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About the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)

Pre-accession assistance is an investment in the future of the EU, making Europe safer and more prosperous by supporting the stability and prosperity of our closest neighbours. IPA creates incentives for EU future members to work on the transformation of their societies, legal systems and economies.

tainable economic recovery, the environment and climate change, transport, and energy supply etc.

IPA II 2014–2020

IPA continues the process in order to:

- Increase good governance and capacity building to align with EU laws and standards;
- Support socio-economic development in line with the EU 2020 targets for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

IPA 2007–2013

With over EUR 11 billion of funding committed from 2007 to 2013, IPA has already contributed significantly to reforms in the enlargement countries. At the same time, the funds help the EU reach its own objectives for a sus-

EU Enlargement

EU pre-accession funds support concrete democratic and economic reforms in the Western Balkans and Turkey: from modernisation of the judiciary and public administration, to investments in infrastructure and connectivity between the enlargement countries and with the EU Member States. This will further strengthen the region's stability, its economy and its investment potential, to the benefit of the citizens.



Johannes Hahn
Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations

Where do we stand?

Croatia is the most recent Member State, having joined the European Union in 2013.

The EU enlargement agenda currently covers the Western Balkans and Turkey.

The countries are at different stages of the process. Before joining, they must meet all political and economic conditions and align their legislation with EU law.

For more information:
ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement

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An investment in Europe

An investment in people

Instrument for
Pre-accession Assistance

Enlargement
Negotiations





In a new home after 13 years of displacement

Social development, human resources and inclusion

Job creation and social inclusion are key challenges in all enlargement countries. The European Union is keen to support them in addressing social needs by financing projects that help them meet challenges, such as fighting poverty, strengthening education systems, building infrastructure and developing disadvantaged areas.

An investment in people

People are at the heart of economic activities. Ensuring that citizens have the opportunity to engage in meaningful employment is vital for the development of any society. The Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance seeks to boost the quality of human resources in enlargement countries with the ultimate purpose of attracting and retaining more people in employment. It is equally important to improve the adaptability and flexibility of workers and

enterprises through education, and strengthen social inclusion by integrating disadvantaged people into the workforce.

For employment and social inclusion policy to be successful, projects need to be prepared in close cooperation with social partners (employers and trade unions) and with representatives of civil society. Many projects are developed in cooperation with EU partners, which export their own best practices to enlargement countries.

Kosovo* – Safer and healthier living

EU-funds provided a much better alternative to lead-contaminated refugee camps which were home to internally displaced people after the conflict in Kosovo (1998–99). Lead-contaminated areas were closed and refugees found new homes in safer and healthier areas. EU-funds also provided medical screening and treat-

ment, income generation grants, community development initiatives and capacity building support for municipal authorities.

Visible results

Results are visible mainly in the improvement of health and improved living conditions. The whole project went beyond just building homes. It helped employ more than 200 residents with temporary construction jobs and provided vocational training to more than 230 residents, some of whom have gone on to start their own businesses.



*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

Montenegro – Supporting gender equality

The Gender Equality Programme contributed significantly to the political empowerment of women. 167 politicians (members of Parliament and members of political parties) actively participated in tailor-made education programmes, improving their advocacy skills. The programme also led to the introduction of a 30% quota for women in the Election Law. Studies were conducted on the barriers, motivation factors and challenges concerning women's entrepreneurship. The results

have established better conditions for developing a national strategy for expanding entrepreneurship among women.



Female politicians in Montenegro: Sharing advocacy experience

Turkey – Education and skills development

Education and training opportunities impact labour market development. A project aiming at increasing enrolment rates in particular for girls has led to young women attending secondary and vocational schools as well as specific training to improve their working skills. Additionally, local authorities

have prepared and implemented local action plans. The results are impressive: more than 2,800 girls have participated in booster classes; 1,500 girls and women developed their skills through training and more than 3,000 girls attended school once again.