

Standard Summary Project Fiche – IPA centralised programmes

Participation in Community Agencies

1. Basic information

1.1 CRIS Number: 2008/020-320

1.2 Title: Preparatory measures for the participation of the candidates and potential candidates in Community Agencies

1.3 ELARG Statistical code: 01.65

1.4 Location: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia as well as Kosovo¹ and Turkey

Implementing arrangements:

1.5 Contracting Authority (EC): European Commission

1.6 Implementing Agency: Not applicable

1.7 Beneficiaries:

Western Balkans: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia as well as Kosovo

Turkey

Financing:

1.8 Overall cost (VAT excluded)²: EUR 7 800 000

1.9 EU contribution: EUR 7 800 000

1.10 Final date for contracting: 30/11/2009

1.11 Final date for execution of contracts: 30/11/2011

1.12 Final date for disbursements: 30/11/2012

2. Overall Objective and Project Purpose

2.1 Overall Objective:

To ensure that the Beneficiaries can participate effectively in the activities of the Community Agencies either if permitted prior to accession or following accession to the EU.

2.2 Project purpose:

¹ under UNSCR 1244/99

² The total cost of the project should be net of VAT and/or other taxes. Should this not be the case, the amount of VAT and the reasons why it should be considered eligible should be clearly indicated.

Support the Community Agencies by allowing them to carry out preparatory measures in the Beneficiaries with the Beneficiary counterparts and stakeholders so as to facilitate future participation in these Community Agencies, and to stimulate cooperation between the Beneficiaries and their stakeholders

2.3 Link with AP/NPAA / EP/ SAA

The European Council in Luxembourg in December 1997 made participation in the Community programmes and agencies a way of stepping up the enhanced pre-accession strategy for the Central and East European Candidate countries and territories, such participation being determined case by case.

The European Council of Helsinki (December 1999) confirmed the enlargement process launched at its meeting of December 1997 in Luxembourg. The enhanced Pre-Accession Strategy defined in 1997 was reiterated, including the participation of the Candidate and Potential candidate countries in Community Agencies as an important part of such strategy. Their participation will not only contribute towards the implementation of the provisions relating to economic, social and cultural cooperation in the Europe Agreements but also enable these Beneficiaries to familiarise themselves with the EU policies and working methods.

The European Council in Thessaloniki of June 2003 endorsed the Thessaloniki Agenda for the Western Balkans which gives these **SAP (Stabilisation and Association Process)** Beneficiaries the possibility to participate in Community agencies in ways similar to those established for the Central and East European candidates.

Preparation for full participation in some Community Agencies is a fundamental step towards familiarising Candidates and Potential Candidates with the Community *acquis* in the broad sense of the term. As in the case of Community programmes, it could serve the interests of both the Union and the Candidates and Potential Candidates for the latter to participate in all the Community Agencies as soon as possible on a basis that takes account of their respective constraints and circumstances.

2.4 Link with MIPD

The project is part of Section 2.3.1.1.1 Democracy and the rule of law, section Public administration. The support will contribute towards further reform and strengthening of the civil service as well as the strengthening of public administrations' capacities to ensure efficient and effective reform implementation. In addition, it also complies with the MIPD objectives in this section, which aim to strengthen and foster democratic accountability, professionalism and integrity within the Beneficiaries' institutions, including Parliaments, and to facilitate the merger, effective functioning and sharing of powers of institutions.

This MIPD chapter reads: "*Preparatory measures to be carried out by the Community Agencies with their counterparts in the Beneficiaries should allow Beneficiaries to participate*

in the activities of these Agencies in due course. The impact of actions in this area is enhanced through a common approach taken across the Beneficiaries and in harmony with approaches taken in the EU Member States".

3. Description of project

3.1 Background and justification:

A Community agency is a body governed by European public law. It is distinct from the Community Institutions (Council, Parliament, Commission, etc.) and has its own legal personality. It is set up by an act of secondary legislation in order to accomplish a very specific technical, scientific or managerial task, in the framework of the European Union's "first pillar".

The Member States who joined in the recent two enlargement rounds have benefited from preparatory measures carried out by the Community Agencies, financed under several multi-beneficiary Phare programmes. Over the six years that these programmes have taken place the sum of €20.5 million has been awarded to Community Agencies to carry out such preparatory actions, allowing for a mutual beneficial full participation of these countries and territories upon accession and in some cases where the Agency's regulation has allowed for this as observers prior to accession. The candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey have already been assisted in two earlier programmes by the following Community Agencies:

- European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, CEDEFOP
- Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO)
- European Centre for Disease and Disease Prevention (ECDC)
- European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA)
- European Medicines Agency (EMA)
- European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)
- European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (EUROFOUND)
- European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)
- European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)
- European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC)

Under the CARDS Regional Action Programme 2005, support was provided to assist the Western Balkans in preparing for participation in the Community Agencies: EMSA, EMCDDA, EU-OSHA, European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and the European

Environmental Agency (EEA)³. Only the contracts with EEA and EASA also covered Croatia. All contracts involved the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

In November 2007 the first IPA programme for preparatory measures involving the above-mentioned agencies was adopted. That programme did not cover EASA and EEA. For the latter, because Turkey was already participating in the EEA and Croatia was covered by the CARDS project. EASA preferred to continue first with the CARDS Beneficiaries (including Croatia) and to involve Turkey at a later stage. Contracts with these agencies have been signed and in most cases will end in December 2008. Some Agencies may request an implementation period beyond the end of 2008 for these IPA and/or CARDS projects. However, a contract under this new programme will of course only commence once these preceding projects have ended.

Since preparatory actions of this kind in anticipation of future full participation requires additional efforts of the beneficiary and the Agencies themselves, the Commission – as on previous occasions - recommends that pre-accession funds be allocated in supporting the activities.

In the preparation of this programme, both the Commission's line DGs and the Agencies investigated the needs leading to this programme. Only Cedefop did not see the possibility to continue with the preparatory measures under a new programme. As a result this programme will focus on the following Community Agencies:

- CPVO (Community Plant Variety Office)
- EASA (European Aviation Safety Agency)
- ECDC (European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control)
- ECHA (European Chemicals Agency)
- EEA (European Environment Agency)
- EFSA (European Food Safety Authority)
- EMCDDA (European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction)
- EMSA (European Maritime Safety Agency)
- ERA (European Railway Agency)
- EU-OSHA (European Agency for Safety and Health at Work)
- EUROFOUND (European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions)
- EMEA (European Medicines Agency)

³ No contract with the EUMC, as foreseen by the Commission Decision establishing the programme was signed, due to uncertainties regarding the scope of FRA.

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

The activities under this programme will allow the Beneficiaries to increase their understanding of the function and operations of the Community Agencies and more importantly the role they should play within these bodies. Secondly, the support will allow Beneficiaries to involve other relevant stakeholders in ways similar to those of the EU Member States. Agencies will be able to support Beneficiaries by providing advice on organisational matters and by training the appropriate staff of the Beneficiaries. Furthermore, participation in specific events (if possible with EU Member States) will provide Beneficiaries with invaluable networking and experience exchange opportunities.

In those cases where Community Agencies supported by the Commission line DGs are not sufficiently informed about the state of progress and hence the specific gaps that need to be plugged prior to joining their Agency, awareness-raising actions and fact-finding missions will allow Agencies on the one hand and Beneficiaries on the other to clearly assess their needs. These needs could be addressed either under this programme or under follow-up actions.

3.3 Results and measurable indicators:

First of all the understanding among Beneficiaries of the role and functioning of Community Agencies as well as the requirements of the National counterparts and its stakeholders will be increased. Secondly, Agencies will establish and in most cases strengthen their links with national agencies and other Beneficiary counterparts. Further more the Agencies will get a better understanding about the gaps that need to be filled to allow the Beneficiaries to fully benefit from participation in the Agency and/or its activities.

3.4 Activities:

Grant agreements (financing in full) will be concluded with the Agencies in order to allow them to carry out where required awareness-raising activities and fact-finding missions to determine or fine-tune any gaps so to allow for participation in the Agencies' work. For some Agencies these needs are already very clear, in which case preparatory measures will be implemented such as training activities, study visits, workshops, conferences and/or outreach actions as well as drafting/editing and if necessary translation of manuals, guides and/or other relevant documents and reports for the benefit of Beneficiaries .

3.5 Conditionality and sequencing:

Before carrying out preparatory actions for participation, the Community Agency should ensure that the Beneficiaries are determined to eventually join the Agency. This willingness can be demonstrated by a simple letter of intent or a formal request for participation. Of course, where the Agency concerned is not sufficiently known in the beneficiary or aware of the steps to be taken in order to allow for participation, such willingness can only be demonstrated after the needs assessment has been made, which could be during the implementation of this programme. In such cases, a staged approach with two distinct contracts would be appropriate whereby the first contract would cover the awareness-raising and needs assessment actions, while the subsequent second contract would cover the actual preparatory measures.

3.6 Linked activities

Most Agencies are involved in monitoring the implementation of the EU *acquis*. Therefore participation in the activities of the Agencies can be seen as a crucial element in the ability of the Beneficiaries to adopt and – moreover – implement the EU *acquis*.

3.7 Lessons learned

Under the Phare programme several programmes were created to facilitate the participation of previous Candidates from Central and Eastern Europe (CEECs) in Community agencies.

Both these programmes and similar programmes under CARDS and IPA, proved to be very beneficial for Beneficiaries and Community Agencies. Beneficiaries learned about the operations of the Agencies and subsequently received assistance in establishing their own national structures and functions which allowed them to become a fully operational partner in the Agencies upon accession. The assistance also allowed the Beneficiaries to mobilise the relevant national stakeholders similar to those in the EU Member States.

Agencies learned more about the Beneficiaries and their specific problems and opportunities. As a result the Agencies were better equipped to involve these new members in their activities.

4. Indicative Budget (amounts in MEUR)

			SOURCES OF FUNDING									
			TOTAL EXP.RE	IPA COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION		DOMESTIC 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												
<u>CPVO</u>	<u>x</u>		<u>0.4</u>	<u>0.4</u>	<u>100</u>							
<u>EASA</u>	<u>x</u>		<u>0.7</u>	<u>0.7</u>	<u>100</u>							
<u>ECDC</u>	<u>x</u>		<u>0.4</u>	<u>0.4</u>	<u>100</u>							
<u>ECHA</u>	<u>x</u>		<u>0.2</u>	<u>0.2</u>	<u>100</u>							
<u>EEA</u>	<u>x</u>		<u>1.2</u>	<u>1.2</u>	<u>100</u>							
<u>EFSA</u>	<u>x</u>		<u>1.0</u>	<u>1.0</u>	<u>100</u>							
<u>EMCD DA</u>	<u>x</u>		<u>0.9</u>	<u>0.9</u>	<u>100</u>							
<u>EMSA</u>	<u>x</u>		<u>0.3</u>	<u>0.3</u>	<u>100</u>							
<u>ERA</u>	<u>x</u>		<u>0.2</u>	<u>0.2</u>	<u>100</u>							
<u>EU-OSHA</u>	<u>x</u>		<u>0.9</u>	<u>0.9</u>	<u>100</u>							

<u>EUROF</u>	<u>x</u>		<u>0.7</u>	<u>0.7</u>	<i>100</i>							
<u>OUND</u>	<u>x</u>		<u>0.9</u>	<u>0.9</u>	<i>100</i>							
TOTAL IB			7.8	7.8	100							
TOTAL INV												
TOTAL PROJECT			7.8	7.8	<i>100</i>							

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)

Contracts	Start of Tendering	Signature of contracts	Project Completion
All contracts	N/A	Q1 2009	Q2 2011

6. Cross cutting issues (where applicable)

Cross cutting issues are not applicable to this project.

ANNEXES please complete annexes.

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

ANNEX 1: Logical framework matrix in standard format

LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR Project Fiche	Programme name and number Preparatory measures for the participation of the candidate and potential candidates in Community Agencies	
	Contracting period expires 30/11//2009	Disbursement period expires 30/11/2012
	Total budget : €7.8 Million	IPA budget: €7.8 Million

Overall objective	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	
To prepare the Beneficiaries for participation in (the activities) of elected community agencies	Opinion of the Agency on readiness for participation	Opinion to be delivered by the Agency in co-operation with the relevant EC line DG and DG Enlargement following a formal request of the beneficiary for full participation in the Agency	
Project purpose	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
Assure that the counterparts in the Beneficiaries are fully informed of the mission and function of the agencies Ensure that the counterparts have established the necessary working methods and networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counterparts have adopted their own mission statements bringing these line with those of the agency concerned • Counterparts have matched the needs linked to participation with appropriate working methods, networks and sufficient resources • Degree and quality of the involvement of the counterparts in Agency activities, evidenced with relevant reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agencies will carry out assessments (with their own staff and/or independent assessors) to be incorporated in their progress reports on the 'readiness' of the counterparts to participate in their Agency • The counterparts organizational structure, working methods, etc. incorporated in their working programmes, manuals, etc. give evidence of a sufficient uptake of the requirements regarding their participation in the Agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued commitment of the Beneficiaries on the uptake of the relevant acquis and participation in the Agencies • Agencies will provide the necessary resources to support the Beneficiaries • Other relevant stakeholders' interest in the Agencies and their national counterparts is satisfactory. • EU will take the necessary measures to allow for timely participation as observer in the Agencies as a result

			of the preparatory measures
Results	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased readiness among the counterparts for full participation in the Agencies as observer • Increased involvement of the counterparts in Agency activities, systems and networks • Local structures (if relevant) are linked with the counterpart 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degree and quality of participation of the counterpart's staff members • Involvement of local stakeholders in the counterpart activities • Nr of meetings, events, missions • Nr of translated and distributed information material • Nr of websites and their hits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency will provide list of participants, minutes, reports regarding meetings/events carried out within the framework of the action • Evaluation report to be completed by beneficiary staff and Agency staff • Quality of the reports submitted by the counterparts to the Agencies • Response of the local stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Beneficiaries will make the necessary resources and support available to the Agency and to their local stakeholders • Counterparts will pursue a proactive approach in reaching out to local stakeholders and the Agencies • EU will remain supportive to the goal of participation of the Beneficiaries in Agencies
Activities	Means	Costs	Assumptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing contacts and connections (networks) with the relevant counterparts; • Conduct specific missions; • Organising information activities (seminars, workshops, conferences); • Translating and publishing information material; • Establishi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct grants 	<p>The Agencies will provide for objective and verifiable data in their subsequent reports to the EC.</p>	<p>No particular political, economical and/or environmental set-backs will occur which may have a significant impact on the budgetary resources on both sides for instance as a result of subsequent and significant price increases.</p> <p>Staff of Agencies and counterparts will remain involved during the whole project period.</p>

ng internet based connections including websites;

- Organising training activities

- Involve the counterparts in Agency activities alongside the member states

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ANNEX II: amounts (in MEUR) Contracted and disbursed by quarter for the project

Contracted	4th 08	1st 09	2nd 09	3rd 09	4th 09	1st 10	2nd 10	3rd 10	4th 10	1st 11
CPVO		<u>0.4</u>								
EASA		<u>0.7</u>								
ECDC		<u>0.4</u>								
ECHA		<u>0.2</u>								
EEA		<u>1.2</u>								
EFSA		<u>1.0</u>								
EMCDDA		<u>0.9</u>								
EMSA		<u>0.3</u>								
ERA		<u>0.2</u>								
EU-OSHA		<u>0.9</u>								
EUROFOUND		<u>0.7</u>								
EMEA		<u>0.9</u>								
Cumulated		7.8								
Disbursed										
CPVO		0.2				0.16				0.04
EASA		0.4				0.23				0.07
ECDC		0.2				0.16				0.04
ECHA		0.1				0.08				0.02
EEA		0.7				0.38				0.12
EFSA		0.6				0.3				0.1
EMCDDA		0.5				0.31				0.09
EMSA		0.2				0.07				0.03
ERA		0.1				0.08				0.02
EU-OSHA		0.5				0.31				0.09
EUROFOUND		0.4				0.23				0.07
EMEA		0.5				0.31				0.09
Cumulated		4.4				7.02				7.8