

Standard Summary Project Fiche – IPA centralised programmes

Project number 36: Support for Participation in Community Programmes

1. Basic information

- 1.1 CRIS Number:** [2008/020-406](#)
- 1.2 Title:** **Support for Participation in Community Programmes**
- 1.3. ELARG Statistical code:** 03.65
- 1.4. Location:** Republic of Serbia

Implementing arrangements:

- 1.5 Contracting Authority:** EC Delegation to the Republic of Serbia
- 1.6 Implementing Agency:** EC Delegation to the Republic of Serbia
- 1.7 Beneficiary (including details of project manager):**

Government of Serbia

The Project Manager for the Community Programmes is the National IPA Coordinator NIPAC/ NIPAC Secretariat ¹Ministry of Finance will be the main national coordinator for participation in Community Programmes. The work, mandate and authorizations of the Ministry are regulated by the Law on Ministries (adopted on May 15, 2007 (Official Gazette of Republic of Serbia no. 48/07)) – i.e. Article 6.

The Unit within the Ministry of Finance in charge of the programming and monitoring of the project will be the Sector for Programming and management of EU Funds and development assistance.

For each programme, Ministries will be responsible for co-ordination of project activities as follows:

Programme: 7th Framework Programme – FP7
Ministry of Science

Programme: The Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP)
Ministry of Economy and Regional Development

Programme: Customs
Ministry of Finance

Programme: Fiscalis

¹ Sector for programming and management of EU Funds and development assistance

Ministry of Finance

Programme: LIFE ±
Ministry of Environmental protection

Programme: PROGRESS
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

Programme: Culture
Ministry of Culture

Programme: Marco Polo II
Ministry of Infrastructure

Financing:

1.8 Overall cost:	7.600.000 EUR
1.9 EU contribution:	5.000.000 EUR
1.10 Final date for contracting:	3 years after the signature of the Financing Agreement
1.11 Final date for execution of contracts:	5 years after the signature of the Financing Agreement
1.12 Final date for disbursements:	6 years after the signature of the Financing Agreement

2. Overall Objective and Project Purpose

2.1 Overall Objective:

To contribute to better understanding of Serbia and its citizens on European Union policies and working methods

2.2 Project purpose:

To co-finance the costs of the "entry-tickets" which Serbia has to pay in accordance with the relevant Memoranda of Understanding establishing its participation in several Community programmes.

2.3 Link with AP/NPAA / EP/ SAA

In line with Thessaloniki Agenda for Western Balkan countries, approved by the Council on 20th June 2003, Community Programmes may be opened to potential candidate countries in line with the approach followed for the candidate countries.

The Framework Agreements establishing the general principles for the participation of the candidate countries and Western Balkan countries in Community programmes provide that these countries shall contribute financially to the general budget of the European Union corresponding to the specific programmes in which they participate and may apply for Community external assistance.

The Republic of Serbia had signed Framework Agreement on participation in Community Programmes on 29th June 2005 and agreement came into force on 27 July 2005.

2.4 Link with MIPD

"Enabling Serbia to participate in Community programmes" is identified as a main priority and objective in the MIPD under the European Standards (2.2.3) sub-component

2.5 Link with National Development Plan

N/A

2.6 Link with national/ sectoral investment plans

N/A

3. Description of project

3.1 Background and justification:

In its Communication "Agenda 2000" (July 1997), the European Commission proposed the progressive opening-up to the candidate countries of a broad range of Community programmes, as one of the intermediate objectives of accession. The objective of participation in the programmes is to enable the countries to familiarise themselves with the methods and policies of the European Union.

The "*Thessaloniki Agenda for the Western Balkans: Moving towards European Integration*", endorsed at the European Council on 20 June 2003, "*Community programmes will be opened to SAP countries along the lines established for the participation of candidate countries*".

The Framework Agreements establishing the general principles for the participation of the candidate countries and Western Balkan countries in Community programmes provide that these countries shall contribute financially to the general budget of the European Union corresponding to the specific programmes in which they participate and may apply for Community external assistance.

Consequently, the IPA programme can be used as a complement to the national funds to co-finance the financial contribution ("entry-ticket") to be paid each year by the candidate countries and Western Balkan countries to participate in the Community programmes. IPA funds of a given year co-finance the financial contribution for the participation in the programmes in the following years. The part of the financial contribution which is financed from the national budget should increase progressively, and a gradual and selective approach to participation should be maintained in Community programmes.

The Framework Agreement between the Community and Serbia entered into force on 27 July 2005.

In accordance with the Framework Agreement, the specific terms and conditions regarding each particular programme, in particular the financial contribution payable, are determined by agreement, in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding, between the Commission and Serbia. Such MoU are already in force concerning the Framework Programme for research (FP7), and PROGRESS, as well as the Culture programme. The Republic of Serbia has expressed its interest to participate also in the following programmes: CIP, Fiscalis, Customs, Life+, and Marco Polo II.

Life+

With a budget of €2.143 billion (for the period 2007-2013), LIFE+ is a limited but focused funding instrument providing specific support for the development and implementation of Community environmental policy and legislation, in particular the objectives of the 6th EAP (Decision 1600/2002/EC) and resulting thematic strategies. It comprises three components:

- LIFE+ Nature & Biodiversity
- LIFE+ Environment Policy & Governance
- LIFE+ Information & Communication

The Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP)

Aims to encourage the competitiveness of European enterprises. With small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as its main target, the programme will support innovation activities (including eco-innovation), provide better access to finance and deliver business support services in the regions. It will encourage a better take-up and use of information and communications technologies (ICT) and help to develop the information society. It will also promote the increased use of renewable energies and energy efficiency.

PROGRESS

The Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity provides financial support towards the implementation of the objectives of the European Union in the fields of employment and social affairs. It includes five separate themes: employment, social protection and social inclusion, working conditions, non-discrimination and diversity and gender equality.

Marco Polo II

Marco Polo is the European Union's funding programme for projects which shift freight transport from the road to sea, rail and inland waterways. This means fewer trucks on the road and thus less congestion, less pollution, and more reliable and efficient transport of goods. This programme is market oriented and builds research capacity and development.

3.2 Assessment of project impact, catalytic effect, sustainability and cross border impact

For Serbia, participation in Community Programmes represents a major step in meeting the criteria towards EU accession in the field of science, culture, employment, entrepreneurship and innovation, taxation and custom systems. It represents an important step in familiarising the country and its citizens with the Union's policies and working methods.

Increased participation in Community Programmes is an important element in the EU integration process, as it implies participation in knowledge sharing, awareness raising and acquiring knowledge from member states of EU practices in various sectors. This knowledge can subsequently be utilised in the design and application of future projects and actions in Serbia.

Participation in Community programmes will also encourage the active involvement of public and private institutions, NGOs, civil society institutions, universities to benefit from the EU accession process. It is expected that the knowledge and skills developed through participation in Community Programmes will be retained within the participating institutions and within the responsible ministries. It is also expected that the institutions will be able to maintain and develop the EU networks established through community programme participation into longer term formal and informal collaboration.

3.3 Results and measurable indicators:

1. Ensured payment by Serbia of its entry tickets for the Community programmes for which a Memorandum of Understanding is in force (in particular FP7, Progress, Culture).

Indicator:

Date of effective payment by Serbia of its entry-tickets, and date of transfer of IPA funds as a partial reimbursement.

2. Completion of negotiations for a MoU for several other Community programmes such as CIP, Fiscalis, Customs, Life+, and Marco Polo II.

Number of signed MoUs between Serbia and EC on participation in the selected Community Programmes

3.4 Activities:

1. Provide IPA funds as reimbursement of a part of the entry ticket for participation in the Community Programmes for which a Memorandum of Understanding is in force.

The EU contribution to the entry ticket will be negotiated between the beneficiary and the EC, normally before the MoU is signed. The participation of the beneficiary in Community Programmes shall follow the specific terms and conditions set out for each such programme in the MoU.

The Serbian Government has a commitment, not only to provide for the national co financing, but also to advance the funds necessary for the payment of the total entry ticket, before it gets the partial IPA reimbursement.

Contracting Arrangement:

The activity will be implemented as a reimbursement of a part of the entry ticket after the entry ticket has been paid, on the basis of a specific agreement
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3.5 Conditionality and sequencing:

The main conditionality is signature of the Memorandum of Understanding on participation in selected Community Programmes between the European Commission and the Government of Serbia which is precondition for participation.

Sequencing :

- The various Commission services responsible for the different programmes will send to the Mission of Serbia to the EU a request for the total financial contribution ("entry ticket" for the participation in a given programme or agency ("call for funds").

- The responsible line ministries must ensure the timely payment of the total entry ticket, within the deadlines requested in the call for funds. When making the payment for each programme, the authority in charge should quote the reference number indicated in the call for funds for the programme concerned, and send simultaneously a copy of the payment order to the relevant Commission service.

- The IPA funds are transferred to the line Ministries as reimbursement of a part of the contribution paid, on the basis of a specific agreement, and request for funds by the beneficiary with a proof of payment.

3.6 Linked activities

6th Framework Programme for Research (2003-2006) had its main objective to strengthen the science and technological bases of industry and encourage its international competitiveness while promoting research activities in support of other EU policies.

So far, Serbia has achieved considerable results in the **7th Framework Programme for Research** (June 13, 2007). Serbia is currently participating in 12 projects for science and technology and in 10 projects it is a leading partner. The Ministry of Science is providing support to different organizations, who wish to participate in project and document preparation. The Ministry is actively involved in organizing campaigns and info days with an aim to inform public about opportunities and benefits of this programme.

3.7 Lessons learned

The experience of neighbouring countries shows that participation in Community programmes is an extremely important feature of a successful pre-accession strategy. Citizens, companies and national administrations of the candidate or potential candidate countries are joining in co-operation and exchange networks with their counterparts in EU countries in very different areas covered by Community programmes.

Serbian researchers and scientists have achieved impressive results through 6th Framework Programme for the Research, as they successfully took part in many European R&D projects. Serbia took part in following programmes: EPA West Balkan, Idealist-Extend, SEE-ERA-NET, Food-N-Co, and BAFN². The total budget obtained through this programme was 8.1 M €. The capacity of the Ministry was strengthened and the program involved many young researchers and scientists. Above all, the network between Serbian and European researchers was created.

The experience shows that exchange of practices with the candidate countries and member states, who already took part in Community programmes, is valuable and important lessons to Serbian institutions to learn how to prepare and organize. This is of particular importance on capacity building of institutions on how to prepare good project proposals.

In addition, in order to mobilize and involve more private and public organizations to participate in Community programmes, it is absolutely necessary to organize awareness-raising campaigns and to work more on building their capacity as to be able to use as

² For more information on 6th and 7th Framework Programme visit website: <http://www.mntr.sr.gov.yu/fp6/web-content/eng/index.html>

effective as possible available EU funds and learn more about EU procedures and mechanisms.

IPA programming experience has shown that line ministries should increase their planning capacities. In addition, for Community Programmes which requires different institutional arrangements like agencies, line ministries should ensure their establishment and capacity improvement prior to their participation in Community Programme.

Obviously that if Serbia wants to participate in Community programmes in future, it needs to build administrative capacities, planned financial contributions and mechanisms for taking part in the management of the programme and financial control provisions.

4. Indicative Budget (amounts in €)

	IPA support	Contribution from the national budget	Total financial contribution to the programme ("entry ticket")
	EUR	EUR	EUR
7 th Framework Programme for Research			
PROGRESS			
Culture	53 000		107 000
(Culture *)	52 500		107 000
TOTAL			

*Contribution for 2010 *[If sufficient funds are available, two years of participation in Culture could be financed on the IPA budget 2008]*

The exact total financial contribution to be paid by Serbia for the participation in listed programmes is or will be specified in the Memorandum of understanding establishing the terms and conditions for participation in the Community programme concerned.

The contribution from the national budget covers the difference between the total financial contribution of Serbia to the programmes as indicated in the above mentioned Memorandum of Understanding and the IPA support.

5. Indicative Implementation Schedule (periods broken down per quarter)³

Call for funds for FP7, Progress and Culture : Q1 2009

Payment by Serbia of the entry tickets for FP7, Progress and Culture : Q1 or Q2 2009

Signature of the reimbursement agreements for the three programmes : Q2 or Q3 2009

6. Cross cutting issues : NA

ANNEX

³ where T=the date of the signature of the FA and xQ equals the number (x) of quarters (Q) following T.

PROGRAM / AGENCY	DATE OF SIGNATURE (MEMORANDUM UNDERSTANDING) OF
Programme X	
Programme Y	

