

**2010 Annual Programme — Project Fiche 4
Communities and Education**

1. Basic information

- 1.1 CRIS number: 2010/022-452
 1.2 Title: Communities and Education
 1.3 ELARG statistical code: 01.63
 1.4 Location: Kosovo*

Implementing arrangements

- 1.5 Contracting authority: European Commission Liaison Office to Kosovo
 1.6 Implementing agency: n/a
 1.7 Beneficiary:

Project activity	Beneficiary (institutions, target group, etc.)	Contact point responsible for project/activity coordination
Activity 1: Return and Reintegration in Kosovo (RRK phase 3)	Minority displaced persons, Ministry for Communities and Returns (MCR) and a number of selected municipalities	Mr Vedat Maxhuni, Senior Programming Officer — MCR, 038 212 803, vedat.maxhuni@ks-gov.net
Activity 2: Research Capacity Development in Kosovo	Ministry of Education (MEST)	Mr Kushtrim Bajrami, MEST Kushtrim.Bajrami@ks-gov.net

- 1.8 Overall cost (VAT excluded): EUR 6.462 million
 1.9 EU contribution: EUR 5.0 million
 1.10 Final date for contracting: 2 years after signature of the financing agreement between the European Commission and the Kosovo Authorities
 1.11 Final date for execution of contract: 2 years after the final date for contracting.
 1.12 Final date for disbursements: 1 year after the final date for the execution of contracts

2. Overall objective and project purpose

2.1 Overall objective

Activity 1: Return and Reintegration in Kosovo (phase III)

The creation of a climate for inter-ethnic tolerance and sustainable multi-ethnicity and the promotion of human and minority rights (including a gender perspective) conducive to minority return and reintegration of displaced persons in Kosovo.

Activity 2: Research Capacity Development in Kosovo

The strengthening of research and innovation to promote economic and social development in Kosovo.

* Under UNSCR 1244/1999.

2.2 Project purpose

Activity 1 — Return and Reintegration in Kosovo (phase III)

Sustainable return of IDPs/IIDPs¹ and refugees from minority communities through increased involvement of central and municipal state and non-state actors in selected municipalities².

Activity 2 — Research Capacity Development in Kosovo

Support for research activities and building the capacity of public universities and public research institutes in Kosovo in priority sectors: agricultural production and food safety; environment, energy and natural resources; health and medical research; and social science research — all sectors of importance to the wider community in Kosovo.

2.3 Link with European Partnership/Stabilisation and Association Process Dialogue/Progress Reports

EP/STM — The project is directly linked to the political requirements of the *European Partnership*, under the chapter ‘Key priorities’, section ‘Human rights and the protection of minorities’, and under the chapter ‘Democracy and the rule of law’

The Kosovo government’s *European Partnership Action Plan* provides for the creation of a climate for reconciliation, inter-ethnic tolerance and sustainable multi-ethnicity conducive to the return of displaced persons (EPP No 7), together with the development of partnership programmes with municipalities and other parties with the aim of ensuring financial resources for the sustainable development of communities to enable return (EPAP 7.3.3) and a review of municipal return strategies in coordination with municipal return offices (EPAP 7.3.6)

It further aims to develop and implement the joint strategic framework for communities and returns, and to develop mechanisms at municipal level for facilitating the sustainable integration of returnees and existing minority communities (EPP No 46).

In addition, it aims to ensure the viable existence of minority communities and their non-discriminatory participation in society, through concrete measures to ensure their safety and freedom of movement, as well as equitable provision of and access to public services (EPP No 115).

The **European Partnership Action Plan** 2009 included commitments on: research development, including the establishment of the Centre for Innovation and Transfer of Technologies; launching a review of the Law on Scientific Research Activity in Kosovo; establishing and making operational the National Research Council; and drafting the Science Programme and Strategy for Kosovo, which is now underway..

The aim of the *Comprehensive Proposal for the Kosovo Status Settlement* is to define the provisions necessary for a future Kosovo that is viable, sustainable and stable. It includes detailed measures to ensure the promotion and protection of the rights of communities and their members, the effective decentralisation of government, and the preservation and protection of cultural and religious heritage in Kosovo (for more details see Annex III).

The proposal is in line with the **Progress Report 2009** and its section ‘Minority rights, cultural rights and protection of minorities’, taking account of the fact that the voluntary return process is still limited and remains a challenge for the Kosovo authorities. Creating a climate for

¹ IDPs: internally displaced persons; IIDPs: internally displaced persons within Kosovo.

² The selection of target municipalities will be coordinated with IPA 2007 and IPA 2008 RRK projects in order to ensure the complementarity of actions.

reconciliation, inter-ethnic tolerance and sustainable multi-ethnicity is a key European Partnership priority.

The EU's 2009 annual report and study noted it was important for Kosovo to build its research capacity and increase its participation in the Seventh Framework Programme for Research. It also pointed to the need to increase SME participation in FP7 activities and the role of research in the socio-economic development of Kosovo and as a means to intensify regional cooperation activities.

2.4 Link with the Multiannual Indicative Planning Document (MIPD)

The project's approach is in line with the MIPD, which emphasises the need to advance the reform of local self-government as part of the decentralisation and promotion of human rights, the protection of the Serb and other minorities, and IDP and refugee return (for more details see Annex III).

The MIPD for Kosovo makes reference to the importance of education and training for scientists in order to improve Kosovo's research capacity. Among the expected results for this planning period, the MIPD refers to the design of an integrated research policy. This has started with some improvements in national research capacity and research cooperation opportunities with the EU, as measured by the participation of Kosovo's research institutions in EU cooperation projects.

2.5 Link with national sector strategies

Activity 1 – Return and Reintegration in Kosovo (phase III)

Section 3.3.10.1.4 'Human and Minority Rights' in Volume II of the **Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) 2008-2010** states that 'one of the sectors that need quite a lot of money is the programme [for] minorities and returnees. The MCR in the regular budget process is getting [a] certain amount of money in order to address related issues. Most of the spending is [...] on building houses for people who want to return'.

Under its policy matrix, section B 'Implementation of status settlement', the **MTEF 2009-2011** refers to 'Support for the development and integration of ethnic communities'.

The project is fully in line with the **MCR Strategy for Communities and Returns 2009-2013**, which is expected to be endorsed by the Government in the second quarter of 2010. Likewise, it is in line with the MCR operational framework — the revised manual for sustainable return, which is also being updated to take account of the new realities and efforts to further decentralise the return process.

Activity 2– Research Capacity Development in Kosovo

The Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) 2010-2012 emphasises research and its importance to the economy and social development of Kosovo in a number of areas, including scientific research, the environment and archaeology linked with cultural heritage research. In particular, the MTEF provides for financial investment in research through the Ministry of Education. EUR 380 000 is set aside in the MTEF for supporting research and development projects with international participation from 2010-2012. Over EUR 2 million is allocated in the MTEF over the next 3 years for the establishment of the Fund for Scientific Research. Funds are also available under the MTEF for the establishment of an institutional infrastructure for scientific work and innovation, and the establishment of research units, institutes and centres in priority research areas over the next 3 years.

Link with the National Development Plan — Research: The Ministry of Education has a specific strategic objective for research in the MTEF (2010-2012), which is Goal 3: ‘Transformation of higher education institutions into scientific research institutions as well as their link with the economy and society’, to be achieved through the following specific objectives:

1. Improving the conditions for the development of science:

Supporting research and development projects with international participation; establishment of an institutional infrastructure for scientific work, innovation and technology transfer; establishment of research units, institutes and centres for research in priority areas; support for the activities of the National Council of Science; establishment of the Fund for Scientific Research; implementation of the National Programme of Science.

The **draft Research Programme of Kosovo** was published in January 2010 and seeks to provide a conceptual framework for upgrading scientific capacities in Kosovo. The Programme identifies research priorities in Kosovo and specific science and technology (S&T) targets to support the socio-economic development of Kosovo towards a knowledge society rooted in evidence-based interaction between science, citizens and business:

Objective 1: Development of human capacity for research activities

Objective 2: Development of research infrastructure

Objective 3: Internationalisation of scientific research activity

Objective 4: Strengthening the links between science, society and the economy to enhance economic and social development

Objective 5: Excellence in research and scientific activity

3. Description of project

3.1 Background and justification

Activity 1: Return and Reintegration in Kosovo — phase III

The socio-political environment

The end of the conflict in June 1999 resulted in some 225 000 non-ethnic Albanians leaving Kosovo. Most fled to Serbia, where most still remain.

The current Constitutional Framework asserts that all refugees and IDPs have the right to return to their homes and recover their property in Kosovo. The Government of Kosovo has clearly recognised the return of minority communities and preservation of the multi-ethnicity of Kosovo as one of its main priorities. The international community has declared that the return of refugees and IDPs is a key principle underpinning a viable multi-ethnic and democratic society.

Yet, almost eleven years after the end of the conflict, relatively few refugees and IDPs have returned. According to UNHCR, 19 827 minority returns were registered by the end of 2009, of which 1 153 were during 2009. Clearly, much remains to be done and donor funding and support is still needed to facilitate sustainable return to Kosovo. UNHCR predicts that the numbers of returnees will double in 2010 and 2011 compared to 2009.

The Kosovo Government’s leadership in the return sector, in policy development and coordination, is increasingly seen by all stakeholders as essential to a sustainable return process. To this end, the Ministry for Communities and Returns (MCR) has assumed full responsibility for policy making and policy coordination and fully oversees the implementation of all voluntary minority return activities in Kosovo. In relation to the ongoing EU-funded RRR 1 and RRR 2 projects, the MCR has been a fully dedicated and committed partner. It also co-finances the projects and leads its supervisory and monitoring mechanisms through a project steering committee.

The MCR’s strategy for communities and returns is expected to be endorsed by the Government in the second quarter of 2010. Its operational guidelines, i.e. the Manual for Sustainable Return, have

also been updated taking into account the new realities on the ground and the increasing need to localise the return process. Both processes, the development of the strategy and the revision of the manual, were carried out in full cooperation and consultation with municipal authorities and relevant international and local organisations.

The security situation in Kosovo has improved and no longer represents the main obstacle to minority return. IDPs and analysts point to the lack of socio-economic and employment opportunities, poor access to essential public services and an overall lack of donor funding as the main obstacles to return.

Return and reintegration in Kosovo (phase III)

Kosovo's institutions have demonstrated the political will to foster the return and reintegration of refugees, IIDPs and IDPs from minority communities. But they lack capacity and need financial and technical support. At the end of 2009, the MCR reiterated that demand for return assistance remained high with a funding gap of approximately EUR 30 million. The present programme represents the continuation of IPA 2007 and IPA 2008 with the aim of further empowering municipal authorities in the return process. IPA 2007 and IPA 2008 are currently targeting only 8 out of 30 municipalities. Therefore, the main aim of IPA 2010 is to include new municipalities with return potential. The MCR is co-financing both ongoing projects and is planning to continue to do so in 2010 and 2011. Other relevant stakeholders have welcomed the EU approach to return and reintegration issues and its alignment with government-led strategies.

Furthermore, the revised Manual for Sustainable Return provides for an innovative approach to the coordination and implementation of return and (re)integration activities by seeking the involvement of Kosovo's central and municipal institutions and bodies in the development and implementation of policies.

The present project addresses the main obstacles to return in a comprehensive fashion. It aims to create a climate for inter-ethnic tolerance and sustainable multi-ethnicity by entrusting domestic institutions and bodies with the design (at central, ministerial level) and implementation (at local, municipal level) of effective policies for the sustainable return of refugees, IIDPs and IDPs. On the governance side, the project enhances the capacity of central and local government structures to perform core functions and strengthens their legitimacy and accountability vis-à-vis Kosovo's citizens.

A key feature of the project is to maximise efficiency and cost effectiveness by gathering together funding from the EU, the MCR and targeted municipalities. In addition, this project will serve as a catalyst for harmonisation among interested donors, allowing for improved donor coordination in the sector and between the central government and international donors.

The changes in Kosovo's status have not given rise to concerns about the viability of this project; actually, quite the opposite is the case. The need for durable solutions for displaced persons will continue to be a priority in Kosovo in the short to medium term, coupled with the necessity for a central policy-making institution (i.e. the MCR). As far as municipal authorities are concerned, the changes in Kosovo's status have put the focus on the decentralisation process, thus providing additional justification for the project's approach.

Activity 2: Research Capacity Development in Kosovo

The public universities, institutions and actors in the field of education and research in Kosovo have experienced exceptional challenges and a considerable lack of resources since the conflict in 1999. Kosovo became isolated in terms of access to international technological development, technology transfer systems and scientific knowledge/peer exchange. As a consequence, research capacity in Kosovo has deteriorated and placed research institutions in Kosovo at a considerable disadvantage compared to those operating elsewhere in Europe.

Where research capacity is concerned, Kosovo currently has two well-established public universities, the University of Pristina and the University of Mitrovica/ë. A third public university

is under development — the University of Prizren. Kosovo also has 14 public research institutes³.

The focus of Government intervention has largely been on teaching-related aspects of higher education, with little attention given to scientific research. The Law on Scientific Research Activity sets the framework for scientific research and the Scientific Research Programme of Kosovo provides for infrastructure investment to enhance participation in international scientific research projects and to develop a systematic education programme for researchers.

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) has established a Centre for International Relations in Higher Education, Science and Technology, which is in the process of creating a database of researchers in Kosovo to be used in future work. MEST also plans to establish a Research Fund to support the activities of Kosovo researchers and build the capacity of research institutions in Kosovo to enter into and participate more effectively in collaborative research activities in the western Balkan region and Europe-wide.

The National Research Council has recently developed a five-year National Research Programme, which is expected to improve the situation in the field of research and its linkage to higher education.

For Priority 1: Environment, energy and natural resources — about 90 academic and research staff are involved in research in this field at Pristina University and other research institutes in Kosovo. There is a particular need to support applied research in this field. There is a solid foundation for cooperation with international research institutions, mostly based on individual initiatives but also involving joint projects.

For Priority 2: Agriculture production and food safety — the number of researchers remains relatively small, most of them employed by state-owned institutions (universities and public research institutions). Research activities remain sporadic, based on individual initiatives in the university sector. In recent years there has been good cooperation with universities and regional and international institutes. Many young Kosovo researchers are being trained at European universities in this field.

For Priority 3: Medical research — there is solid expertise to perform comprehensive research in this field, and many young Kosovo researchers from different fields of medicine have acquired specialisations at international universities.

Substantial and ongoing research activity in the specific priority sectors — energy efficiency, environment, food safety, health research and social science research — would serve to inform policy developments in Kosovo in those fields and contribute to improving the environment, health and socioeconomic development in Kosovo as well as ensuring EU standards compliance in these sectors.

3.2 Assessment of project impact, catalytic effect, sustainability and cross-boundary impact

Activity 1: Return and Reintegration in Kosovo – phase III

Drawing from the successful experience of similar activities undertaken in Bosnia and Herzegovina since 2002, and the ongoing RRK 1 and RRK 2, the impact of the project is expected to be positive. The direct involvement of national institutions in, and increased ownership of, return-related activities will increase the legitimacy of the MCR and improve local (municipal) governance and capacity in service delivery.

³ See Annex III for a comprehensive list of research institutes in Kosovo.

Financially, the activity will seek additional co-financing from other donors so as to mainstream funding in the sector and create economies of scale.

Aligning the activities of this project with the government-led strategy in the sector is the key to sustainability. In line with the MCR Strategy for Communities and Returns the project will strive to increase the involvement of central and local authorities in the return process, promote tolerance and human rights and foster the effective participation of minorities in the socio-economic development of Kosovo. It will work with government and international actors (including UNHCR, OSCE and KFOR) as well as non-state actors to ensure the coherence of priorities and approaches.

There will also be close cooperation with institutions and organisations (including non-state actors) in the region, particularly with the Republics of Serbia and Montenegro, to foster the cross-boundary dimension of the return process. The project will also link to EU initiatives at regional level to facilitate the wider return process in the Western Balkans.

Activity 2: Research Capacity Development in Kosovo

This project will provide important investment support to develop both research activity and the nurturing of researchers in Kosovo, in particular young researchers. It will build the capacity of public universities and public research institutes in Kosovo and enhance collaboration with counterparts in the EU and the western Balkan region. By pursuing research activities in Kosovo with EU-based or regional counterparts, the supported research projects will help develop new research techniques and also provide the research community in the EU and Balkans region with insight into matters relating to local research priorities in Kosovo.

Support for research activities plus capacity building for researchers and research institutions in Kosovo will lead to better, more effective access by Kosovo universities and research institutions to research networks in Europe and participation in FP7 activities. This will develop the capacity of Kosovo institutions to meet EU standards in fields such as the environment and food safety, and will in turn benefit the wider population of Kosovo. Support for the research community in Kosovo is also required to build their understanding of the EU FP7 programme and the FP7 application process. Capacity building support is required for the formulation of FP7 research proposals, effective project management, the monitoring and evaluation of European research projects and the development of partnerships for FP7 involvement.

3.3 Results and measurable indicators

Activity 1: Return and Reintegration in Kosovo

Technical assistance and training for MCR

Expected result:

Increased capacity and efficiency of the MCR for policy/decision-making, coordination and monitoring of return-related activities

Measurable indicators:

- By the end of the project, the MCR is capable of developing and implementing policies and operational frameworks and coordinating activities in the return sector
- By the end of the project, the MCR is transparently and objectively reviewing requests and returning reports on project implementation

Technical assistance and training for municipal bodies in selected municipalities

Expected results:

- Increased capacity at municipal level to design and manage return and (re)integration projects resulting from joint actions of local stakeholders (e.g. municipal authorities, Kosovo Police Service (KPS), civil society, private sector, women, minorities, vulnerable groups and youth).

- Increased inter-ethnic dialogue at municipal level.
- Increased security and freedom of movement for minorities.
- Increased awareness and knowledge among minorities of their own rights and increased access of minorities (including women) to municipal services.
- Increased participation of women, minority and vulnerable groups and youth in the decision-making process at local level (particularly within municipal working groups).

Measurable indicators:

- By the end of the project, multi-ethnic and gender-balanced local action groups in targeted municipalities are successfully designing and effectively managing the project's activities as per the revised Manual for Sustainable Return.
- By the end of the project, selected civil organisations are ethnically inclusive and are trained to interact with municipal authorities and to actively participate in the development and implementation of local policies.
- As evidenced by OSCE and UNHCR reports, the occurrence of 'ethnic' violence does not increase in targeted municipalities over the life of the project.
- As evidenced by OSCE and UNHCR reports, competent municipal institutions facilitate access of minorities to municipal services and the number of complaints falls over the life of the project.
- By the end of the project, targeted municipalities have increased minority representation in the assemblies and committees and empowered their municipal gender focal points.

Return of IDP/IIDP/refugee families and the reconstruction of dwellings and related infrastructure

Expected result:

- Physical return of IDP/IIDP/refugee families and the repair of their dwellings and related infrastructure in selected municipalities

Measurable indicators:

- By the end of the project at least 200 displaced families have returned. In addition, at least 200 dwellings and related infrastructure are repaired in line with both local legislation and the revised Manual for Sustainable Return, and without damage to the environment
- At least 25 % of beneficiaries are female-headed households or vulnerable individuals.

Socio-economic measures

Expected result:

- Increased opportunities for returnees to find employment in the local labour market and/or engage in other income generation and sustainable livelihood activities.

Measurable indicators:

- By the end of the project, the number of skilled beneficiaries who have found employment in the local labour market.
- By the end of the project, beneficiaries able to work have started their businesses on the basis of a viable business plan matching the local market's potential, and income generation opportunities for women are provided by the project.
- By the end of the project, beneficiaries not able to work (e.g. vulnerable groups) are provided with livestock or agricultural tools.

Activity 2: Research Capacity Development in Kosovo

Results and measurable indicators:

Expected results:

- Increase and improvement in research by public universities and public research institutes in Kosovo in the priority fields: environment, energy and natural resources; agricultural production and food safety; health and medical research; and social science research.
- Improved capacity of Kosovo researchers, in particular young Kosovo researchers and trainee researchers, at public universities and public research institutes in Kosovo in the priority fields.
- Improvements in research equipment and more effective and efficient use of research equipment and facilities by Kosovo researchers and by public universities and public research institutes in Kosovo.
- Increased collaboration and support from public universities and public research institutes in the EU and the Balkans region for research activities and for public universities and research institutes in Kosovo, including increased involvement and support from researchers among the diaspora communities of Kosovo.

Measurable indicators:

- R&D activities and projects in key sectors by 20%;
- Regional and Europe wide collaborations on research by 10% as regards the number of research partnerships between Public Universities and Public Research Institutes in Kosovo with counterparts in the EU and the Western Balkan region;
- Number of researchers and trainee researchers in Kosovo doubled;
- Involvement of academic researchers from diasporas communities in Kosovo up by 15%
- At least 5 proposals submitted to FP7 and successful cooperation in FP7 programme by Kosovo researchers and research institutions

3.4 Activities

Activity 1 — Return and Reintegration in Kosovo (phase III)

All activities will be financed by one grant agreement with an implementing organisation (IO).

1.1 Technical assistance and training for the MCR

This activity will include training and capacity development for the MCR, as the central institution responsible for: a) providing policy guidance, coordination and assistance in the return sector, and b) promoting the establishment of conditions conducive to return.

The technical assistance will support the MCR in developing mechanisms to ensure transparent and objective collaboration between the MCR and municipalities. This will include, among other things: (i) reviewing municipal return strategies, (ii) developing formats for municipal project proposals, (iii) developing mechanisms for financial allocations, (iv) collecting and processing information (disaggregated by gender, age and nationality), (v) developing criteria for the selection of beneficiaries, and (vi) monitoring and reporting on project implementation.

Selected MCR staff will be trained in (among other things) project cycle management, public procurement rules, participatory approaches, local development principles, reporting, and relevant EU policies. In all training modules, attention will be given to cross-cutting gender, minority and environmental themes.

1.2 Technical assistance, including training, for municipal structures in selected municipalities

This programme is a continuation of the IPA 2007 and IPA 2008 approach in different target municipalities with return potential. A key criterion will be the potential for return, from both a qualitative and quantitative perspective.

During the inception phase, after the identification of target municipalities, there will be a thorough screening of the needs and capacities of each municipality to assess their ability to carry out the tasks and responsibilities required by the project. This will serve as: a) a baseline to tailor technical assistance and training needs; and b) as a reference to measure project progress and impact.

The project will assist municipal return officers, municipal working groups and other stakeholders in designing local return and reintegration project proposals to be approved by the RRK Steering Committee, and provide support for their implementation on the ground. The involvement of non-state actors (including IDP associations) will be strengthened to include the permanent participation of minorities, women's NGOs and networks, environmental organisations and youth organisations, together with the private business sector. By supporting the activities of the municipal working groups and the MCR, the project will create stronger communication channels to assure effective information flows between municipal and central level. The involvement of the KPS will guarantee a safe environment for return and will further facilitate the return process.

Consideration will be given to using the services of the Association of Municipalities as a vehicle for information sharing among municipalities.

The project will provide municipal and non-state actors with training on, among other things, resource mobilisation, fund raising techniques, participatory approaches, project design, reporting, project cycle management, public procurement rules, local development principles, and relevant EU policies. In all training modules, attention will be given to cross-cutting gender, minority and environmental themes.

Through the municipal working groups, and in close coordination with the Ministry for Local Government Administration, tolerance building and reconciliation activities will be designed and implemented at local level to include different ethnic communities and youth (e.g. cultural or sport activities).

The project might also assist minority displaced persons within Kosovo and their efforts to reintegrate at the place of displacement or return to new municipalities created after status settlement, where these groups comply with all mandatory requirements of the project for the selection of beneficiaries.

1.3 Facilitation of the physical return of displaced families and the reconstruction of dwellings and related infrastructure

The role of the implementing organisation (IO) should be of an advisory/coaching nature and tailored to specific local capacities and needs. Where these prove insufficient, the project will assist the municipality in contracting out all relevant activities.

The IO will guide and assist municipal authorities in the assessment of beneficiaries and their final screening. The IO will also assist the municipal authorities in facilitating the physical return of minority displaced families.

Whenever possible, the technical design of infrastructure works and the preparation of the relevant tender documents will be carried out by competent departments within the municipalities. The IO will step in to assist the municipalities in technical design when necessary. Tenders will be jointly launched and evaluated by the municipality and the IO, which will finalise works contracts with successful tenderers. ECLO representatives will be invited to participate in tender evaluations as observers. Payments to local contractors will be made directly by the IO with the prior approval of the competent municipal departments responsible for the supervision of activities.

The project will assist the MCR, in particular its Permanent Secretary, in monitoring and supervising project activities at local level.

1.4 Socio-economic measures to provide returnees with a source of income

Initial activities will include a screening of beneficiary profiles and capacities as well as local labour market surveys to identify the potential for providing returnees with a job and a source of income. The survey will also report on the level of 'employment segregation' according to gender and ethnic background to identify the concentrations of women and men in different types and levels of activity and employment. In the following phase, the project will foster and facilitate access to the local labour market for suitable beneficiaries. These activities will be carried out in close consultation with local economic operators as well as local economic development agencies or chambers of commerce. Specific actions shall be carried out to promote female and minority returnee employment.

Where beneficiaries cannot find employment or prefer to start up their own businesses, support will be provided on the basis of a viable business plan developed during training and in line with local market conditions. This will include the provision of business start-up training or vocational training, together with further skills development and tailor-made socio-economic sustainability packages for returnee households.

Where beneficiaries decide to engage in viable agricultural activities, the project will support this with training and sustainability packages. There will also be a focus on establishing agro-cooperatives or linking up beneficiaries with local agro-producers. Community development projects in the field of agriculture will be supported and corresponding sub-projects can be implemented by local business or civil society partners.

Activity 2 — Research Capacity Development in Kosovo

This research grant scheme will support research projects covering all of the following activities:

- Research in three to four of the priority fields (environment, energy and natural resources; agricultural production and food safety; health and medical research; or social science research), which could include, for example, analysis, laboratory testing, sampling, data collection and plot analysis;
- Development of partnerships and collaborative research between public universities and public research institutes in Kosovo with public universities and public research institutes in the EU and western Balkan (WB) region within priority research fields for Kosovo;
- Research activities involving or including visits of researchers from the EU and WB region to Kosovo, in particular the Kosovan diaspora, to exchange experience with and provide peer guidance and capacity support to researchers working in public universities and public research institutions in Kosovo within priority research fields;
- Internships (of 3-6 months) for young researchers, including trainee researchers (PhD and post-doctorate), from public universities and public research institutions in Kosovo to EU and WB public universities and public research institutes within priority research fields;
- Provision of research equipment required for research activities and training on the best use of such equipment to ensure their more effective and efficient use by Kosovo researchers at public universities and public research institutes in Kosovo within priority research fields.

Contracting arrangements

Activity 1 — Return and Reintegration in Kosovo (phase III)

A grant agreement will be awarded following the publication of an open call for proposals. The EU contribution will indicatively be EUR 4.0 million.

Cash co-funding for the project will be provided by the MCR and additional funding (cash or in kind) will be sought from target municipalities. The MCR contribution will indicatively be EUR 1.1 million and will cover mainly activities 1.3 and 1.4. For the co-funding, the MCR will make its own contractual arrangements and will be responsible for its management. The Project Steering Committee will be responsible for the overall direction of the project.

Activity 2 — Research Capacity Development in Kosovo

This grant scheme will be implemented through a grant agreement following an open call for proposals. The EU contribution will indicatively be EUR 1.0 million. A maximum of three to four research grants will be awarded under the scheme.

Applications for research grants will be open to public universities and public research institutions in Kosovo in collaboration with public universities and public research institutions in the EU and Balkans region.

The evaluation of applications might involve independent evaluators from EU Member States who themselves are researchers and actively involved in RTD and are able to assess the quality of applications within the priority research sectors.

Cash co-funding will be provided by MEST and additional funding (cash or in kind) will be sought from target municipalities. The MEST contribution will indicatively be EUR 0.1 million. For the co-funding, MEST will make its own contractual arrangements and will be responsible for its management. The Project Steering Committee will be responsible for the overall direction of the project.

Project management and administration

For both projects, the European Commission Liaison Office in Pristina will manage procurement, implementation, quality control, reporting and coordination with other donors providing development assistance and financial and technical cooperation related to the actions described in this project factsheet, taking remedial action if and when needed.

The team leader of the relevant implementing organisation will run the project activities on a day-to-day basis under the supervision of the European Commission. The visibility of the EU will be assured and ECLO representatives will be invited to participate in all project meetings or events of political relevance to the project. The team leader's primary responsibility will be to ensure that the project produces the required outputs to the required standards of quality and within the specified time and cost constraints. He/she will develop project plans, direct the project team (including a combination of long-term and short-term experts), produce inception, progress and final reports, manage risks, initiate corrective action where necessary, and administer the contract. The team leader and other experts will also address cross-cutting issues. A detailed description of the duties of the team leader and key experts will be set out in the description of the action, in line with this project factsheet.

A Project Steering Committee will be set up during the inception phase. It will approve all major plans and authorise any major deviations from initially agreed plans. The Committee will be responsible for the overall direction of the project and comprise representatives from at least ECLO, MCR or MEST, the Ministry of Local Government Administration, IOs, representatives from the municipalities and/or the Association of Municipalities, and civil society. When

appropriate, additional stakeholders (e.g. UNHCR or OSCE, ADA) will be invited to take part in Project Steering Committee sessions as observers.

Monitoring will be performed centrally by the European Commission. The project may be evaluated at interim stages or ex-post under the supervision of the Commission's Evaluation Unit. The project may be audited by the Court of Auditors — in line with standard European Commission procedures.

3.5 Conditionality and sequencing

The project is subject to the following conditions:

- Organisation, selection and (gender-balanced) appointment of members of working groups, training sessions, steering and coordination committees, seminars and study visits by beneficiaries as per the project work plan.
- Endorsement by all key stakeholders of the tendering documentation relevant for works and services, as well as the individual contracts to be concluded.
- Participation by the beneficiaries in the tender process as per EU regulations.
- Continued financial support from the Kosovo Assembly.
- Appointment of relevant staff by the beneficiaries to participate in training activities as per work plan.
- Appropriate coordination with other international organisations active in Kosovo.

Specific to activity 1: Return and reintegration in Kosovo (phase III)

- In line with the requirements of the EC Practical Guide, grants may not, as a rule, finance the entire cost of an action. Therefore, co-financing will be provided by both the MCR and the IO.
- Endorsement by the MCR of the guidelines for the call for proposals. Commitment of the MCR to participating in the evaluation panel for the RRK.

Specific to the activity 2: Research Capacity Development in Kosovo

- Sufficient interest from research community both inside Kosovo and outside Kosovo, from research community of EU and Balkans Region. This interest will continue to be assessed through the level of engagement of both research communities in existing and successful research initiatives: 7th Framework programme on Research, the Tempus programme and the initiative supported by the Austrian Government supporting partnership between European and Kosovo research community as well as the Kosovo research community engagement in the new Kosovo Research Programme
- Identified priorities conform to the research strategy and priorities of Kosovo
- Minimum of 10 % co-financing from the beneficiary/grantee
- Minimum of 10 % co-financing from the Government of Kosovo
- Commitment of the Government of Kosovo to sustainable investment in research from the Kosovo Consolidated Budget

If these conditions are not met, suspension or cancellation of the project or specific activities will be considered

3.6 Linked activities

Activity 1 — Return and Reintegration in Kosovo (phase III)

This project represents the continuation of the RRK projects approved under IPA 2007 and IPA 2008.

It builds on previous EU assistance to support the return and reintegration of ethnic minorities, in particular the following projects funded under the CARDS instrument.

Name of project (Amount EUR million)	Start End	Activities/Results
Return and Reintegration in Kosovo (EUR 4.0 million)	Aug 09 Jul 11	Support for the Ministry of Communities and Returns to implement effective policies and operational frameworks for return. Contribution to a stable multi-ethnic society in Kosovo based on tolerance and promotion of human and minority rights, enabling the sustainable return and reintegration of at least 160 minority IDPs and refugees. Assistance for municipalities in designing and managing return and reintegration projects in coordination with all stakeholders.
Return and Reintegration and Cultural Heritage (EUR 8.7 million)	June 08 — Oct 10 Feb 10 Jul 12	RRK (phase I) Project: Support for the Ministry of Communities and Returns to implement effective policies and operational frameworks for return; assistance for municipalities in designing and managing return and reintegration projects in coordination with all stakeholders. EU-MRSI project: the overall objective of this project is to contribute to the closure of the lead-contaminated Cesmin Lug and Osterode camps in Mitrovica municipality. Specifically, the aim is to facilitate the successful resettlement of up to 90 RAE families from Cesmin Lug and Osterode IDP camps to Roma Mahalla or other locations and their economically productive, secure and healthy reintegration.
Institution Building for the Ministry of Communities and Returns (EUR 1.16 million)	Jan 2007 - June 2009	The project aims to build the organisational and management capacity of the Ministry of Communities and Returns so that it can fulfil its mandate. The project involves: (i) training for staff at the Ministry and other public organisations dealing with minorities and return; (ii) organisational development; and (iii) strengthening service-oriented management systems and processes within the Ministry.
Multi-sector return projects (EUR 16.7 million)	2004 2008	Implementation of multi-sector return and resettlement projects, including housing reconstruction, small-scale infrastructure repairs, grants for business start-ups, food and non-food items, promoting inter-ethnic dialogue and integration, community development, and legal assistance for returnees. Some 600 families, mainly RAE and Serb, have returned to their place of origin under this programme. This includes support for the return of Roma to the Roma Mahalla district in Mitrovica/ë. Return projects are designed and implemented in coordination with the Ministry of Communities and Returns, UNMIK and municipal administrations, and are implemented by international NGOs. Further projects to support return to the Peja/Pec, Kline/a, Istog/k municipalities were launched in early 2007.
Housing reconstruction (EUR 7 million)	1999 2003	Reconstruction of 959 houses for ethnic minority families (including 462 houses for RAE) as part of a wider housing reconstruction programme (reconstruction of 17 000 houses, mainly for Kosovo Albanians).
Targeted economic and community development actions in disadvantaged minority areas (EUR 11.5 million)	2002 - Nov 2008	At the end of 2007, over 1 450 projects had been implemented by this programme to improve the conditions for sustainable return by contributing to job creation and improved living conditions among the minority population. The projects mainly focus on grants for small business start-ups and expansion, but also include the refurbishment of social, education and health infrastructure, and the strengthening of community services, including in minority return areas. In addition, seven Business Support Centres provide direct economic development support services for minority areas. The programme has organised some 215 training sessions for around 2 040 participants to support micro-enterprise development.

The project will also link up with the actions of other donors (including the EU Member States and USAID) that are supporting the return process in a number of municipalities. To this end, the British Embassy in coordination with the MCR is planning to support urban return in Prizren with up to £300 000. The German Embassy is considering supporting the return of 10 additional RAE

families (EUR 200 000) in the Srbobran village, Istog/k municipality. USAID, in a joint effort with the EU, is supporting the closure of the north Mitrovica camps and the resettlement of 50 families in Roma Mahalla in South Mitrovica with \$2.4 million.

The European Commission will continue to support the return process at regional (western Balkan) level. Under the IPA Multi-Beneficiary programme, it will therefore continue financing actions to develop communication-related activities in order to raise the quality of the information received by potential returnees to Kosovo on their rights and on the actual situation in the Kosovo cities and villages they used to live in. In addition, the project will seek coordination with infrastructure/environment and public administration reform projects under IPA 2008 which target municipalities in the context of the ongoing decentralisation process.

The project will also establish relations with the OSCE municipal teams that have been assisting municipalities since 1999, and advising on and monitoring human rights and good governance since the beginning of 2006. The coordination of activities with programmes promoting socio-economic development will be sought.

Activity 2 — Research Capacity Development in Kosovo

Support for capacity building and modernisation of higher education and public universities in Kosovo through the TEMPUS programme (25 Joint European Projects: 12 ongoing and 13 completed projects + eight Structural and Complementary Measures projects have been supported with approximately EUR 7 million) and the Kosovo/Austria Partnership on Higher Education and Research Programme.

FP7 participation: Kosovo has been interested and active in the EU's Seventh Framework Research Programme for some months. The programme provides substantial EU funding for multidisciplinary research and cooperative activities among researchers in Europe and beyond. In order to strengthen excellence and raise the average level of research in Europe, FP7 provides funding to stimulate, organise and exploit all forms of cooperation in research, for example collaboration in joint projects and networks, the coordination of national research programmes, competition at European level, the joint implementation of large technology initiatives, and the common development of infrastructures of European dimension and interest.

In April 2009, Mr Kushtrim Bajrami was appointed as the FP7 Contact Point for Kosovo. Kosovo has begun participating as a partner in FP7 projects: in 2009, Kosovo was a partner in seven FP7 applications.

Support from Austrian Development Cooperation: 1) This programme has provided funding support for the Council for Research and Technology of Kosovo and a small grant fund to support 15 post-graduate researchers from Kosovo. 2) Under the 'Multidimensional Project for the Implementation of an Institutionalised Partnership', there is support for research cooperation and networking between research institutions in Austria and public higher education institutions in Kosovo and south-eastern Europe with special attention to young and early-stage researchers in Kosovo. This initiative provides funding for up to 15 projects, each receiving up to EUR 12 000. Possible activities are: comparative studies, small empirical investigations, and mapping and knowhow exchange on European standards and practices in the chosen research areas.

3.7 Lessons learned

- *Conditionalities:* Often, project implementation is hampered by either insufficient staff and resources allocated to (newly established) institutions or insufficient operational funds available in the government budget to enable the department concerned to fulfil its mandate. A condition for the commencement of project activities will be the availability of financial resources and qualified personnel on the beneficiary side to guarantee the smooth implementation of project activities.

- *Coordination within the government:* Further improvements — in line with the spirit of EU accession — could be made to ensure stronger government leadership in the coordination efforts at central and local, municipal level. The relevant Project Steering Committees need to address this important issue.
- *Commitment of and interaction with relevant stakeholders:* Clear political commitment and engagement on the part of beneficiaries, stakeholders and relevant donors is crucial for the efficient and smooth implementation of both projects, along with transparent communication and coordination between project partners/beneficiaries. Realistic objectives and time-lines should be set in order to ensure the effective implementation and follow-up of recommendations.
- *Balance between different measures:* The provision of technical assistance (TA) for capacity building remains a very high priority. However, TA will not be effective if the working environment of the beneficiaries is not up to standard. Therefore, a balanced approach with both technical advisory support and material support is essential to ensure the expected impact of the projects. The current RRK project will have a budget for providing material support to beneficiaries.
- *Co-financing:* Previous experience in similar projects has shown that financial support from municipalities significantly increases ownership of activities, and the political will to promote them. This project will seek cash or in-kind co-financing from target municipalities.
- *Capacity needs in project design:* in the field of research in Kosovo there is a lack of capacity in research project design which can lead to weaknesses in application process and project implementation. It is important, therefore, for Kosovo research body to work effectively with the European partner to compensate in the initial phase for some of these capacity limitations.
- *Cross-boundary component:* Cross-boundary components give research institutions as well as potential returnees in the region an opportunity to strengthen their cooperation and allow the latter to make an informed, spontaneous choice on their wish to return. The inclusion in the project of non-state actors operating in Serbia and Kosovo will increase the potential for return.
- *Socio-economic measures:* Socio-economic opportunities for returnees not only enhance their quality of life but act as a substantial incentive to encourage more to return. Therefore, the project should provide beneficiaries with income generation opportunities.
- *Cross-cutting issues:* Where treatment of cross-cutting issues has remained weak in return and reintegration projects, this has reinforced existing gender/ethnic discrimination and inequalities. Gender issues are particularly important in the return sector (the conflict and its aftermath have had gender-specific consequences with women facing distinct disadvantages and constraints). Project activities not only require expert skills and qualifications but must also ensure proactive mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues throughout project design and implementation.

Measures to actively encouragement participation of women researchers will require particular attention in the project design to counter-act disadvantages they may experience.

4. Indicative budget (amounts in EUR million)

			TOTAL EXP.	SOURCES OF FUNDING								
				IPA EU CONTRIBUTION		BENEFICIARY CONTRIBUTION					PRIVATE CONTRIBUTION	
ACTIVITIES	IB (1)	INV (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: Return and Reintegration (RRK phase 3)			5.31	4.0	75	1.1	21	1.1			0.21	4
Contract 1: Grant	X		5.31	4.0	75	1.1	21	1.1			0.21	4
Activity 2: Research Capacity Development			1.152	1.0	86.8	0.1	8.7	0.1			0.052	4.5
Contract 2: Grant	X		1.152	1.0	86.8	0.1	8.7	0.1			0.052	4.5
TOTAL IB			6.462	5.0	77.3	1.2	18.5	1.2			0.262	4.2
TOTAL INV												
TOTAL PROJECT			6.462	5.0	77.3	1.2	18.5	1.2			0.262	4.2

NOTE: Amounts net of VAT

(1) In the Activities column use 'X' to identify whether institution building (IB) or investment (INV).

(2) Expressed in % of the **total** expenditure (EXP) (column (a))

Activity 1 includes an indicative amount of EUR 4.0 million allocated by the EU and parallel co-financing from the Ministry of Communities and Returns (MCR) with an indicative amount of EUR 1.1 million. The MCR will be responsible for the management and contractual arrangements of its own funds. The type of co-financing is investment.

5. Indicative implementation schedule (periods broken down per quarter)

Contract	Start of tendering	Signature of contract	Project completion
Contract 1: grant	Q1 2011	Q3 2011	Q2 2013
Contract 2: grant	Q2 2011	Q1 2012	Q1 2014

6. Mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues

6.1 Equal opportunities

Activity 1– Return and Reintegration in Kosovo (phase III)

Gender issues will be actively mainstreamed throughout the project within target institutions/organisations and activities/outputs.

Project staff will include a short-term gender specialist to define gender equality strategies and ensure close follow-up throughout project life.

At municipal level, decision-making processes will be in full consultation with IDPs (both men and women, particularly displaced minority women). And efforts will be made to further empower gender focal points already established within municipalities.

Special criteria for beneficiary selection will be developed to take into account different gender needs and help boost gender equality in local communities where displaced persons have returned. Past EU reconstruction programmes in Kosovo have had around 25% female beneficiaries. The project will endeavour to maintain or improve this trend.

Socio-economic measures will be tailored to take equal account of the specific needs of male and female beneficiaries.

Activity 2– Research Capacity Development in Kosovo

This project will work pro-actively to secure gender equality and gender balance in the activities to be supported. Project activities will be subject to gender monitoring. Particular attention will be given to promoting equal access and gender balance in the participation of researchers in the research activities to be supported

6.2 Environment

Environmental issues will be actively mainstreamed throughout the project. Project staff will include a short-term environmental specialist to define environmental protection strategies and ensure close follow-up throughout project life.

In line with the EU EIA Directive, any work involving the reconstruction of dwellings and medium water supplies or the upgrading or construction of rural roads may require an Environmental Impact Assessment. Care will also be taken to ensure that as far as possible construction techniques and materials are environmentally friendly. Particular attention will be given to the disposal of waste construction materials.

Activity 2

The project will promote and advance environment improvements: the areas supported by the project will include the environment, energy and natural resources.

6.3 Minorities

Activity 1– Return and Reintegration in Kosovo (phase III)

The project will primarily target minorities willing to return to their place of origin. Kosovo's Constitutional Framework provides for the protection of linguistic rights, and the project will, wherever necessary, make use of different community languages.

Since 2003, a 'fair share' system has been in use at municipal level, whereby a set percentage of the municipal budget is to be spent directly on minority communities. This aspect will be taken into consideration when negotiating with municipalities their co-financing contribution to the project budget.

Throughout project design and implementation, specific attention will be paid to the specific needs of the Roma and the Ashkali and Egyptian communities. Tailored measures / positive actions will be considered to counteract the high level of discrimination these communities are exposed to.

Activity 2– Research Capacity Development in Kosovo

This project will work pro-actively to promote the participation of minority groups and their representative organisations in all project activities. Minority groups include Serb minorities, Turkish minorities, Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian minorities as well as other disadvantaged groups such as persons with disabilities. All public universities in Kosovo will be able to participate in the call for proposals, including the University in Mitrovica/ë.

ANNEXES

Annex I- Log frame in standard format

Annex II- Amounts contracted and disbursed per quarter over the full duration of the programme

Annex III- Description of institutional framework

Annex IV - Reference to laws, regulations and strategic documents

Annex V- Details per EU-funded contract

ANNEX I: Logical framework matrix

Title: Return and Reintegration in Kosovo & Research Capacity Development in Kosovo		Programme name and number	
Sector: Communities and Returns & Research		Contracting period: (see section 1.10)	Disbursement period: (see section 1.12)
		Total budget: EUR 6.462 million	IPA budget: EUR 5.0 million
Overall objective	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of verification	
<p>Returns and Reintegration Creation of a climate for inter-ethnic tolerance, sustainable multi-ethnicity and promotion of human rights conducive to minority return and reintegration</p> <p>Research Capacity Development Strengthen the capacity for research and innovation in Kosovo to support economic and social development in Kosovo.</p>	By the end of the project in targeted municipalities the environment will be conducive to the return and (re)integration of minorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports from, UNHCR and other international actors (e.g. OSCE monitoring reports) • Ex-post and impact evaluation of the project <p>-Kosovo economic data -Research reports of public universities and public research institutes in Kosovo;</p>	
Project purpose	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of verification	Assumptions
<p>Return and Reintegration Sustainable return of minority IDPs, IIDPs and refugees through increased involvement of central and municipal state and non-state actors</p> <p>Research Capacity Development To support research activities as well as build the capacity of public research institutes and public universities in Kosovo in priority sectors — agricultural production and food safety; environment, energy and natural resources; health and medical research; and social science research — sectors of importance to the wider community in Kosovo.</p>	<p>By the end of the project up to 80% of selected beneficiaries have returned to rehabilitated dwellings and have a source of income provided by the socio-economic development component of the project</p> <p>-20% increase in R&D activities and projects; -increased participation in FP7 projects with at least 5 new projects initiated; - double the number of active researchers in Kosovo; number of doctorates increased by 5%; -10% increased regional and EU collaborations on research; -research reports and publications increased by 10%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project final report • UNHCR reports • OSCE monitoring reports • Mid-term evaluation funded by the project <p>Success rate in R&D programmes, including FP7; Kosovo budget allocation to research; Cooperation agreements between research institutes in Kosovo and in EU; research reports published; patents registry; statistical data on research</p>	<p>Political situation in general and stability in the project areas do not delay project implementation</p> <p>Kosovo beneficiaries and authorities are committed to innovation and research and have developed a clear guiding research strategy and action plan.</p>
Results	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of verification	Assumptions
<p>Return and Reintegration in Kosovo (phase III)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased capacity and efficiency of MCR for policy/decision-making and coordination and monitoring of return-related issues 2. Increased capacity at municipal level to design and manage return and (re)integration projects resulting from joint actions of local stakeholders. 3. Physical return of displaced minority families and the repair of their dwellings and related infrastructure at the return sites. 4. Beneficiaries benefit from local labour market employment possibilities and income generation activities. 5. Increased inter-ethnic dialogue at central and municipal level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By the end of the project, the MCR is capable of developing and implementing policies and operational frameworks and coordinating activities in the return sector • By the end of the project the MCR transparently and objectively reviews requests and return strategies developed and submitted by municipalities, allocates financial resources, and monitors and reports on project implementation • By the end of the project municipal authorities have successfully designed and effectively managed project activities jointly with local stakeholders in targeted municipalities • By the end of the project civic organisations are participating in project implementation and are ethnically inclusive • By the end of the project at least 200 IDP/IIDP/refugee families have been helped to return and their dwellings and related infrastructure repaired in line with local legislation and without damage to the environment • By the end of the project at least 25% of beneficiaries are female-headed households, or 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR reports • OSCE monitoring reports • Project progress/monitoring reports • Mid-term evaluation funded by the project • KPS reports • Ministry of Health records • Ministry of Education, Science and Technology records • Project surveys of sustainable return • Municipal return strategies <p>-Research publications -Reports from research</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MCR and selected municipalities support project activities and commit to participating in the training programmes. • Stability and security are maintained in the project areas, allowing implementation of the programme. • Continued interest of IDP/IIDP/refugee families in sustainable return and reintegration • Willingness of receiving and displaced communities to engage in inter-ethnic dialogue <p>Beneficiaries committed and engaged;</p>

Specific to the Research Capacity Development activity

- Identified priorities (funding priorities: environment, energy and natural resources; agricultural production and food safety; health and medical research; social science research) comply with the research strategy and priorities of Kosovo;
- Commitment and engagement of beneficiary institutions;
- Active engagement of local research community;
- Interest and participation by external research institutions and researchers operating in EU Member States and the Balkans.

ANNEX II: Indicative planning of the amounts (in EUR million) contracted and disbursed by quarter for the project (cumulative)

	2010	2011				2012				2013				2014
Contracted	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Contract 1: Grant				4.0										
Contract 2: Grant						1.0								
Cumulative total				4.0	4.0	5.0								
Disbursed														
Contract 1: Grant				2.4				1.4			0.2			
Contract 2: Grant						0.85				0.075				0.075
Cumulative total				2.4	2.4	3.25	3.25	4.65	4.65	4.725	4.925	4.925	4.925	5.0

ANNEX III: Institutional framework

Activity 1 — Return & Reintegration in Kosovo — phase III

The return process in Kosovo originally started under UNMIK/ORC and was later continued by UNMIK/OCRM. The MCR was formally established in March 2005 and since then has encountered problems endemic to any new central government institution. Organisationally, the MCR is a young institution in flux. It has taken on full responsibility as policy-maker, policy coordinator and overseer of implementation across government institutions and non-governmental partners.

Many of the tasks previously undertaken by UNMIK/OCRM have been transferred to the MCR as part of the 'Transfer of Competencies' from UNMIK. In the return sector, key tasks to be transferred to domestic structures include policy-making, standard-setting, policy coordination, and project monitoring.

The Government of Kosovo is in the process of endorsing the MCR Strategy for Communities and Returns and the Revised Manual for Sustainable Return, the main policy documents for the return process.

Activity 2 — Research Capacity Development in Kosovo

The Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology (MEST) was established in 2002, under the Constitutional Framework for Self-Governance in Kosovo and under UNMIK Regulation 11 – 3 March 2000 on the establishment of the Administrative Department of Education and Science.

The main responsibilities of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology are to:

- improve the quality of and access to the education system in Kosovo,
- bring the education system in Kosovo into line with European Union standards,
- integrate all Kosovo children into compulsory education from ages six to fifteen,
- encourage the development of the scientific community as a highly qualified market for innovation and development in a comprehensive system of higher education,
- promote life-long learning opportunities for all.

The Ministry is also responsible for the formulation of an overall strategy for the development of education, science and technology in Kosovo and the promotion of a single, unified, non-discriminatory and inclusive educational system.

The strategic objectives of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology are to:

1. Ensure inclusion, equity, quality and diversity in pre-university education;
2. Ensure autonomy, quality assurance and diversity in university and non-university education;
- 3. Transform higher education institutions into scientific research institutions and connect them with the economy and society;**
4. Ensure education throughout life and the development of human resources.

Goal 3: 'Transform higher education institutions into scientific research institutions and connect them with the economy and society' will be achieved through the following specific objectives:

1. Improving the conditions for the development of science:
 - supporting research and development projects with international participation;
 - establishing institutional infrastructure for scientific work, innovation and technology transfer;
 - establishing research units, institutes and centres for research in priority areas;
 - supporting the activities of the National Council of Science;
 - establishing the Fund for Scientific Research;
 - implementing the National Programme of Science.

Where research bodies and research capacity are concerned, Kosovo currently has two well-established public universities, the University of Pristina and the University of Mitrovica/ë. A third public university

is under development — the University of Prizren. Kosovo also has 14 public research institutes: the Albanological Institute, Institute of History, Pedagogical Institute of Kosovo, Institute of Spatial Planning, Hydrometeorological Institute, Agriculture Institute of Kosovo — Pejë/Peć, Kosovo National Institute of Public Health, Institute of Social Policy, Judiciary Institute of Kosovo, Institute of Legal Medicine, Institute of Biochemistry, Institute of Pathology, Kosovo Institution for Public Administration, and Agency for Geodesy.

ANNEX IV: Laws, regulations and strategic documents

Activity 1 — Return & Reintegration in Kosovo — phase III

Link with: European Partnership; Stabilisation and Association process; Status Settlement Proposal

In the chapter ‘Key priorities’, section ‘Human rights and the protection of minorities’, the political requirements for the *European Partnership* are to:

- Facilitate and encourage the return of refugees and displaced persons from all communities and finalise the rehabilitation of damaged and destroyed properties caused by the March 2004 events, including historic and religious sites.
- Strengthen administrative structures and accountability mechanisms in the Ministry of Communities and Returns. Further develop and implement the joint strategic framework for communities and returns and develop mechanisms at municipal level for facilitating the sustainable integration of returnees and existing minority communities.
- Regularise informal settlements. Find sustainable repatriation solutions for the integration of Roma communities living in hazardous living conditions in camps and for IDP groups living in informal centres.
- Ensure mainstreaming of women’s rights in all existing policies and legislation.

In the chapter ‘Democracy and the rule of law’ the European Partnership political requirements are to:

- Ensure fully effective functioning of the Assembly and its committees, the government and municipalities, including full respect of the respective rules of procedure, and the rights and interests of all communities.
- Increase minority representation in all institutions and the civil service at municipal and central level.
- Improve the quality and availability of basic public services to all communities, including steps to help reduce the demand for services provided by parallel structures.

The proposal is in line with the **Progress Report 2009** and its section ‘Minority rights, cultural rights and protection of minorities’, taking account of the fact that the voluntary return process is still limited and remains a challenge for the Kosovo authorities. Creating a climate for reconciliation, inter-ethnic tolerance and sustainable multi-ethnicity is a key European Partnership priority.

The Kosovo government’s *European Partnership Action Plan* provides for the creation of a climate for reconciliation, inter-ethnic tolerance and sustainable multi-ethnicity conducive to the return of displaced persons (EPP No 7) together with the development of partnership programmes with municipalities and other parties with the aim of ensuring financial resources for the sustainable development of communities to enable return (EPAP 7.3.3) and a review of municipal return strategies in coordination with municipal return offices (EPAP 7.3.6)

It further aims to develop and implement the joint strategic framework for communities and returns, and to develop mechanisms at municipal level for facilitating the sustainable integration of returnees and existing minority communities (EPP No 46).

In addition, it aims to ensure the viable existence of minority communities and their non-discriminatory participation in society, through concrete measures to ensure their safety and freedom of movement, as well as equitable provision of and access to public services. (EPP No 115)

Link with the Multi-Annual Indicative Planning Document (2009-2011) for Kosovo

The project’s approach is in line with the MIPD, which emphasises the need to advance the reform of local self-government as part of the decentralisation and promotion of human rights, the protection of the Serb and other minorities, and IDP and refugee return. The document’s main priorities and objectives include ‘promoting human and minority rights, IDP and refugee return and a climate of inter-ethnic tolerance in order to foster sustainable returns and protect the rights of communities already living in Kosovo; to create conditions for growth and sustainable development of all communities as well as to ensure the preservation of and access to cultural and religious heritage of non majority communities’.

Link with national sector strategies

Section 3.3.10.1.4 ‘Human and Minority Rights’ in Volume II of the **Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF)** 2008-2010 states that ‘one of the sectors that need quite a lot of money is the programme [for] minorities and returnees. The MCR in the regular budget process is getting [a] certain amount of money in order to address related issues. Most of the spending is [] on building houses for people who want to return’.

Under its policy matrix, section B ‘Implementation of Status settlement’, the **MTEF** 2009-2011 refers to ‘*Support for the development and integration of ethnic communities*’ with the following aim: ‘*Support for the integration of existing minority communities and individual as well as organised returns*’

The proposal is fully in line with the **MCR Strategy for Communities and Returns** 2009-2013, which is expected to be endorsed by the Government in the second quarter of 2010. Likewise, it is in line with the MCR operational framework — the revised Manual for Sustainable Return, which is also being updated to take account of the new realities and efforts to further decentralise the return process.

Activity 2 — Research Capacity Development in Kosovo

Reference list of relevant laws and regulations

The Law on Scientific Research Activity, No 2004/42, sets out the framework for scientific research and the Scientific Research Programme of Kosovo, providing for infrastructure investment, enhanced participation in international scientific research projects and a systematic education programme for researchers.

Reference to AP / NPAA / EP / SAA

European Partnership

The European Partnership Action Plan 2009 included commitments on: research development, including the establishment of the Centre for Innovation and Transfer of Technologies; initiating a review of the Law on Scientific Research Activity in Kosovo; establishing and making operational the National Research Council; and drafting the Science Programme and Strategy for Kosovo, which is now underway.

European Commission Progress Report 2009

The EU’s 2009 annual report and study noted it was important for Kosovo to build its research capacity and increase its participation in the Seventh Framework Programme for Research. It also pointed to the need to increase SME participation in FP7 activities and the role of research in the socio-economic development of Kosovo and as a means to intensify regional cooperation activities.

Reference to the MIPD

The MIPD for Kosovo makes reference to the importance of education and training for scientists in order to improve Kosovo’s research capacity. Among the expected results for this planning period, the MIPD refers to the design of an integrated research policy. This has started with some improvements in national research capacity and research cooperation opportunities with the EU, as measured by the participation of Kosovo’s research institutions in EU cooperation projects

Reference to the National Development Plan

The Ministry of Education has a specific strategic objective for research in the MTEF (2010-2012), which is Goal 3: ‘Transformation of higher education institutions into scientific research institution as well as their link with the economy and society’, to be achieved through these following specific objectives:

1. Improving the conditions for the development of science:

Supporting research and development projects with international participation; establishment of an institutional infrastructure for scientific work, innovation and technology transfer; establishment of

research units, institutes and centres for research in priority areas; support for the activities of the National Council of Science; establishment of the Fund for Scientific Research; implementation of the National Programme of Science.

ANNEX V: Details of EU funded contracts

Activity 1: Return and Reintegration in Kosovo – phase III (grant agreement with IO)

- a) Technical assistance and training for the MCR
- b) Technical assistance and training for selected municipal structures
- c) Facilitation of the physical return of IDP/refugee families and the reconstruction of dwellings and related infrastructure
- d) Socio-economic measures to provide returnees with a source of income

Activity 2: Research Capacity Development in Kosovo

Activities to be supported:

- research activities by Kosovo public universities and public research institutes in partnership with public universities and public research institutes from the EU and Balkans region
- purchase and supply of research equipment required for research activities supported by the project
- visits of researchers from the EU and Balkans region, in particular Kosovan diaspora researchers, to exchange and provide peer support and training to Kosovo researchers working in public research institutions and public universities in Kosovo
- internships (3-6 months) for young Kosovo researchers (PhD and post-doctorate), working in/with public universities and public research institutes in Kosovo, at universities and public research institutes in the EU and Balkans region