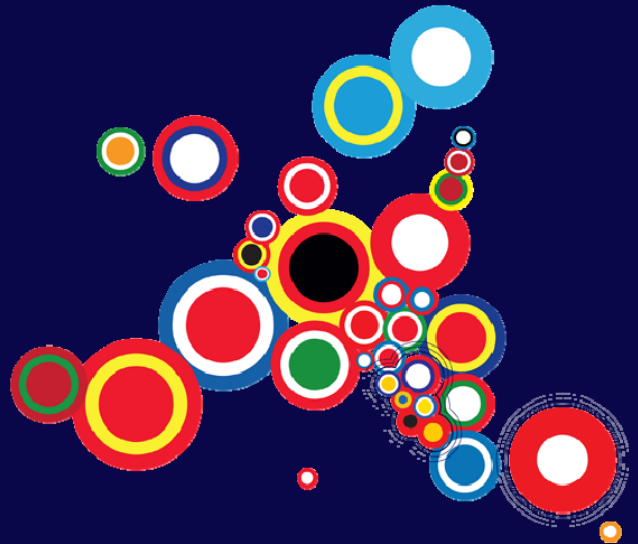




INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE (IPA II) 2014-2020

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Support to the Parliaments of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the EU Integration Tasks



Action summary

The Action will strengthen functioning of the political and administrative structures for EU integration tasks of the Parliaments in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) through provision of a targeted support to Parliaments in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, National Assembly of Republika Srpska, Brčko District Assembly and cantonal assemblies in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina).

The objective is to support the implementation of the Parliamentary EU integration Action Plans, thereby deepening the cooperation of the Parliaments of BiH in EU integration matters, and for further acceleration and improvement of the legal approximation process in BiH. Additionally, the engagement of the cantonal assemblies in these processes will be facilitated and supported by assisting them to establish the necessary procedures and structures.

This will contribute to more efficient and transparent service oriented public administration capable of leading BiH through the EU integration processes.

Action Identification			
Action Programme Title	Annual Action Programme for Bosnia and Herzegovina for the year 2016		
Action Title	Support to the Parliaments of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the EU Integration Tasks		
Action ID	IPA 2016/039-653.3/Bosnia and Herzegovina/Parliaments		
Sector Information			
IPA II Sector	Governance and Democracy		
DAC Sector	15152 Legislatures and political parties		
Budget			
Total cost	4 225 000 EUR		
EU contribution	4 000 000 EUR		
Budget line(s)	22.020101		
Management and Implementation			
Management mode	Direct management		
<i>Direct management:</i> EU Delegation	EU Delegation to BiH		
Location			
Zone benefiting from the action	Bosnia and Herzegovina		
Timeline			
Final date for concluding Financing Agreement(s) with IPA II beneficiary	At the latest by 31 December 2017		
Final date for concluding procurement and grant contracts	3 years following the date of conclusion of the Financing Agreement, with the exception of cases listed under Article 189(2) of the Financial Regulation		
Final date for operational implementation	6 years following the conclusion of the Financing Agreement		
Final date for implementing the Financing Agreement (date by which this programme should be de-committed and closed)	12 years following the conclusion of the Financing Agreement		
Policy objectives / Markers (DAC form)			
General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
Participation development/good governance			x
Aid to environment	x		
Gender equality (including Women In Development)		x	
Trade Development	x		
Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	x		

RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
Biological diversity	x		
Combat desertification	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change mitigation	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change adaptation	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1. RATIONALE

PROBLEM AND STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

The strengthening of efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of Parliaments in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is of crucial importance in the context of European integration.

During the accession process, the task of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina (PABiH), the Parliament of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (PFBiH), the National Assembly of Republika Srpska (NARS), the Brčko District Assembly (BDA) and cantonal assemblies are to support and supervise accession negotiations with the European Union (EU), and to adopt legislation necessary for alignment with the *acquis*. However, the Parliaments in BiH play yet a limited role in the EU accession process of the country and strongly rely on the respective executive bodies in deliberating and making decisions on EU-related issues.

The capacity of parliamentary administrations is at an early stage in terms of providing adequate support to members of the parliaments (MPs), parliamentary committees and the chambers on EU-related issues.

The main problems of the Parliaments in BiH, such as lack/limitation of available capacity of parliamentary administration, strategic guidance of the Parliaments in BiH of the EU accession process, regular oversight of the EU accession process, were already addressed in the frame of the Twinning project *Enhancing the role of Parliaments in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the EU integration context*, which achieved several results serving as a clear baseline for the follow-up actions and activities. This Twinning project was implemented between February 2014 and February 2016. Its main outcome was not only that numerous recommendations were drafted focusing on the previously mentioned fields of parliamentary work related to the preparation of BiH Parliaments for the European integration, but those were transformed into adopted Action Plans, i.e. *Road maps of Actions*, with targets and milestones tailored for each of the Parliaments.

Despite those achievements and the fact that both awareness and relevant in-house competencies were enhanced in a considerable way, no self-sufficient capacity could have been created in the Parliaments within this relatively short timeframe of project implementation. Additionally, the entering into force of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) on 1 June 2015 placed even more responsibilities and tasks on the Parliaments; yet, the Parliaments are not yet capable of carrying out these tasks independently.

The cooperation among the different political and administrative structures of the various Parliaments has still not become a regular practice. For this reason, the Parliaments' Speakers and Deputy Speakers endorsed a *Concept on the Cooperation Mechanism for the Parliaments of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Tasks of the EU Integration Process* in January 2016, as the concluding element of the Twinning project. However, to put this cooperation mechanism in practice and facilitate the regular coordination and information exchange is a crucial necessity, and this is where Parliaments need further assistance.

After the Parliaments launched the process of establishment of parliamentary administrative structures for EU integration tasks, these EU units' activities are still to be consolidated and enhanced. It is crucial that the units provide professional background support to MPs, committees and other parliamentary working bodies aiming at enhancing the role of Parliaments in the EU accession process and to implement the *EU Integration Action Plans* of the Parliaments. Alike, enhancing the cooperation among the BiH Parliaments in EU integration matters and improving the capacities of legal approximation and legal drafting activities is also vitally needed.

So far no clear in-depth analysis has been conducted regarding the **cantonal assemblies'** capacities and preparedness in implementing the tasks of the preparation for the accession process of BiH to the EU and the implementation of the SAA. However, it is apparent that the cantonal assemblies' legislative capacity, especially regarding the matters of European integration, is underdeveloped. It is of utmost importance that BiH addresses this matter and ensures the engagement of the cantonal assemblies in the EU integration process, by providing assistance to establish the necessary procedures and structures in order to fulfil their tasks and duties deriving from the Constitution of BiH.

In sum, all the Parliaments in BiH need to improve resources to fulfil their role in the EU accession process. This includes technical and logistical equipment to support the legislative alignment and the oversight role, which, *inter alia*, includes the support of information and communication technologies (ICT).

OUTLINE OF IPA II ASSISTANCE

The Action will ensure provision of support to Parliaments in BiH (PABH, PFBiH, NARS and BDA), therefore strengthening the functioning of the political and administrative structures for EU integration tasks of the Parliaments in BiH. More specifically, the assistance will be provided for the implementation of the parliamentary EU integration Action Plans, deepening the cooperation of the Parliaments of BiH in EU integration matters, and for further acceleration and improvement of the legal approximation process in BiH. Additionally, the engagement of the cantonal assemblies in these processes will be facilitated and supported by assisting them to establish the necessary procedures and structures.

The development of the Electronic Legislation System and E-Legislation Portal will ensure the streamlining and harmonisation of legislative processes at the State level, entity level (PFBH and NARS) and BD level and will contribute to more efficient and transparent service oriented public administration capable of leading BiH through the EU integration processes.

RELEVANCE WITH THE IPA II STRATEGY PAPER AND OTHER KEY REFERENCES

The *Indicative Strategy Paper (ISP) for Bosnia and Herzegovina (2014-2017)* under section 1.2 *Objectives, results, actions and indicators* states that ‘Subject to the adoption of a European integration strategy, further support will be provided to the different parliamentary assemblies to strengthen their ability to effectively cope and address the demands of the EU integration process, to extend their legislative and technical capacities as well as their ability to effectively interact with the relevant counterparts.’ The same section also refers to e-government services and indicates that ‘Further EU assistance will support the parliamentary assemblies and the civil society to take a key role in the (pre-) accession process.’

Link with the Stabilisation and Association Agreement

Amongst the BiH commitments in the SAA, the obligation to approximate existing legislation of BiH to the EU acquis is stated in Article 70 of the SAA, Title VI – Approximation of Laws, Law Enforcement and Competition Rules: ‘The Parties recognise the importance of the approximation of the existing legislation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to that of the Community and of its effective implementation. Bosnia and Herzegovina shall endeavour to ensure that its existing laws and future legislation will be gradually made compatible with the Community acquis. Bosnia and Herzegovina shall ensure that existing and future legislation will be properly implemented and enforced. This approximation shall start on the date of signing of this Agreement, and shall gradually extend to all the elements of the Community acquis referred to in this Agreement by the end of the transitional period (...).’ Further, in Article 111 on Public Administration Reform, Title VIII – Cooperation Policies, it is mentioned that ‘Cooperation will aim to further the development of an efficient and accountable public administration in Bosnia and Herzegovina and will focus on institutional building and strengthening of the policy making process.’

This Action aims at implementing the parliamentary EU integration Action Plans: the Action Plans describe in specific steps what institutional and structural changes, also work methods, should be established and followed in order to achieve the above mentioned SAA priorities such as effective legal approximation, follow up the implementation of the legislation, with a special focus on cooperation among the Parliaments in BiH and including the cantonal assemblies too in the process.

The development and the roll out of the operation of the Electronic Legislation System and the E-Legislation Portal will ensure more efficient and transparent activities in the field of the legislation and legal approximation.

Link with Country Report 2015 for BiH

The Report states that: ‘The new Rules of Procedure for the Parliamentary Assembly entered into force and introduced a fast-track mechanism for EU related legislation.’ The Report also states that: ‘Cooperation between the state-level, entity-level and Brčko District Parliaments has yet to be improved. Joint meetings of the Parliaments did not take place.’

However, the Parliaments of BiH adopted on 26 January 2016 the *Concept on the Cooperation Mechanism for the Parliaments of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the tasks of the EU Integration Process*. Soon after, all the Parliaments have also adopted their *EU Action Plans* prepared in the framework of the Twinning project mentioned above.

The Report 2015 for BiH also states that ‘The functioning of the Federation Parliament continued to be hampered by the lack of space in its rented premises and insufficient capacity to deal with European integration-related issues. Coordination with cantonal assemblies, in particular on shared powers, remained problematic.’

The Action covers the improvement of functioning of the PFBiH and also the engagement of the cantonal assemblies in the EU-integration related issues as these matters were addressed in the Country Report. When it comes to the NARS, the Report states that: ‘the Department for European Integration and International Cooperation was established within the Parliamentary Secretariat of National Assembly of Republika Srpska.’ At the same time ‘the work of the BDA committees, including the Committee for European Integration, remains problematic due to frequent lack of quorum at their meetings and limited capacities of the District Assembly’s services.’ The Action aims at the support of the implementation of the Parliaments’ *EU Integration Action Plans*, which also define in practical terms and steps the way of cooperation and collaboration among the Parliaments of BiH, therefore addressing the above quoted respective recommendations of the Country Report.

The Reform Agenda for BiH 2015-2018 is aimed at tackling the difficult socio-economic situation and advancing the judicial and public administration reforms. Progress in its implementation is one of the criteria for the consideration of the EU membership application from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

LESSONS LEARNED AND LINK TO PREVIOUS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Twinning project *Enhancing the Role of Parliaments in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the EU Integration context* was implemented between February 2014 and February 2016. Its main outcome was not only that numerous recommendations were drafted, but those were transformed into *adopted Action Plans*, i.e. *Road maps*, tailored for each of the Parliaments. In this way a clear itinerary was delivered, ensuring a programme of preparation for the individual Parliaments, which should be further supported in order to maintain and enhance the already achieved results.

Furthermore, this project also resulted with the ‘*Concept on the cooperation mechanism for the Parliaments of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the tasks of the EU integration process*’ endorsed by the Speakers and Deputy Speakers of Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Parliament of FBiH, National Assembly of Republika Srpska and Brčko District Assembly.

The past Twinning project had a smooth implementation and delivered great achievements, enjoyed the active support of the highest political and administrative levels, and was implemented with no major problem. Although considerable by its substance, the achievements are still lacking self-sufficiency because of the relatively short timeframe.

Implementation of projects aiming at introducing new procedures and introduction of technical innovations requires timely adaptation of the organisational structure and working processes. In the case of Parliaments and their administrations this is only possible to achieve through strategic planning and timely operational planning and implementation.

2. INTERVENTION LOGIC

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK MATRIX

OVERALL OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (*)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	
To support Bosnia and Herzegovina to implement principles of good governance.	Progress made towards meeting accession criteria.	EC Country Report.	
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (*)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
To improve the role of the legislative institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the strategic guidance of the EU accession process.	Degree of effectiveness of strategic guidance and legislative activities of the legislative institutions related to EU accession process.	EC Country Report; Parliaments of BiH reports and other Governmental reports; Other independent reports.	Political and macro-economic stability maintained; <i>Reform Agenda</i> Action Plans continue to be implemented; Key political players in BiH remain committed to the EU perspective of BiH.
RESULTS	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (*)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
Component 1 - Support to the Parliaments of Bosnia and Herzegovina in implementing the tasks of the preparation for European integration			
Result 1: The EU units are better enabled to provide practical administrative support to the monitoring and scrutiny functions of the Parliaments, and to prepare parliamentary positions and information activities and events related to EU accession issues.	1.1 Degree of implementation of the EU Integration Action Plans of the Parliaments (in %).	EC Country Report; Parliaments of BiH reports and other Governmental reports; Reports of CSOs and other independent reports; Official Gazettes; Plenary sessions minutes; Project reports; Records of EU-related information activities of Parliaments; EU information materials elaborated by the EU units;	Commitment of PA BiH to work towards achieving project objectives Key beneficiaries committed to providing proper human resources and financial means, where needed, to support implementation of the action. Operational support and full commitment of all beneficiary institutions is maintained; Timely planning and appropriation of resources;

<p>Result 2: The cooperation mechanism on EU integration tasks is launched and its regular organisation by the EU units is ensured</p>	<p>2.1 Number of cooperation events between Parliaments organized;</p>	<p>EC Country Report; Parliaments of BiH reports and other Governmental reports; Other independent reports; Reports / minutes of coordination events;</p>	<p>Political support and full commitment of all beneficiary institutions is maintained; Good coordination of beneficiary institutions; Follow-up of the Concept on cooperation mechanism for the Parliaments of BiH in the tasks of the EU integration process.</p>
<p>Result 3: The capacity of responsible administrative structures – acting in cooperation with respective executive offices – to provide the professional support to legislation compatibility checking and amendment drafting in a standard legal approximation procedure is improved</p>	<p>3.1 % of legislation compatibility check procedures implemented;</p>	<p>EC Country Report; Parliaments of BiH reports and other Governmental reports; Parliamentary information and statistics on approximated laws passed in the Parliaments Other independent reports;</p>	<p>Political support and full commitment of all beneficiary institutions is maintained; Functioning cooperation among the Parliaments in BiH and their respective executive offices is ensured;</p>
<p>Result 4: A common Action Plan for the cantonal assemblies to enhance their role in the European integration process and to ensure their required engagement is elaborated and implemented</p>	<p>4.1 % of MPs and parliamentary staff in cantons knowledgeable of general issues of EU functioning and accession;</p>	<p>EC Country Report; Parliament of FBiH reports and other Governmental reports; Other independent reports.</p>	<p>Political support and full commitment of all cantonal assemblies and Parliament of FBiH is maintained; Functioning cooperation between cantonal assemblies and Parliament of FBiH.</p>
<p>Component 2 - E-Legislation</p>			
<p>Result 5: Access to information on all legal acts/documents in the procedure at state, entity and Brčko District level on the e-legislation portal is made available to general public and civil society organisations</p>	<p>5.1 Degree of automation of legislative / policy making processes and procedures (in %); 5.2 % of processed legislative documents (per year) under the e-Legislation system;</p>	<p>EU Delegation Reports,; Other independent reports.</p>	<p>Objective information relevant for EU accession process obtained and duly processed by the Parliaments and CSOs independently. The Parliaments perform their mandate relying on the capacities developed by the project.</p>

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

The measures and activities under this Action will be implemented in two components:

- Component 1: Support to the Parliaments of Bosnia and Herzegovina in implementing the tasks of the preparation for European integration;
- Component 2: E-Legislation.

Component 1: Support to the Parliaments of Bosnia and Herzegovina in implementing the tasks of the preparation for European integration

Activities related to Result 1: The EU units are enabled to provide practical administrative support to the strategic guidance (to the monitoring and scrutiny functions of the Parliaments), and prepare parliamentary positions and information activities and events related to EU accession issues:

- Support to the staff of the EU Units to intensify their activities (organizing events, preparing background documents and analyses, interactions with EU partners, professional background available to support any kind of EU related activities of the Parliaments);
- Support to the implementation and regular update of the European integration Action Plans of the Parliaments;
- Drafting and implementation of parliamentary EU communication action plans.

Activities related to the Result 2: Cooperation mechanism on EU integration tasks is launched and its regular organisation by the EU units is ensured:

- Support to the functioning of the European integration cooperation mechanism;
- Support to strengthen the role of the Committees responsible for European integration;
- Support to strengthen the involvement of standing committees in performing European integration related tasks.

Activities related to Result 3: The capacity of the responsible administrative structures – acting in cooperation with respective executive offices – to provide the professional support to compatibility checking and amendment drafting in a standard legal approximation procedure is improved:

- Coaching and on-the-job training to improve legal approximation activities;
- Support to improve the legislative preparation and legal drafting activities of the Parliaments.

Activities related to Result 4: Common Action Plan for the cantonal assemblies to enhance their role in the European integration process and to ensure their required engagement is elaborated and implemented:

- Elaboration and introduction of a Common Action Plan for the cantonal assemblies to enhance their role in the European integration process and to ensure their required engagement;
- Implementation of the training programme for the cantonal assemblies to enhance their role in the European integration process.

Component 2 – E-Legislation

Activities related to Result 5: Access to information on all legal acts/documents in the procedure at state, entity and Brčko District level on the e-legislation portal is made available to general public and civil society organisations:

- Conducting a detailed analysis of current situation of legislative / policy making processes and procedures, and suggest a necessary re-profiling; based on the results of the analysis, define the system detailed requirements;
- Procurement and implementation of necessary applicative software for the functioning of e-Legislation system within PABH, PFBiH, NARS, and BDA – which will fully support the preparation and decision-making processes of policy-making procedures within an electronic environment, allowing general public and CSOs for instant access to laws in procedure;
- Conduct specialised training for system maintenance staff as well as end users for e-Legislation system, remote access.

RISKS

Assumptions:

- The Action will assume the political support of the political leadership of the Beneficiaries;
- The implementation of the Action will require the full commitment and participation of the senior staff of the Beneficiary institutions, particularly of the Secretary(ies) (General);
- The Action will furthermore assume the support and cooperation of donors, by providing them with the sufficient and timely information about foreseen actions/activities in order to allow them to plan and adjust their support modalities to the parliaments. The OSCE Mission in BiH is supporting strategic planning processes and realization in the parliaments in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Furthermore, the USAID project *Strengthening Governing Institutions and Processes* (SGIP) in Bosnia and Herzegovina is being implemented in the PABiH and PFBiH. This project is aimed to improve policy development in the law-making process and strengthening systems of public accountability and transparency.

Risks:

- Lack of trust and political will – relevant stakeholders are reluctant to take part in the project or to cooperate with each other;
- Lack of absorption capacities of key Beneficiaries – insufficient time to attend trainings and engage in skills acquisition due to engagement in various donor-funded projects;
- Lack of effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation system.

Mitigation measures to be undertaken will include:

- Appropriate and timely planning of the activities of the Action - the implementation phase will rely on intensive coordination and communication between the parliaments in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Assessment of the political environment – The composition and the competence of the Steering Committee members to anticipate political developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina should ensure appropriate adjustment of the activities to the political ambience.
- Regular and timely exchange of information between the Parliaments' administrations, the government administrations and the Directorate of European Integration of BiH.

CONDITIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The main conditions for the implementation of the Action are:

- Good coordination and cooperation between the involved Parliaments in the launching and implementation of the Action;
- Maintaining and improving the cooperation between the political and technical level;
- Maintaining political support to the Action;
- Appointment of counterpart personnel by the Beneficiary;
- Allocation of working space and facilities by the Beneficiaries for Twinning assistance before the launch of the tender process/Work plan process;
- Ensuring budget participation of Parliaments for the supplies and services contract.

3. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The project is characterised with a complex institutional framework considering that all Parliaments in BiH are covered. The key Beneficiaries are: PA BiH, PFBiH, NARS and BDA. The activities related to the cantonal assemblies in F BiH will be implemented with the assistance and coordination of the House of People of the PFBiH.

A Project Steering Committee will monitor the progress of Action implementation, facilitate the access to relevant institutions, ensure their timely and sufficient inputs when required, provide advice, and include the main institutional stakeholders in accordance with common practice, under the chair of the EU Delegation to BiH. The rights and obligations of the Steering Committee members will be prescribed by the Rules of procedure with the final goal to enable fully commitment and ownership of BiH in this AD.

IMPLEMENTATION METHOD(S) AND TYPE(S) OF FINANCING

The implementation will be directly managed by the EU Delegation to BiH.

Direct management: 1 Twinning Contract; 1 service contract and 1 supply contract

4. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

METHODOLOGY FOR MONITORING (AND EVALUATION)

The European Commission may carry out a mid-term, a final or an ex-post evaluation for this Action or its components via independent consultants, through a joint mission or via an implementing partner. In case a mid-term or final evaluation is not foreseen, the European Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner. The evaluations will be carried out as prescribed by the DG NEAR guidelines for evaluations. In addition, the Action might be subject to external monitoring in line with the European Commission rules and procedures set in the Financing Agreement.

INDICATOR MEASUREMENT

Indicator	Baseline (value + year)	Target 2020	Final Target (2020)	Source of information
CSP indicator (impact/outcome)....(1)				
I.1.1 Degree of implementation of the EU Integration Action Plans of the Parliaments (in %)	6 % already implemented (2016)	85 % EU Integration Action Plans of the Parliaments are implemented by 2020	85 % EU Integration Action Plans of the Parliaments are implemented by 2020	EC Country Report; Parliaments of BiH reports and other Governmental reports; Reports of CSOs and other independent reports; Official gazettes; Plenary sessions minutes; Project reports;
I.2.1 Number of cooperation events between Parliaments organized	0 (2016)	At least three coordination meetings of the parliamentary leaderships yearly; At least 10 coordination meetings of the parliamentary committees with the focus on EU matters	At least three coordination meetings of the parliamentary leaderships yearly; At least 10 coordination meetings of the parliamentary committees with the focus on EU matters	Meeting minutes; EC Country Report; Parliaments of BiH reports and other Governmental reports; Reports of CSOs and other independent reports; Official gazettes;
I.3.1 % of legislation compatibility check procedures implemented;	0 % (2016)	20%	20%	EC Country Report; Parliaments of BiH reports and other Governmental reports; Parliamentary information and statistics on approximated laws passed in the Parliaments Other independent reports;
I.4.1 % of MPs and parliamentary staff in cantons knowledgeable of general issues of EU functioning and accession;	25% (2016)	80%	80%	EC Country Report; Parliament of FBiH reports and other Governmental reports;

				Other independent reports
II. 5.1 Degree of automation of legislative / policy making processes and procedures (in %);	0 % (2016)	80%	80%	Objective information relevant for EU accession process obtained and duly processed by the Parliaments and CSOs independently. The Parliaments perform their mandate relying on the capacities developed by the project.
II. 5.2 % of processed legislative documents (per year) under the e-Legislation system;	0% (2016)	85 % Legislative documents in BiH are processed under the e-Legislation system by 2020	85 % Legislative documents in BiH are processed under the e-Legislation system by 2020	Objective information relevant for EU accession process obtained and duly processed by the Parliaments and CSOs independently. The Parliaments perform their mandate relying on the capacities developed by the project.

5. SECTOR APPROACH ASSESSMENT

The Governance sector encompasses the activities typically performed by governmental institutions such as civil service management, implementation of the public administration reform strategy, public procurement, financial management and statistics, leaving aside local governance and the functions of the wider public sector (state owned enterprises and service provision, such as health or education). Parliaments have legislative and oversight functions for all fields of governance.

The structure of the legislative power in BiH is fully following the constitutional structure of the country. According to the Constitution and its amendments, the state of BiH consists of two entities (Republika Srpska - RS and FBiH), and a specific self-governance unit – District of Brčko.

The institutional set-up in the sense of judicial, legislative and executive authority is further defined by the Constitutions of the State, the Entities and the Statute of District, Constitutions of cantons and Statutes of municipalities, identifying several administrative levels: the State, Entity, the District, cantons and municipalities, with the Council of Ministers of BiH, RS and FBiH Governments, the Government of Brčko District and the governments of cantons as executive authorities, and PABH, PFBiH, NARS, BDA and cantonal assemblies in FBiH as legislative authorities.

During the implementation period of the previous twinning project (the project is concluded in March 2016) several achievements were reached towards sectoral and coordinated approach in the EU matters in the case of parliaments in Bosnia and Herzegovina: two conferences uniting the leadership of all 4 BiH Parliaments were organized, the work of the Parliamentary Forum for EU Integration was revitalised, setting up of administrative units dedicated to activities of EU integration was initiated. Above all, a Joint Statement on the commitment of the Parliaments of Bosnia and Herzegovina towards the EU integration by taking measures to implement the recommendations of the twinning Project was endorsed, and the Concept on the cooperation mechanism for the Parliaments of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the tasks of the EU integration process was adopted.

6. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Considerations related to gender mainstreaming will be duly reflected in this Action as in all IPA-financed activities: gender sensitive language will be maintained throughout the project cycle. It will be ensured that the project management will have adequate capacities to enhance women's participation in project activities and work towards gender equality objectives.

Regarding existing gender equality policies in the parliaments in BiH, they have been already addressed, primarily through the Election Law of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Additionally, in July 2014 Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted The Decision on use of gender-sensitive language in the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Current gender structure of MPs in the parliaments in Bosnia and Herzegovina:

	Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Parliament of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina	National Assembly of Republika Srpska	Brčko District Assembly
Females	12	35	16	2
Males	45	117	67	28

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The principles of equal opportunities are duly taken into account throughout the project cycle and the Action will promote an environment that is conducive and enabling to gender equality ensuring equal participation of women and men in all project activities, as well as taking into account promotion and participation of people with disabilities.

In addition, the Action will address problems and practical needs specific to men and women in order to ensure capacities to deliver services in a gender-sensitive manner. Gender sensitive language will be maintained throughout the project cycle. It will be ensured that the project management will have adequate capacities to enhance women's participation in project activities and work towards gender equality objectives. In general, a gender perspective will be maintained ensuring that the results of the Action impact positively on gender equality as well.

MINORITIES AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

Participation in project activities will be guaranteed on the basis of equal access regardless of racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, sex or sexual orientation.

ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY (AND IF RELEVANT OTHER NON-STATE STAKEHOLDERS)

In the frame of the Action, activities will be implemented for increased involvement of civil society in activities of the Parliaments in the context of the EU accession process, especially in the form of monitoring the implementation of the Action and providing access to information for them. In the case of the information activities and events of Parliaments (Result 1) CSOs will be specifically involved as stakeholders.

The E-legislation web-platform is required to be very user friendly in order to allow easy access and reviewing of the data to the public. Therefore representatives of the CSO and media will be involved in the development of this platform, by being a part of the focus group, which will test the system and its functions in the development phase.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE (AND IF RELEVANT DISASTER RESILIENCE)

Measure implemented under this Action will not have any specific activities regarding environment.

7. SUSTAINABILITY

The Action has been initiated and elaborated by the highest political level in the Parliaments of BiH, which demonstrates a high level of commitment to project objectives.

Most of the human resources needed for the Action are already available, as the Beneficiaries are established parliamentary structures with introduced working procedures. Mechanisms installed within the Action will be embedded in manuals, guidelines and other acts of the Parliaments. Furthermore, it is foreseen to embed project results in the *EU Integration Action Plans* of the Parliaments.

As a result of the Action and the assistance given, the MPs and parliamentary staff will work to ensure that all knowledge gained through the project will be systematically transferred to all new employees by on the job training delivered through everyday work and manuals developed.

8. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

Communication and visibility will be given high importance during the implementation of the Action.

The implementation of the communication activities shall be the responsibility of the IPA II beneficiary, and shall be funded from the amounts allocated to the Action. An integral part of each activity in the Action will be the definition of a communication strategy and related visibility activities. These activities will be carried out in order to raise the profile of the activities, increase awareness among various target audiences and ensure successful communication of information about the operations and results that will be accomplished.

All necessary measures will be taken to publicise the fact that the Action has received funding from the EU in line with the EU visibility guidelines *Communication and Visibility Manual for EU External Actions*. Additional Visibility Guidelines developed by the Commission (DG NEAR) will have to be followed. Through the development of a communication strategy communication objectives will be set, enabling the successful identification of visibility activities (in order to pull existing resources and create maximum impact when directed to the target groups). Furthermore, in the communication strategy the beneficiary will identify target groups (as recipients of the information), identify key messages (to be transferred to targets in a way to motivate them to perceive information in the desired manner) and set up the communication approach.

Visibility and communication actions shall demonstrate how the intervention contributes to the agreed programme objectives and the accession process. Actions shall be aimed at strengthening general public awareness and support of interventions financed and the objectives pursued. The actions shall aim at highlighting to the relevant target audiences the added value and impact of the EU's interventions. Visibility actions should also promote transparency and accountability on the use of funds.

The following actions and tools should be carried out: definition of visual identity standards; preparation of written materials (factsheets, training compendia, manuals, etc.); production of branded material (panels, folders, promotional material); website; events (trainings, retreats, workshops, round tables, initial and closing events).

It is the responsibility of the beneficiary to keep the EU Delegation fully informed of the planning and implementation of the specific visibility and communication activities.

The beneficiary shall report on its visibility and communication actions in the report submitted to the IPA monitoring committee.