2013</b>	<b>Q3 2013</b>	<b>Q4 2013</b>	<b>Q1 2013</b>
FP7 (2010)		923 278											
CIP- EIP (2011)		52 423.2											
CIP- EIP (2012)		58 079.7											
CIP- IEE (2011)		81 000											
CIP- IEE (2012)		81 000											
Europe for Citizens (2010)		14 000											
Europe for Citizens (2011)		13 000											
Culture (2010)		36 000											
Culture (2011)		36 000											
Progress (2010)		90 000											
Progress (2011)		90 000											
Contract 1 (TA)		525 219											
<b>Cumulated</b>		<b>2 000 000</b>											
<b>Disbursed</b>													
FP7 (2010)				923, 278									
CIP- EIP (2011)				52 ,423.2									

CIP- EIP (2012)				58 ,079.7									
CIP- IEE (2011)				81 ,000									
CIP- IEE (2012)				81 ,000									
Europe for Citizens (2010)				14, 000									
Europe for Citizens (2011)				13 ,000									
Culture (2010)				36 ,000									
Culture (2011)				36 ,000									
Progress (2010)				90, 000									
Progress (2011)				90 ,000									
Contract 1 (TA)				210,087.6		131,304.6		131,304.6		52,521.9			
<b>Cumulated</b>				1,684,868.6		<b>1,816,173.2</b>		<b>1,947,477.8</b>		<b>2,000,000</b>			





### **ANNEX 3: Description of the Institutional Framework:**

A reform of the research system is underway which will closely link the existing research institutes to the universities. Among the priorities of Albania are research in support to SME's, regional co-operation with the other Western Balkan countries, mobility of researchers and the development of reliable sciences and technology indicators. The ministry of education has indicated that by the end of this year a strategy on research and science will be in place for the period 2009-2013. According to a road map for this strategy among priorities will be the adoption of a new law on research and science, establishment of a Centre for Promotion of Research and Development (CPRD) and building capacities in some of the university research centres, which have been recently created by the reform of former scientific institutes of the Academy of Science.

All these will be matched with an increase in the national research funding. The visit of Commissioner Potocnik in May 2008 has certainly contributed to raising the Albanian government awareness to this regard. Currently, the research budget is quite low, (not more than 0, 17% of GDP). Government has planed for this budget to be 0, 8% in 2014 and 1% in 2017, (this is the part financed from the public budget).

Given the low level of successful applications to FP7 from Albania last year, the CPRD will assist in the implementation of the programs FP7, COST, Life, Eureka, IPA, Interreg etc., with a limited staff of 9 persons, mainly composed of NCP-s of FP7, which would also increase effectiveness in the use of FP7 funds especially for the projects ERA, ERA PLUS, INCO-NET, etc.

- The participation of Albania in the community programme on **Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP)**, for the period 2007-2013.

According the decision of European Parliament No. 1639/2006/EC regarding the starting of the programme for **Competitiveness and Innovation**, Competitiveness Innovation Programme, (CIP) for the period 2007-2013 it is allowed to apply even Albania.

Within CIP programme there are three main sub-programmes which are focused in SMEs with that type of technology that protect the environment:

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

METE has agreed in participating in the first and third sub-programme, respectively EIP and IEE. With the Government Decree No. 713, date 24.10.2007, on the approval of the participation of Albania in the community programme "**Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme**" (CIP) was approved the participation of Albania in (CIP).

Minister of Economy, Trade and Energy Mr. Genc Ruli and Vice/President of European Commission Mr. Günter Verheugen, on 27 June 2008, have signed the memorandum of understanding for the participation of Albania in the first sub-programme Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP).

MoU was ratified with the Law no.9984, dated 11.09.2008 "On ratification of Memorandum of Understanding between Albanian Republic and European Community on the participation of Albanian Republic in the community programme **Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP)** of the framework programme of competitiveness and Innovation, 2007-2013 which was published on the Official Journal no.143 dated 22 September 2008 and has entered into force on 7 October 2008.

On 16 December 2008, METE for the participation to EIP, has paid the financial contribution to EU General Budget, in the value of 36,738 EUR.

Also METE/Albinvest applied in the programme Services in support of Business and Innovation ENT/CIP/07/0001, but the application of Albania was not approved by the Evaluating Committee. We are waiting for a new “call proposal” in order to make possible for Albania to be part of the European network for BIC.

Regarding the **third component IEE**, METE is in process of negotiating for signing the memorandum of understanding.

#### **ANNEX 4: Reference to laws, regulations and strategic documents:**

##### **4.a) Reference list of relevant laws and regulations**

Not applicable.

##### **4.b) Reference to AP / NPAA / EP / SAA**

Link to AP

Not applicable.

Link with NPAA

Not applicable.

Link with EP

The European Partnership underlines the importance to promote and to strengthen the regional cooperation in the research and technological, in education and training system field, in order to ensure successful participation in the Community Programmes.

Link with SAA

There is also a link to the SAA on participation in Community Programmes. Article 100: Education and training (3) The relevant Community programmes and instruments shall contribute to the upgrading of educational and training structures and activities in Albania.(4) Cooperation shall take due account of priority areas related to the Community acquis in this field. Article109: Cooperation in Research and Technological Development (2) Cooperation shall take due account of the priority areas related to the Community acquis in the field of research and technical development.

##### **4.c) Reference to MIPD**

The MIPD foresees that Albania shall receive assistance to participate in Community programmes, complementary to IPA in several fields through co-financing the entry-tickets and accompanying measures such as institutional capacity building and training of participants. Assistance is also available for participating to Community Agencies where appropriate.

##### **4.d) Reference to National Development Plan**

Not applicable

#### **4.e) Reference to national / sectoral investment plan**

Not applicable

### **ANNEX 5**

#### **Details per EU funded contract**

For *TA contracts*: account of tasks expected from the contractor:

- Ministry of European Integration and other relevant ministries will be prepared for Albanian involvement in Community Programmes. This includes enhancement of the capacities of MEI to coordinate, prioritise a plan the further involvement in Community Programmes and improvement of capacities of experts of MEI and of other ministries on Community Programmes
- Participation in Community Programmes advertised to target groups including improvement of capacities of MEI and of other relevant ministries for dissemination of information on Community Programme as well enhancement of the capacities of the national potential beneficiaries to apply within Community Programmes.
- Ensure training for companies, education institutions, non-governmental organisations, citizens, national administration and other potential applicants to strengthen the capacity to develop and implement projects in various areas
- Development of communication materials

All these interventions could be accompanied with training and study visits.