



**ReSPA**  
Regional School  
of Public Administration

# WORKING GROUP MEETING

## “IPA Multi-Country Programmes”

07-08 May 2015

Danilovgrad (Montenegro)

### PROGRAMME



**ReSPA**  
Regional School  
of Public Administration

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## Background

Regional co-operation model is an extension of the EU's own philosophy „deeper co-operation with neighbouring countries is a route to national as well as regional stability and growth and that such co-operation serves the mutual interests of all countries concerned. Each country's willingness to build good relationships with its neighbours shall be the key determinant of its readiness to move closer to the goal of EU membership“. Countries should work and behave in a manner comparable to the political relations that exist between EU Member States.

Western Balkan countries' regional cooperation is very closely linked with their intention to become members of the European Union. This link was confirmed numerous times on various High level Summits of Western Balkan countries.

Declaration from the Zagreb Summit 2000 where heads of state of the region made their commitment to democracy, rule of law and regional reconciliation on the one hand, on the other hand the rapprochement to the European Union. *“Rapprochement with the European Union will go hand in hand with this process of developing regional cooperation and... is offered on the basis of the provisions of the Treaty on European Union, respect for the criteria defined at the Copenhagen European Council in June 1993 and the progress made in implementing the stabilisation and association agreements, in particular on regional cooperation.”* Regional cooperation is an essence for the political stability, the security and economic development.

The European Council of Thessaloniki (2003) confirmed the Stabilisation and Association process as the policy framework of the European course of the Western Balkan countries on the way towards the final destination of EU membership. In the Stabilisation and Association Process (SAP) regional co-operation between the countries in the region is a central requirement. The Stabilisation and Association process (SAP) among other priorities focus on regional cooperation as a tool for normalisation of relations between the countries in the region and their neighbours. The centrepiece of the Stabilisation and Association Process is the conclusion of a Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA), which represents a contractual relationship between the EU and each Western Balkan country, entailing mutual rights and obligations.

The Various Communications from the Commission on 'The Western Balkans on the road to the EU: consolidating stability and raising prosperity', notes that "significant progress can be recorded in regional cooperation. Countries are increasingly aware that regional cooperation is not only a key part of the EU's conditionality, but it serves their own interest and has already produced tangible results. The Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe has also successfully helped in the promoting regional cooperation. The South-East Europe cooperation process (SEECF) is further consolidating its role as the voice of the region and plays a crucial role in moving forward regional cooperation. The Europe 2020 agenda offers countries of Western Balkan further policy base for widening regional cooperation. The regional context is particularly useful to organize learning about the Europe 2020 strategy, exchange best practices and enhancing cooperation.

In line with its overall mission as well as the draft Programme of Work (POW) 2015, ReSPA aims to support the EU integration process of the Western Balkan region. Increasing institutional capacities for the successful IPA programming and utilization of IPA funds has

been recognized as one of the key subtopics and priorities in this area for which further capacity building activities are required on the regional level. Hence, ReSPA plans to organize from 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> of May 2015 a working group meeting in Danilovgrad, Montenegro devoted to the topic of IPA Multi-country Programmes and IPA Multi-country programming. IPA Multi-country Programmes are excellent and very valuable EU financing resources of Regional co-operation in Western Balkans Countries.

## Objectives

The purpose of this paper is to provide background for discussion among the participants of Working Group Meeting on IPA Multi-Country Programmes for the meeting in Danilovgrad, Montenegro, on 07-08 May 2015.

The event has 3 main objectives:

- To share and discuss lessons learned and best practices on IPA Multi-beneficiary programme for the period 2007-2013
- To review and discuss main issues related to the IPA Multi-beneficiary programme 2014-2020 – overview of financing period 2014-2020, overview Multi Country Indicative Strategy Paper 2014-2020, IPA II new requirements and modalities in the Western Balkans, as well as potential major challenges arising from new programmes and type of implementation
- To create set of horizontal recommendations for effective and efficient usage of IPA Multi-beneficiary programmes 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 in Western Balkan countries

## Content

Accession to the EU requires an ability by the countries of Western Balkans to cooperate with other countries and their neighbours pragmatically on fields of common interest through various EU Regional financial programmes and projects such as Regional EU CARDS programme, IPA Multibeneficiary programme 2007-2013 or IPA Multi-Country programmes 2014-2020. Cooperation in the Western Balkans is needed as a factor of stability and reconciliation, good-neighbourliness and good political relations and in helping to overcome differences through the promotion of mutual understanding and political dialogue in the region.

Regional EU CARDS programmes (2000-2006), IPA Multi-beneficiary programmes (2007-2013) and IPA Multi-Country programmes 2014-2020 are designed to support such initiatives and strengthen multi-lateral experiences in beneficiaries; they aim to build a network of close cooperation and/or contractual relationships between beneficiaries in order to deepen cooperation between the beneficiaries and between them and the EU. Direct, joint

involvement and co-operation between countries in Regional EU CARDS programmes and IPA Multi-beneficiary programmes is helping them to deal with common problems effectively – Justice and Home Affairs and refugee Return fight jointly organised crime, illegal migration and other forms of trafficking. Through EU joint projects they are building various sector networks and close contractual relationships. Helping progressive alignment of national policies to the *acquis communautaire*. Integrating countries in European infrastructure networks, namely for transport, border management and energy, and into the wider European networks, such as for environmental protection and sustainable development.

### IPA Multi-beneficiary programme for the period 2007-2013

The Multi-Beneficiary IPA programme is created to complement the National IPA programmes of the IPA beneficiary countries. Some 10% of the all available IPA funds for 2007-2013 was directed to supporting the MB IPA programme. The distribution and purpose of IPA funds allocated by the EU to IPA Multi-beneficiary programme should therefore not only be viewed on its own but also must be based on its complementarities and added value to the overall IPA programme. The strategic choices have been taken bearing this principle in mind, both financially and politically.

The basic policy documents for setting down the priorities of assistance under IPA MB programme are the Accession and European Partnerships, the Strategy Paper, the Annual Progress Reports of each country on progress made on the road towards the EU, Communications from the Commission on Civil Society Dialogue and on the Western Balkans.

Multi Annual Indicative Financial Framework indicatively allocates funds per beneficiary and per component. Special column of the budget table relates to allocations for IPA Multi-Beneficiary programme.

Multi-beneficiary Multi-Annual Indicative Planning Documents (MB MIPD-s) for 2007-2009, 2008-2010, 2009-2011, 2011-2013. They are adopted for a three year rolling period, with annual reviews. The preparation of the Multi-beneficiary Multi-annual Indicative Planning Document (MIPD) is based on the allocations in the MIFF and on the priorities identified within the political framework. Preparation of documents includes *consultations with all countries concerned*. Financing Agreements of the annual Multi-beneficiary Programme for different projects is sent by the European Commission to NIPAC-s or other sectoral responsible ministries for signature. By signing the Financing Agreement, the NIPAC or responsible sectoral minister indicates its agreement on behalf of the Beneficiary Country. Project Fiches PF-s are drafted for every project of the IPA MBP.

Multi-beneficiary projects can be programmed through regional and horizontal projects: Regional projects aim to facilitate regional cooperation between the IPA beneficiaries and Horizontal projects address the common needs of several IPA beneficiaries.

## IPA Multi-Country Programmes for the period 2014-2020

Multi-country Indicative Strategy Paper 2014-2020 sets out the priorities for EU horizontal and regional financial assistance for the period 2014-2020 to support Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey. It translates the political priorities set out in the enlargement policy framework into key areas and sectors where cross-border and multi-country assistance will be most useful to support the enlargement countries prepare to meet the accession criteria. It is designed to be consistent with the national strategies as set out in the Country Strategy Papers and to complement and enhance them by supporting regional cooperation, facilitating coordination and effective horizontal implementation mechanisms.

With a view to delivering the priorities set out for EU financial assistance for the beneficiaries for the coming seven years, Strategy Paper contributes to the targets and expected results identified in the Country Strategy Papers and identifies the objectives pursued, the key actions and actors and sets out indicative financial allocations.

Indicative allocations IPA Multi-Country Programmes for the period 2014-2020

	(million EUR)					
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018-20	Total 2014-20
<b>A. Horizontal support</b>	152.0	122.5	136.5	115.5	395.5	<b>922.0</b>
<b>TAIEX and Statistics</b>	20.0	21.0	20.0	21.0	59.0	<b>141.0</b>
<b>Advisory functions of international organisations</b>	49.0	40.0	25.0	32.0	91.0	<b>237.0</b>
<b>Civil Society and Media</b>	25.0	5.0	30.0	5.0	60.0	<b>125.0</b>
<b>Erasmus+ including the youth dimension</b>	33.0	34.0	35.0	35.0	110.0	<b>247.0</b>
<b>Horizontal measures</b>	25.0	22.5	26.5	22.5	75.5	<b>172.0</b>
<b>B. Regional structures and networks</b>	9.0	27.0	31.0	10.0	57.5	<b>134.5</b>
<b>C. Regional investment support*</b>	163.1	181.9	177.9	216.3	767.8	<b>1506.9</b>
<b>WBIF, EDIF, GGF and other blending instruments</b>	153.1	91.9	177.9	216.3	767.8	<b>1406.9</b>
<b>RHP</b>	10.0	90.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<b>100.0</b>
<b>D. Territorial co-operation</b>	28.9	33.6	44.6	68.6	219.5	<b>395.2</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>353.0</b>	<b>365.0</b>	<b>390.0</b>	<b>410.4</b>	<b>1440.3</b>	<b>2958.6</b>

\* Including unallocated funds for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The first IPA MB 2007-2013 block would focus on reviewing the best practices and lessons learnt in the implementation of IPA MB 2007-2013 in the Western Balkan Countries so far, as well as outlining potential major administrative/institutional/implementation/visibility problems emerged from using IPA MB 2007-2013. The second block would focus on challenges with respect to the implementation of the IPA II Regulation 2014-2020, programming and implementation of IPA Multi-Country Programmes 2014-2020, priorities defined in Multi-Country Strategy Paper. Multi-country Indicative Strategy Paper 2014-2020 sets assistance along the following 4 priorities: a) Horizontal support to sector policies and reforms; b) Regional structures and networks c) Regional investment support; d) Territorial cooperation. Issues like setting up the best mechanisms of coordination, communication, visibility between EC, NIPAC offices, line ministries and other relevant stakeholders at local, regional and national level during the programming and implementation of IPA Multi-Country Programmes 2014-2020 would be focus of the discussion. The objective of the third block is to create set of horizontal recommendations for effective and efficient usage of IPA Multi-Country Programmes in Western Balkan countries for the period 2014-2020.

## Target Group

ReSPA plans to organize from 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> of May 2015 a working group meeting in Danilovgrad, Montenegro devoted to the topic of IPA Multi-country Programmes. Working group will be focused on main target audiences:

1. *Representatives from all Beneficiary countries of IPA Multi-Beneficiary programme in joint projects (all ReSPA member countries):* Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo\* and Turkey
2. *Senior/Mid-management of the Beneficiaries Countries in charge of IPA funds or responsible for IPA MB Programmes, projects and sectors (State Secretaries, Assistant Ministers, Head of Sectors, Head of Departments, Head of Units)*
3. *Senior/Mid-management of the NIPAC office in charge of coordination of IPA funds (State Secretaries, Assistant Ministers, Head of Sectors, Head of Departments, Head of Units)*

## Moderator

**Tomislav Belovari**, M.A. received his master in European Studies at the Bonn Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms University, Germany. He has more than 14 years' experience in European Union topics with special focus on EU pre-accession and post accession funds. Since 2001 he has been responsible for supporting Croatian state administration in the programming and the preparation of project proposals for EU pre-accession and post accession funds. He was also involved in systematic monitoring and evaluation of EU funded programmes and projects in Croatia. Mr. Belovari has respectable experience and skill as a trainer, lecturer, and moderator on EU fund topics and EU integration process. He is currently sector head of EU programmes at the Ministry of Regional development and EU Funds, Zagreb, Croatia. For more information he can be contacted via e-mail [tomislav.belovari@mrrfeu.hr](mailto:tomislav.belovari@mrrfeu.hr)



# PROGRAMME

## Day 1- Thursday, 7 May 2015

9.00-9.15	<b>Registrations</b>
9.15-9.30	<b>Introduction and Welcome address</b> <b>Introductory presentation</b> on the event's Program
9.30-11.00	<b>Session I – IPA Multi-beneficiary programme for the period 2007-2013 - Lessons learned and best practices of beneficiaries countries</b> 1) <b>IPA Multi-beneficiary programme 2007-2013 – overview of financing period 2007-2013, Croatian experience and lessons learned</b> ( <i>presentation by Tomislav Belovari</i> ) <i>Discussion, questions and answers</i> 2) <b>Discussion and presentation by participants sharing experience in relation to IPA Multi-beneficiary programme 2007-2013 from their countries – all beneficiary countries</b>
11.00-11.15	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.15-12.45	<b>Continuation of Session I</b> <b>Discussion and presentation by participants sharing experience in relation to IPA Multi-beneficiary programme 2007-2013 from their countries</b>
12.45-14.15	<i>Lunch break</i>
14.15-15.45	<b>Session II - IPA Multi-country programmes new financing perspective 2014-2020</b> 1) <b>IPA Multi-beneficiary programme 2014-2020 – overview of financing period 2014-2020, Multi Country Indicative Strategy Paper 2014-2020, IPA II new requirements and modalities</b> ( <i>presentation by Tomislav Belovari</i> ) <i>Discussion, questions and answers</i> 2) <b>Discussion by participants sharing experience from their countries in relation to the new financing perspective for IPA II Multi-country programmes 2014-2020, current IPA II programming process and their expectations from the new financing period – all beneficiary countries. Discussion by participants</b>
15.45-16.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
16.00-16.30	<b>Wrap up session and conclusions of the first day</b> <b>Discussion by participants</b> ( <i>moderated by Tomislav Belovari</i> )
16.30	<i>End of Day 1</i>

## Day 2 – Friday, 8 May 2015

09.00-09.15	<b>Introduction to Day 2</b>
09.15-11.00	<b>Session III</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) <b>Presentation of one best and one less successful project example financed from IPA MB programmes preferably in public administration sector (PAR) or project related to EU integration process</b> <i>(presentation by each beneficiary country and moderated by Tomislav Belovari)</i></li><li>2) <b>Discussion by participants</b></li></ol>
11.15 - 11.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.30.- 12.30	<b>Continuation of Session III</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Presentations continued</li><li>2) <b>Discussion</b></li></ol>
12.30 -13.00	<b>Summary of conclusions and recommendations for the future</b> <i>Amb. Aleksandar Andrija Pejovic, Secretary of State - Chief Negotiator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Montenegro</i> <b>End of the event</b>
13.00-14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
14.00	<i>Departure of participants</i>

