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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 20.7.2016

adopting a Multi-country Action Programme for the year 2016

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures of the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action¹ and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002² and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Regulation (EU) No 231/2014³ lays down the objectives and main principles for pre-accession assistance to beneficiaries listed in Annex I to that Regulation.
- (2) In accordance with Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 the assistance should be implemented through annual or multi-annual, country-specific or multi-country programmes. These programmes should be drawn up in accordance with the framework for assistance referred to in Article 4 of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 and the relevant country or multi-country indicative strategy papers referred to in Article 6 of that Regulation.
- (3) The Council established an Accession Partnership or a European Partnership for all beneficiaries listed in Annex I of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014. The Commission adopted a multi-country indicative strategy paper for the period 2014-2020 on 30 June 2014 which provides indicative allocations for the priorities for multi-country pre-accession assistance⁴.
- (4) Considering the proposals for action submitted by the beneficiaries concerned, the multi-country action programme for 2016 aims at providing assistance in the regional and territorial cooperation sector for actions in the following priorities:
 - i. Horizontal support to sector policies and reforms;
 - ii. Regional structures and networks;
 - iii. Regional investment support.

¹ OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

² OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p.1.

³ Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (OJ L 77, 15.03.2014, p. 11).

⁴ C(2014) 4293, 30.6.2014.

- (5) It is necessary to adopt a financing decision, the detailed rules of which are set out in Article 94 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012⁵.
- (6) The Commission should be able to entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the entities specified in this Decision, subject to the conclusion of a delegation agreement. In accordance with Article 60(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, the authorising officer responsible needs to ensure that these entities guarantee a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union equivalent to that required under Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, when the Commission manages Union funds.
- (7) The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is currently undergoing the assessment under Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012. In anticipation of the results of this review, the authorising officer responsible deems that, based on the entity's positive assessment under Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1605/2002 and on the long-standing and problem-free cooperation with it, budget-implementation tasks can be entrusted to this entity.
- (8) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals to the bodies identified in the Annex and for the reasons provided therein.
- (9) The maximum contribution of the European Union set by this Decision should cover any possible claims for interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 92 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and Article 111(4) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.
- (10) Pursuant to Article 94(4) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, the Commission should define changes to this Decision which are not substantial in order to ensure that any such changes can be adopted by the authorising officer responsible.
- (11) The action programme provided for by this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the IPA II Committee set up by Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014⁶,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the programme

The Multi-country Action Programme 2016 under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) as set out in the Annex, is hereby approved.

Article 2

Financial contribution

⁵ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1).

⁶ The Member States have declared, recalling the Council Conclusions of 18 February 2008, that the adoption of this programme does not prejudice the position of each individual Member State on the status of Kosovo*, which will be decided in accordance with their national practice and international law.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

The maximum amount of the European Union contribution for the implementation of the programme referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 41 285 000 and shall be financed from the budget line 22.02.04.01 of the general budget of the EU for year 2016.

The financial contribution referred to in the first sub-paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

Article 3

Implementation modalities

This programme shall be implemented by direct and indirect management.

The budget implementation tasks under indirect management may be entrusted to the entities identified in the Annex subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreements.

Article 4

Grants without a call for proposals

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to the bodies identified in the Annex, in accordance with the conditions specified therein.

Article 5

Non-substantial changes

The following changes shall not be considered substantial provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions:

- (a) increases or decreases for not more than 20% of the maximum contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, and not exceeding EUR 10 million;
- (b) cumulated reassignments of funds between specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2;
- (c) extensions of the implementation and closure period;
- (d) within the limits of 20% referred to in points (a) and (b) above, up to 5% of the contribution referred to in the first paragraph of Article 2 of this financing decision may serve to finance actions which were not foreseeable at the time the present financing decision was adopted, provided that those actions are necessary to implement the objectives and the results set out in the programme.

The authorising officer responsible may adopt such non-substantial changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 20.7.2016

For the Commission
Johannes HAHN
Member of the Commission

ANNEX 1

TITLE OF THE ACTION PROGRAMME

1 IDENTIFICATION

Beneficiary	Beneficiaries listed in Annex I of the IPA II Regulation (IPA II beneficiaries)
CRIS/ABAC Commitment references	2016/037-900; MCP 2016 - part NEAR 2016/039-320; MCP 2016 - part CLIMA SI2.729762; MCP 2016 - part EACEA
Total cost =EU Contribution	EUR 41 285 000
Budget line	22.020401 – Multi-country programmes, regional integration and territorial cooperation
Management mode/ Entrusted Entity	Direct management by the European Commission Except for: Action No. 10 – Regional Energy Efficiency Programme (REEP) Plus: indirect management by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
Final date for contracting including the conclusion of delegation agreements	at the latest by 31 December 2017
Final date for operational implementation	at the latest by 31 December 2020 Except for: Action No. 2 - Technical Assistance for Roma integration at community level (TARO): 31 December 2021 Action No. 9 - JASPERS' (Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions) assistance to Turkey in the environment sector: 31 December 2021
Programming Unit	DG NEAR Unit D.5 - Regional Cooperation and Programmes
Implementing Unit/ EU Delegation	DG NEAR Unit D.5 - Regional Cooperation and Programmes, with the following exceptions: Action No. 1: Regional investment policy programme, DG NEAR Unit A.3– Thematic Support, Monitoring and Evaluation Action No. 3: Western Balkans Youth Window under Erasmus +, co-delegated to EACEA

	<p>Action No. 7: Support to Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA) Secretariat 2016-2017, DG NEAR Unit A.3– Thematic Support, Monitoring and Evaluation</p> <p>Action No. 8: Regional cooperation and networking in the field of agriculture, rural and economic development of cross-border areas, DG NEAR Unit A.4 – Financial assistance: policy and strategy</p> <p>Action No. 11: Technical assistance towards the implementation of the new Paris Climate Agreement, cross sub-delegated to DG CLIMA</p>
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2 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION PROGRAMME

2.1 SECTORS SELECTED UNDER THIS ACTION PROGRAMME

- Rationale for the selection of the specific sectors under this programme:

This IPA II Multi-country action programme is designed to respond to priority needs as identified in the Multi-country Indicative Strategy Paper 2014-2020 (hereinafter referred to as Strategy Paper) adopted on 30 June 2014¹. The Western Balkans and Turkey face important challenges to meet the political and economic membership criteria and to align with the Union *acquis*. These challenges are common to all IPA II beneficiaries, although to varying degrees. The IPA II Multi-country programme also contributes to meeting the targets and expected results identified in the Strategy Papers for each IPA II beneficiary.

As pointed out in the Strategy Paper, challenges persist in the area of democracy and rule of law, including the functioning of institutions guaranteeing democracy, empowerment of civil society, the fight against organised crime, safeguarding **fundamental rights**, such as freedom of expression and the rights of persons belonging to minorities.

While solutions supported by IPA II funds need to be adapted to the specific situation of each individual IPA II beneficiary and supported under a national IPA programme, certain problems are best tackled at regional or horizontal level. This is the case where a beneficiary cannot achieve the desired results alone as they require close cooperation and support from other IPA II beneficiaries (for instance for fighting organised crime), or where joint efforts are more cost-effective since they create synergies or economies of scale. A particular focus on the support to the reconciliation process in the Western Balkans will be ensured.

The Strategy Paper sets out as well how IPA II assistance will support reforms and investments in line with the identified key challenges for **competitiveness and growth**, in complementarity with assistance provided under the national programmes.

In accordance with the Strategy Paper, assistance will be delivered under the following four headings, each one presenting one dimension of the added value of the horizontal and regional programming:

- i. Horizontal support to sector policies and reforms;
- ii. Regional structures and networks;
- iii. Regional investment support;
- iv. Territorial cooperation.

¹ C(2014)4293, 30.06.2014

The focus of the 2016 multi-country action programme rests to a large extent on tackling the **fundamentals first**, e.g. fundamental rights, including economic development, as well as on the **connectivity agenda**. It contains 11 regional and horizontal actions grouped under the three first headings of the Strategy Paper. One of the actions also contributes to the fourth heading. Where relevant actions under this multi-country action programme shall also respect and shall be implemented in line with the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other beneficiaries' international human rights obligations.

List of Actions foreseen under the selected priorities:

LIST OF ACTIONS	MANAGEMENT MODE	AMOUNT IN EUR
01. Regional investment policy programme	Direct	2 500 000
02. Technical Assistance for Roma integration at community level (TARO)	Direct	5 000 000
03. Western Balkans Youth Window under Erasmus +	Direct	3 000 000
04. Preparatory measures for the participation of IPA II beneficiaries in EU Agencies	Direct	3 000 000
05. European Integration Facility	Direct	3 000 000
06. Enhancing mobility, connectivity and competitiveness in South East Europe – Support to Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)	Direct	7 500 000
07. Support to CEFTA Secretariat	Direct	285 000
08. Regional cooperation and networking in the field of agriculture, rural and economic development of cross-border areas	Direct	500 000
09. JASPERS' assistance to Turkey in the environment sector	Direct	1 000 000
10. Regional Energy Efficiency Programme (REEP) plus	Indirect	15 000 000
11. Technical assistance towards the implementation of the new Paris Climate Agreement	Direct	500 000
TOTAL		41 285 000

Programmes for territorial cooperation and support for civil society development are being decided separately. Also, a financing decision to support investment priorities in infrastructure in the Western Balkans through grants will be taken separately.

- Overview of past and on-going EU, other donors' and/or IPA II beneficiary's actions in the relevant sectors:

When designing this programme due account has been taken of activities implemented under the national programmes, the guidance provided in EU strategic documents, the lessons learned from the programming and implementation of previous EU assistance and the findings from consultations with, *inter alia*, the beneficiaries, International Financial Institutions (IFIs), international organisations, the RCC, EU Member States and civil society organisations.

The lessons learned from IPA I demonstrated that progress towards meeting EU membership criteria is best achieved by a mix of measures planned both at national and at regional level. The IPA interim evaluation and meta- evaluation recommended that the Multi-country programmes should develop more rigorous selection criteria for the supported actions and focus on areas with clear needs for a regional approach. It also

concluded that further efforts are needed to involve regional stakeholders more in programming and that national administrations should be involved in project implementation as a way to improve ownership and coordination.

Other conclusions concern economies of scale in horizontal programmes versus efficiency risks, due to sometimes complex set-ups for their implementation under IPA I assistance.

Under IPA II, efficiency concerns will be addressed by more effective coordination, focusing on fewer priorities, comprehensive and longer-term planning and, where relevant, a sector approach.

2.2 DESCRIPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTIONS

Save differently specified, the essential selection and award criteria for grants (including direct award):

The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant. The essential award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

Priority 1: Horizontal support to sector policies and reforms

Action 1	<i>Regional investment policy programme</i>	<i>Direct Management</i>	<i>EUR 2.5 million</i>
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(1) Description of the action, objective, expected results and key performance indicators

Description of the action: This action aims to define and support the implementation of a common investment policy reform agenda in the Western Balkans, aligned with EU standards and regulations. Under the existing structure of the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA) and the Regional Cooperation council (RCC), these reform efforts will be complemented with the implementation of targeted investment promotion activities to attract more investment in the form of foreign direct investment (FDI) and intra-regional investments. The activities will be framed within the context of the SEE 2020 strategy and the Economic Reform Programmes (ERPs).

Objectives: To contribute to the gradual harmonisation of the investment policies in the Western Balkans with the relevant EU and international standards, and to improve the attraction of the region for international investors by providing practical tools to support the implementation of a regional investment policy integration agenda in the context of the SEE 2020 Strategy and the ERPs, which increase the extra and intra-region FDI inflows, harmonise the regional investments policies and rise their transparency.

Expected results: Regional reform agenda and appropriate regional frameworks developed to increase regional harmonisation and alignment of regional investment policies with the EU standards and regulations; A set of specific policy level reform indicators established to guide and track progress with regional reform implementation; Improved level of investment policy reform implementation in the economies of the

region; Narrowly targeted investor outreach activities implemented to attract investment in specific regional value chains.

Key performance indicators:

- Number of entities receiving advisory services;
- Number of private sector representatives and of intra- and extra-regional investors attending workshops, training events, seminars, conferences, etc., disaggregated by sex;
- Number of new laws/ regulations/ amendments/ codes/ government policies drafted or contributed to the drafting;
- Number of documented interests by investors from the EU and from the Western Balkans.

(2) Assumptions and conditions

Main condition for the timely and successful implementation of the initiative is the full commitment by the IPA II beneficiaries, the World Bank Group (WBG), the RCC and the CEFTA to work towards the objective of setting up a regional investment agenda in the Western Balkans and follow up the adoption and the implementation of the agenda.

(3) Implementation arrangements for the action: Direct management by DG NEAR A3

Grant – Direct grant award (*Regional investment policy programme 2016 – 2019*):

- a) Objectives and foreseen results: See above.
- b) Justification for the use of an exception to calls for proposals: Article 190 (1)(f) of the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No. 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union² (hereinafter referred to as "the Rules of Application"), on account of its technical competence and high degree of specialisation. The WBG's knowledge of the methodology and its mandate, strengths, presence and valuable previous technical expertise in the Western Balkans on this specific type of activity constitutes an extremely valuable advantage for the implementation of the action.
- c) Name of the beneficiary: the WBG.
- d) Indicative amount of the grant: EUR 2.5 million.
- e) Maximum rate of EU co-financing: The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for grants under this action is 93.30% of the eligible cost of the action. The EU contribution will be complemented by the contribution provided by the WBG and the RCC.
- f) Indicative date for signing the grant agreement: Q3 2016.

² OJ L 362 of 31.12.2012, p. 1.

Action 2	<i>Technical Assistance for Roma³ integration at community level (TARO)</i>	<i>Direct Management</i>	<i>EUR 5 million</i>
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(1) Description of the action, objective, expected results and key performance indicators

Description of the action: This action aims to build capacity and empower local Roma communities working with local authorities in the Western Balkans and Turkey in achieving sustainable results and lasting impact for Roma women, men and children in the areas of education, employment, health, housing, civil documentation and the cross-cutting issues of anti-discrimination, gender and poverty. In addition, the action will produce quantitative and qualitative data, analysis, and the related policy recommendations on the situation of Roma integration in the Western Balkan and Turkey, including the assessment and recommendations in relation to re-integration of returnees in the Western Balkans.

The action will be carried out through two related components:

- Component 1 - "Local solutions for good governance and empowerment of Roma communities to better integrate with selected municipalities". Extension of the ROMACT methodology to the Western Balkans and Turkey, to strengthen capacities of local authorities and the participation of local Roma communities in a selected number of local authorities. The project will promote the empowerment of the Roma community and the inclusion of specific Roma integration measures in mainstream policies and budget. Small community projects agreed between municipalities and local Roma communities could also be implemented under this component.
- Component 2 - "Development of robust statistical data on socio-economic status of marginalised Roma communities and related policy advice for an effective integration, including attention to the new challenge of increased number of Roma returnees". This will be achieved by: (i) repeating the 2011 Roma Regional Survey on gaps between Roma and non-Roma populations in the key priority areas (employment, education, health, housing and civil documentation) and producing the corresponding policy recommendations; (ii) assessing the situation, reintegration experiences and challenges faced by returnees⁴ from Western Europe to the Western Balkans and policy recommendations on appropriate responses.

Objectives: To empower and strengthen capacities of Roma communities to better integrate in the Western Balkans and Turkey, to produce solid data and analytical basis to advise on policies for better integration of Roma community and returnees.

Expected results: Better integration of Roma population in the local communities through participation in local policy making and implementation of local actions; Solid

³ The term "Roma" is used here, to refer to a number of different groups (such as Roma, Sinti, Kale, Gypsies, Romanichels, Boyash, Ashkali, Egyptians, Yenish, Dom, Lom) and also includes Travellers, without denying the specificities and varieties of lifestyles and situations of these groups.

⁴ The assessment will not be limited to returnees who will be repatriated due to the new "safe country of origin" status, but also those who returned under earlier initiatives, e.g. in the wake of the 2009 decision of the German Government to return (Roma) asylum seekers to Kosovo*.

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

knowledge of state of play and challenges related to Roma integration in general and Roma refugees in particular; policy advice on effective integration policies for returnees.

Key performance indicators:

- Number of approved Roma integration actions plans at municipal level elaborated in consultation with the Roma communities and successfully implemented;
- Number of local actions implemented with the support of Roma facilitators;
- Number of innovative measures adopted/practices established for Roma integration and their impact on closing the gap between Roma and non-Roma communities;
- Knowledge, information and advocacy material, with a view to support evidence-based policy making by local and national authorities;
- Improved understanding of challenges and key factors for the successful integration of returnees, identification of good practices at the local and national level for reintegration.

(2) Implementation arrangements for the action: Direct management by DG NEAR D5

Component 1 - Grant - Direct grant award (*Extension of the ROMACT methodology to the Western Balkans and Turkey*):

- a) Objectives and foreseen results: Extending the ROMACT methodology to the Western Balkans and Turkey, to assist the local authorities to work with Roma local communities and integrate Roma specific dimension/measures into the mainstream policies, budgets and public service delivery. Activities are meant to support strategic interventions (training, coaching, implementation of participatory working cycles, advocacy actions, etc. during key moments of the municipal cycles: planning, budgeting, local decisions, projects etc.) which influence the attitudes, behaviour and actions of the local actors.
- b) Justification for the use of an exception to calls for proposals: Article 190 (1)(f) of the Rules of Application, on account of its technical competence and high degree of specialisation. With support of the European Commission, the Council of Europe (CoE) has successfully implemented the ROMACT Project since 2013 in 6 EU Member States. The CoE will be awarded the grant directly as: (i) they have implemented ROMACT in the past refining over time the methodology and the management capacities; (ii) for their expertise and presence in EU MSs with which the IPA II beneficiaries will have to align in the future; (iii) the CoE is also contributing financially to the activity.
- c) The name of the beneficiary: Council of Europe.
- d) Indicative amount of the grant: EUR 3 million.
- e) Maximum rate of EU co-financing: The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing is 80% of the eligible cost of the grant.
- f) Indicative date for signing the grant agreement: Q4 2016.

Component 2 – Two Grants - Direct grant award (*Solid socio-economic data on gap between Roma and non Roma population in the Western Balkans and Turkey; assessment on reintegration of returnees in the Western Balkans and related policy recommendation*):

- a) Objectives and foreseen results: Development of robust statistical data on socio-economic status of marginalised Roma communities, assessment and related policy advice for an effective integration, including attention to the new challenge of increased number of Roma returnees. As regards the socio-economic data, the survey should build on the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) / World Bank Regional Roma Survey conducted in 2011. This measurement exercise has the purpose to assess the gap between Roma and non Roma in the five Roma integration priority areas (education, health, employment, access to adequate housing, civil registration). As regards the new element of returnees, the assessment should focus on understanding the situation and reintegration experiences and needs of Roma and non-Roma returnees in the Western Balkans, to guide evidence-based policy dialogue and implementation on the appropriate development response.
- b) Justification for the use of an exception to calls for proposals: Article 190 (1)(f) of the Rules of Application, on account of its technical competence and high degree of specialisation. UNDP and the World Bank will both be awarded one direct grant: (i) due to their work on a similar socio-economic survey in 2011; (ii) expertise and presence on the ground; (iii) co-financing contribution to the activity; (iv) knowledge of the survey methodology and questionnaires used in 2011 will be crucial to ensure comparability across time and reliable monitoring results; (v) expertise of the World Bank currently engaged in the provision of policy advice to governments on services for the reintegration of returnees (Caucasus, Azerbaijan, Syria and Turkey).
- c) The name of the beneficiaries: UNDP and the World Bank.
- d) Indicative amount of the grants: EUR 0.75 million for UNDP (Pillar Assessed Grant Agreement) and EUR 1.25 million for the World Bank (Administration Agreement).
- e) Maximum rate of EU co-financing: The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for the grant to UNDP is 83.3% of the eligible cost of the grant; for the Administration Agreement with the World Bank, the maximum possible rate of EU co-financing is 96.6% of the eligible cost of the grant (to be confirmed at contract signature due to possible fluctuation in the exchange rate).
- f) Indicative date for signing the grant agreement: Q4 2016.

Action 3	<i>Western Balkans Youth Window under Erasmus+</i>	<i>Direct Management</i>	<i>EUR 3 million</i>
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(1) Description of the action, objectives, expected results and key performance indicators

Description of the action: The action will promote participation of young people and youth workers from the Western Balkans in Erasmus+ non-formal learning projects, reinforcing capacity building in the field of youth and allowing organisations from Western Balkans to act as project coordinators and apply directly for an EU grant under the framework of the Erasmus+ programme. To this end, organisational development and capacity building projects in the field of youth will be implemented with the aim to strengthen youth cooperation between Erasmus+ Programme countries and the Western Balkans, as well as cross-border cooperation within the Western Balkan region.

Activities to be supported will include youth exchanges, European Voluntary Service for young people as well as activities encouraging cooperation, networking and exchanges of practices in the field of youth, seminars, conferences, workshops, meetings, training courses, study visits and job-shadowing for youth workers.

Objectives: To improve the level of key competences and skills of young people, including those with fewer opportunities, facilitating young people's active participation in democratic life and the labour market, by means of international non-formal learning activities, capacity building and policy cooperation.

Expected results: Strengthening of cooperation between youth organisations from all Western Balkans with organisations from the Erasmus+ Programme countries as well as the exchange of expertise and know-how between them in the field of youth and non-formal education; Improved involvement of young people from Western Balkans in international youth cooperation to acquire socio-economical skills which could facilitate young people's employability and their integration in society; Promotion of equity and inclusion by facilitating the access to activities for participants with disadvantaged backgrounds and fewer opportunities; Increased involvement of Western Balkans youth workers in joint projects with youth organisations from Erasmus+ program countries; Improvement of the operational capacity of organisations established in the Western Balkans, notably youth organisations, NGOs and National Youth Councils, in particular with regard to the management of international cooperation projects supported by European Union funds.

Key performance indicators:

- Number of youth and other organisations from the Western Balkans participating in joint activities under this Window with organisations from Erasmus+ Programme countries;
- Number of young people (disaggregated by sex at final report level), in particular young people with fewer opportunities, and youth workers from all Western Balkans in a balanced way in joint projects with organisations from the Erasmus+ Programme countries.

(2) Implementation arrangements for the action: Direct management by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).

Grant – Call for proposals (*Western Balkans Youth Window under Erasmus +*):

- a) Objectives and foreseen results: See above.
- b) The essential eligibility criteria: Applicants can be non-profit organisations, associations, NGO's (including European Youth NGOs); national Youth Councils or public bodies at local, regional or national level established in the IPA II beneficiaries of the Western Balkans. These criteria are further detailed in the Erasmus+ Programme Guide. Proposed actions must be transnational and involve a minimum of 3 participating organisations from 3 different Beneficiaries of which at least one is from the Western Balkans and one an Erasmus+ Programme country.
- c) The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.
- d) The essential award criteria are relevance, quality of project design and implementation, quality of the project team and cooperation arrangements, as well as impact and dissemination.
- e) Maximum rate of EU co-financing: up to 80% of eligible costs, and/or application of the scales of unit costs valid for the Erasmus+ programme. Several types of costs linked to the involvement of young people with fewer opportunities can be covered up to 100%. The specific financial rules are outlined in the Erasmus+ Programme Guide.
- f) Indicative amount of the call: EUR 3.0 million.
- g) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals: two deadlines per year (Q1 2017 and Q3 2017) with indicatively EUR 1.5 million each.

Action 4	<i>Preparatory measures for the participation of IPA II beneficiaries in EU Agencies</i>	<i>Direct Management</i>	<i>EUR 3 million</i>
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(1) Description of the action, objectives, expected results and key performance indicators

Description of the action: The action allows selected EU Agencies⁵ to carry out specific measures with the IPA II beneficiaries and stakeholders so as to prepare their future participation in these EU Agencies upon membership or earlier. The support aims as

⁵ European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA); European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE); European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA); European Union Agency for Railways (ERA); European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA); European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC); European Chemicals Agency (ECHA); European Food Safety Authority (EFSA); European Medicines Agency (EMA); European Environment Agency (EEA); European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound); and European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA).

well at knowledge transfer to and capacity building of the authorities in the area of expertise of the EU Agencies. The support aims as well at knowledge transfer and capacity building in the area of expertise of the EU Agencies. The preparatory measures include interactive working sessions, trainings and workshops aiming at capacity building, transfer of knowledge and development of skills that should lead to the creation of the necessary administrative structures, compliance of the national legislation with the EU *acquis*, application of the standardised methodologies in the field of expertise of respective agencies or establishment of effective networks.

Objectives: To support the approximation to and adoption of the EU *acquis* in the IPA II beneficiaries in areas such as the Rule of Law and Fundamental rights, the transport sector, competitiveness as well as environment and climate change or food and medicines safety.

Expected results: Rule of law strengthened (EMCDDA); Use of existing national focal point and tripartite national network for the collection and dissemination of information via publications, trainings and other routes and activities to raise awareness and support compliance with legislation coherent with the EU *acquis* in occupational safety and health (EU-OSHA); Communicable disease surveillance and control capacities enhanced, preparedness capabilities improved (ECDC); Enhanced quality of women and men in society (EIGE); Enhanced preparedness of beneficiaries' authorities to implement EU chemicals *acquis*, participate effectively in the work of ECHA and become fully operational upon their accession to the EU (ECHA); Enhanced capacity to establish scientific advice function in national food safety systems and IPA preparedness to anticipate and respond effectively to food safety risks (EFSA); Safer medicines (EMA); Comprehensive Environmental Change Reporting (EEA) and informed policy decisions; Availability of up-to-date information and analysis on working conditions and quality of life (Eurofound); Security and safety enhanced and the related procedures updated (EASA); Enhanced standards of maritime safety, maritime security and marine pollution prevention, preparedness and response (EMSA) and IMO audit scheme passed; Safety, interoperability enhanced and the related investigation and reporting procedures harmonised with the EU (ERA).

Key performance indicators:

- Level of progress achieved by the IPA II beneficiaries towards their full preparation for the participation in the work of the EMCDDA;
- Number of interventions and audience for activities;
- Number of EU notifiable communicable diseases reported to ECDC surveillance systems;
- Number of IPA II beneficiaries that have produced a national Gender Equality Index (EIGE);
- Positive contributions to the implementation the EU chemicals legislation in the beneficiaries' authorities (ECHA);
- Number of cooperation initiatives established between EFSA, EU member states and IPA II beneficiaries to address the common food safety risks;
- Participation rate in inspection activities (EMA);
- Increased quantity and quality of data reporting under the Eionet core data flows (EEA);
- Available qualitative and quantitative data through European Quality of Life Survey Dataset (Eurofound);

- Increase of Effective Implementation of applicable standards and requirements on aviation safety (EASA);
- Fleet performance under Paris Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control; Level of implementation and enforcement of maritime law (EMSA);
- Number of legal national texts of the IPA II beneficiaries related to safety and interoperability notified to ERA.

(2) Implementation arrangements for the action: Direct management by DG NEAR D5

Grant - Direct grant award (*Preparatory measures for participation of IPA II beneficiaries in EU agencies*):

- Objectives and foreseen results: See above.
- Justification for the use of an exception to calls for proposals: Article 190 (1)(f) of the Rules of Application, since a particular type of body on account of its technical competence and its high degree of specialisation is required.
- The names of the beneficiaries: EMCDDA; EIGE; EMSA; ERA; EASA; ECDC; ECHA; EFSA; EMA; EEA; Eurofound; and OSHA.
- Indicative amount of the grants: (in EUR million) EMCDDA: 0.34; EIGE: 0.20; EMSA: 0.20; ERA: 0.20; EASA: 0.29; ECDC: 0.26; ECHA: 0.18; EFSA: 0.32; EMA: 0,20; EEA: 0.32; Eurofound: 0.25; OSHA: 0.24.
- Maximum rate of EU co-financing: The maximum possible rate of EU financing will be 100% of the total cost of the action. For EU visibility reasons it is essential that the EU is the sole donor for the action.
- Indicative date for signing the grant agreements: Q3 2016 – Q4 2017.

Action 5	European Integration Facility	Direct Management	EUR 3 million
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(1) Description of the action, objectives, expected results and key performance indicators

Description of the action: The action will enable the implementation of a small number of accession-related actions in order to meet specific and urgent needs in the region, as well as relevant support to networking and visibility activities or unforeseen needs. In that sense, the activities and the tasks will serve the purpose of supporting *acquis* chapters for the unspecified institution building needs (training, technical assistance, grants, etc.), (pre)-feasibility studies, monitoring and evaluation activities, and support for the relevant EU networks. A pilot action for a regional executive programme and exchange component for young civil servants from the Western Balkans is also foreseen.

Objectives: To contribute to progress in the accession process and increase the effectiveness and impact of accession oriented actions.

Expected results: Implementation of a number of accession related project preparatory

and start-up actions ensured; Urgent/bridging support for important regional initiatives and organisations; Technical maintenance and development support to important regional initiatives is granted; Visibility material produced; Monitoring and evaluation missions/studies carried out; Networking events organised; Studies and assessments carried out; Training provided; Pilot action of executive and exchange programme successfully completed.

Key performance indicators:

- Number of preparatory and start-up actions implemented;
- Number of good quality communication materials produced;
- Number of outputs, such as Terms of Reference, technical specifications, feasibility studies and other documents;
- Number of trained persons;
- Number of monitoring/evaluation missions carried out;
- Number of young civil servants having successfully completed the executive programme.

(2) Implementation arrangements for the action: Direct management by DG NEAR D5

Procurement:

- a) The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 2.1 million.
- b) The indicative number and type of contracts: 5 – 6 service contracts/specific contracts under framework contracts.
- c) Indicative time frame for launching the procurement procedure: Q4 2016-Q3 2017.

Grant - Direct grant award (EU Scheme for Young Professionals in the Western Balkans):

- a) Objectives and foreseen results: To organise a pilot action for a regional executive programme and exchange component for young civil servants from the Western Balkans (5 from each IPA II beneficiary). The 30 candidates would jointly participate in a tailor-made 3-4 week long executive programme covering key public administration areas such as policy formulation and analysis.
- b) Justification for the use of an exception to calls for proposals: Article 190 (1) (f) of the Rules of Application for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power. The British Council will be awarded the grant directly building on its mandate, strengths, presence and valuable previous expertise in the Western Balkans, particularly in implementing a similar scheme, the Young Cells Scheme in Kosovo.
- c) Name of the beneficiary: The British Council.
- d) Indicative amount of the grant: EUR 0.9 million.

- e) Maximum rate of EU co-financing: The maximum possible rate of EU financing will be 100% of the total cost of the grant. For EU visibility reasons it is essential that the EU is the sole donor for the action.
- f) Indicative date for signing the grant agreement: Q3 2016.

Action 6	<i>Enhancing mobility, connectivity and competitiveness in South East Europe – Support to RCC</i>	Direct Management	EUR 7.5 million
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(1) Description of the action, objectives, expected results and key performance indicators

Description of the action: The action will support the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) Secretariat in the implementation of its Strategy and Work Programme 2017-2019. It aims to support regional cooperation and help remove obstacles to increased intra-regional mobility, enhanced connectivity and improved competitiveness in South East Europe (SEE) as well as to build confidence through regional instruments and interventions by 2019.

Objectives: To strengthen regional cooperation and economic integration of South East Europe through sustained implementation of SEE 2020 Strategy and the rule of law and security agenda. Strong focus will be given to enhance mobility, connectivity and competitiveness in SEE region.

Expected results: (1) Skills and mobility - removing obstacles to mobility of professionals in SEE and creating preconditions for automatic recognition of qualifications in SEE; (2) Connectivity - development of economic corridors in SEE and reduction of roaming charges in the Western Balkans; (3) Competitiveness - improvement of investment policies and development of the industrial base in the region; (4) Rule of law and security – developing a quality legal and regulatory framework, deploying e-services and increasing use of IT tools; addressing corruption more affectively at national and regional level; building and increasing trust in justice in the region and creating of a common judicial culture in line with EU standards; harmonization of the national legislation dealing with the issues of foreign terrorist fighters.

Key performance indicators:

- Increase of intra-regional Trade in goods (SEE 2020);
- Government effectiveness improved, WBI index (SEE 2020);
- Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) on Professional Qualifications signed;
- Standards and procedures in place for automatic recognition in line with the commitments made within the Bologna process;
- Regional instrument agreed in the area of investment.

(2) Assumptions and conditions

The environment conducive to the implementation of the action will depend on several key factors, including (i) political commitments, (ii) setting up and strengthening the necessary structures for implementation and (iii) developing the capacity of involved stakeholders at the national and regional level.

(3) Implementation arrangements for the action: Direct management by DG NEAR D5

Grant - Direct grant award (*Enhancing mobility, connectivity and competitiveness in South East Europe – Support to Regional Cooperation Council*)

- a) Objectives and foreseen results: See above.
- b) Justification for the use of an exception to calls for proposals: Article 190 (1) (c) of the Rules of Application on account of its de facto monopoly. The RCC is thus a unique institution for regional cooperation, and no other organisation can perform this function. By supporting the Action of the RCC Secretariat, which is the main partner for regional cooperation in South East Europe, the EU will also strengthen regional cooperation per se. The EU has made a political commitment to support it as a forum for such cooperation.
- c) The name of the beneficiary: RCC Secretariat.
- d) Indicative amount of the grant: EUR 7.5 million.
- e) Maximum rate of EU co-financing: The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for this grant is 60.4 % of the eligible cost of the action.
- f) Indicative date for signing the grant: Q4 2016.

Action 7	Support to CEFTA Secretariat	Direct Management	EUR 0.285 million
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(1) Description of the action, objective, expected results and key performance indicators

Description of the action: The action will be implemented following the conclusion of one direct grant agreement (operating grant) for one year duration (April 2017-March 2018) (with the CEFTA Secretariat. The CEFTA Secretariat with its international core staff continues to support the CEFTA Structures in the implementation of CEFTA and coordinates the former with the implementation of the Integrated Growth Pillar of the SEE 2020 Strategy.

The EU contribution will complement the overall contribution provided to the Secretariat by CEFTA members and will be used to cover salaries and running costs of the CEFTA Secretariat in Brussels.

Objective: To continue supporting the Secretariat in its mandate of technical assistance provider for CEFTA members.

Expected results: Implementation of the CEFTA Agreement promoted; Enforcement of the decisions adopted by the CEFTA Structures to liberalise and facilitate trade strengthened.

Key performance indicators:

- Increase of intra-regional trade in goods;
- Trade liberalization agenda implemented;
- No. of Mutual Recognition Agreements signed and N. of Ministerial Decisions adopted to facilitate trade and liberalise trade in services.

(2) Assumptions and conditions

Main condition for the timely and successful implementation of the initiative is the full commitment by CEFTA members to continue working towards the objective of facilitating trade in the Western Balkans and, within this framework to well as to benefit from the role of the Secretariat as technical service provider.

3) Implementation arrangements for the action: Direct management by DG NEAR A3

Grant - Direct grant award (*Support to CEFTA Secretariat*):

- a) Objectives and foreseen results: See above.
- b) Justification for the use of an exception to calls for proposals: Article 190 (1)(f) of the Rules of Application on account of its technical competence and high degree of specialisation. Since 2001, regional trade policy in the region of South East Europe has been developed and implemented under the auspices of the Stability Pact's Trade Working Group. With the entry into force of Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA) in 2006 responsibility for facilitating, managing, monitoring and promoting trade relations was transferred to the CEFTA institutions. The Secretariat was established in 2007 through a CEFTA Joint Committee Decision and received the mandate to provide technical and administrative support to the Joint Committee, to any sub-committee, expert group or other body established by the Joint Committee so as to support the CEFTA Parties in the implementation of the CEFTA 2006 and of trade related components of the SEE 2020 Strategy.
- c) Name of the beneficiary: CEFTA Secretariat.
- d) Indicative amount of the grant: EUR 0.285 million.
- e) Maximum rate of EU co-financing: The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for this grant is 44.82 % of the eligible cost of the action.
- f) Indicative date for signing the grant agreement: Q4 2016.

Action 8	<i>Regional cooperation and networking in the field of agriculture, rural and economic development of cross-border areas</i>	Direct Management	EUR 0.5 million
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(1) Description of the action, objective, expected results and key performance indicators

Description of the action: The focus of this action is to foster regional cooperation among institutions and stakeholders in the agriculture and food sector, with a view to enabling a more balanced territorial development of the Western Balkans in the perspective of EU integration.

Through this action, the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in South Eastern Europe (RRD SWG SEE) will also continue to facilitate regional cooperation so as to create the necessary framework conditions further overall economic development and private sector investments in rural cross-border areas. In addition, the action also aims at improving the conditions for the sustainable use of natural resources and environmental protection in the designated cross-border areas.

Objective: to strengthen the networking and cooperation among public institutions and stakeholders as well as with other relevant regional bodies in order to accelerate the EU accession process of the Western Balkans in the agriculture and rural development sectors.

Expected results: Enhanced cooperation and networking among IPA II beneficiaries in the agriculture and rural development sectors through the development of joint statements, positions, declarations and the promotion of a continuous political and policy dialogue; Enhanced opportunities for development of the economic and social context in the rural and cross-border areas through the provision of technical support for the development of quality project proposals and information activities.

Key performance indicators:

- Number of political measures/ statements for future joint cooperation in the field of agriculture and rural development among the Western Balkans;
- Number of agriculture and rural development common policies directions set in line with *EU acquis*.

(2) Assumptions and conditions

Successful implementation is only possible through coordinated, collaborative and comprehensive efforts of all stakeholders working together towards a shared vision of integrated economic development of the cross-border regions.

3) Implementation arrangements for the action: Direct management by DG NEAR A4

Grant - Direct grant award (*Regional cooperation and networking in the field of agriculture, rural and economic development of cross-border areas*):

- a) Objectives and foreseen results: See above.

- b) Justification for the use of an exception to calls for proposals: Article 190 (1)(f) of the Rules of Application, since the Regional Rural Development Standing RRD SWG SEE is a particular type of body with relevant technical competence.

The European Commission has worked with the RRD SWG SEE since September 2011 which successfully completed a first preparatory project for the implementation of an area-based development approach (ABDA) in September 2012. Since then the RRD SWG SEE methodology combined with the existing structures are perceived by local stakeholders as an adequate response to the needs, in particular because it has access to international institutions and can advise the national administrations with regards to improving the legal framework for local development or taking into account bottom-up expressed needs on the design of top-down strategies. It can also act as an institutional umbrella for facilitation of the implementation of initiatives in the selected cross-border regions.

The RRD SWG SEE has been involved since the beginning in the development of ABD programmes and has been and continues to be an informed and active participant in the entire evolution of this process. In this regard, the PMUs established under previous projects are well placed to assist and facilitate project generation within the regional strategic framework and programming for economic development of the cross-border region. In addition, the publicity for other relevant policy instruments and available support will be enhanced by the PMU.

- c) Name of the beneficiary: RRD SWG SEE.
- d) Indicative amount of the grant: EUR 0.5 million.
- e) Maximum rate of EU co-financing: The maximum possible rate of EU financing will be 100% of the total cost of the action. SWG provides support to the implementation of the IPA II beneficiaries' reform efforts (including *acquis* alignment) in the Western Balkans in line with Article 1 of Regulation 231/2014, in particular in the area of agriculture and rural development. This requires significant resources which SWG does not avail of, hence a 100% support for the action is needed.
- f) Indicative date for signing the grant agreement: Q3 2017.

Action 9	<i>JASPERS' assistance to Turkey in the environment sector</i>	Direct Management	EUR 1 million
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(1) Description of the action, objective, expected results and key performance indicators

Description of the action: JASPERS is a technical assistance facility created to support the new Member States which joined the EU in 2004 and 2007 to access EU Structural Funds. Since 2013, JASPERS has expanded its services to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. In view of the positive experience in

these countries, it was decided to extend the opportunity of JASPERS' support to all IPA II beneficiaries. This action will allow the continuity of the technical assistance offered by JASPERS since the beginning of 2016. The action will therefore provide technical assistance to prepare successful, high quality environment infrastructure projects in Turkey, jointly identified by the European Commission, the EU Delegation to Turkey and the Turkish Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation. It will contribute to bring these priority investments projects to maturity by offering support to develop, manage and review the quality of project preparation documents, making them eligible and mature for EU funds.

Objective: To support the improvement of living standards and hygienic conditions for the population and the resulting socio-economic growth of Turkey by improving the quality of the environmental infrastructures investment projects ready for financing/implementation.

Expected results: Accelerate and improve the preparation, development, management and review of environment infrastructure investment projects jointly identified by the European Commission, the EU Delegation to Ankara and the Turkish Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation, and contribute to the exchange of skills and knowledge.

Key performance indicators:

- Number of projects supported by JASPERS which have been fully completed (source: JASPERS' progress report);
- Total value of the project supported by JASPERS (source: idem);
- Total EU funding used for the projects supported by JASPERS (source: idem).

(2) Implementation arrangements for the action: Direct management by DG NEAR D5

Grant - Direct grant award (*JASPERS' assistance to Turkey in the environment sector*):

- a) Objectives and foreseen results: See above.
- b) Justification for the use of an exception to calls for proposals: In accordance with Article 125 (7) of the Financial Regulation, the grants for actions of technical assistance may be awarded to the EIB without a call for proposals. In such cases Articles 131(2) to (5) and 132(1) shall not apply.
- c) Name of the beneficiary: European Investment Bank (EIB).
- d) Indicative amount of the grant: EUR 1 million.
- e) Maximum rate of EU co-financing: chose one of the following options: The maximum possible rate of EU financing will be 100% of the total cost of the action. For EU visibility reasons it is essential that the EU is the sole donor for the action.
- f) Indicative date for signing the grant agreement: Q3 2016.

Action 10	<i>Regional Energy Efficiency Programme (REEP) Plus</i>	Indirect Management	EUR 15 million
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(1) Description of the action, objective, expected results and key performance indicators

Description of the action: The action supports the extension of the Regional Energy Efficiency Programme for the Western Balkans – a comprehensive programme managed and administered by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), designed to deliver energy efficiency finance using investment grants and technical assistance to address persisting market barriers – which is stimulating the longer-term energy efficiency market development. It aims to create an enabling policy environment, support investment preparation and provide medium-term financing to encourage households, businesses and the public sector to prioritise investment in energy efficiency. The action focuses on enabling financing operations in this area and extends the programme to also benefit the residential sector.

Objectives: To support the Western Balkans in developing an effective energy efficiency market in order to achieve estimated energy savings and carbon emission reductions.

Expected results: Policy dialogue support to beneficiaries increased; EBRD financing on-lent to finance eligible investments; Sustainable Capacity Building in partner financing institutions (PFIs) and Transfer of Skills; Market Expansion.

Key performance indicators:

- Number of households and businesses reached (source: EBRD annual donor report);
- Number of officials trained (source: EBRD annual donor report);
- Value of energy savings at facility level.

(2) Implementation arrangements for the action: Indirect management with the EBRD

(2)(a) Entity entrusted with budget implementation tasks

The EBRD is an experienced risk finance institution and as such possesses significant experience in developing and implementing EU finance facilities. The Bank has been active in financing energy efficiency in the Western Balkans since mid-2000s. In 2013, with the support of the European Union and in partnership with the Energy Community Secretariat (ECS), the EBRD established the Regional Energy Efficiency Programme (REEP) for the Western Balkans. REEP Plus is the extension of REEP into the residential sector, and continuation of financing of the private and public sectors.

The essential selection criteria are the financial and operational capacity of EBRD, as well as relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the execution of the action. EBRD, as implementer of the previous REEP, will provide added value to the REEP Plus through the existing network of participating financial institutions, its offices in all the six beneficiaries, existing staff already operational, as well as existing website and visibility activities. One does not expect issues with contracting preventing EBRD from taking on the action. Nevertheless, in case of such situation, the Commission will explore contracting with other IFIs, namely the

Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) and the European Investment Bank (EIB) that also have relevant experience in financing energy efficiency in the Western Balkans. The EU co-financing rate is fixed at 11.4%.

(2)(b) Short description of the tasks entrusted to the entity

Window 1: Technical support for preparing public tenders for energy efficiency ESCO (Energy Service Companies) projects - consisting of TA to support the preparation of tender documentation for ESCO projects.

Window 2: Up to EUR 75 million Facility will be made available by EBRD to qualifying PFIs (partner financing institutions) under the Western Balkan Sustainable Energy Direct Financing Facility (“WeBSEDF”) in the beneficiaries for on-lending to private and public sector sub-borrowers (businesses, individuals, housing collectives, vendors, suppliers, ESCOs, service providers and municipalities) for sustainable energy investments. Window 2 will be complemented by EU funds covering investment Incentives for sub-borrowers, in the range of 10 - 35% of the sub-loan amounts depending on the nature and performance of sub-projects and payable only subject to verification of sub-project completion.

REEP Plus will be managed and administered by the EBRD in accordance with the EBRD policies and procedures in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and other private sector development initiatives including the EU Delegations. The PFIs will be selected by the EBRD based on their financial strength, geographic coverage and branch network, and commitment to engage in sustainable energy finance.

The EBRD will select the borrowers to be financed in accordance with its own internal procedures. The EBRD assesses the creditworthiness of each borrower on a case-by-case basis as part of the due diligence process and puts in place appropriate credit quality monitoring benchmarks/ covenants. The EU will be kept regularly informed on the loans signed through the progress reports.

The EBRD will procure and manage the Consultants providing services under the technical assistance and provide guidance on interaction with the relevant governments on policy dialogue. Consultants will be selected and contracted pursuant to the EBRD procurement policies and rules.

Action 11	<i>Technical assistance towards the implementation of the new Paris Climate Agreement</i>	Direct Management	EUR 0.5 million
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(1) Description of the action, objective, expected results and key performance indicators

Description of the action: The action provides assistance to support the implementation of the 2015 Paris climate agreement in the Western Balkans and Turkey. It will support efforts from IPA II beneficiaries through a project with a limited scope of activities designed to bridge the period between the current multi-annual Environment and Climate Regional Accession Network (ECRAN) and the next IPA II Multi-country

Programme 2017. In this perspective, the action will be instrumental in keeping the momentum created by the ECRAN programme and supporting IPA II beneficiaries in their climate and energy policy reforms, as well as their efforts in transformation towards a resource efficient, low emissions and climate-resilient economy.

The action will focus on some climate awareness actions on climate policy and on provisions of the 2015 Paris climate agreement and some further support to convergence with EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) and the Greenhouse gas (GHG) Monitoring Mechanism Regulation (MMR) legislation. The action should simultaneously address both the high-level raising awareness and work on technical level.

Objective: To support the beneficiaries to build their capacity towards the implementation of the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement and to provide further support to low emissions development; To support regional cooperation through the exchange of information, best practices, experience and awareness-raising between and among IPA II beneficiaries.

Expected results: Climate policies and strategies to support implementation of IPA beneficiaries' commitments under the Paris climate agreement identified; Plans for capacity building on national GHG inventories prepared; Monitoring and reporting, and accreditation and verification requirements targeted at operators, authorities and verifiers under the EU ETS strengthened.

Key performance indicators:

- Number of workshops and/or high-level dialogues raising awareness on the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement held;
- Number of civil servants in the workshops/high-level dialogues;
- Greenhouse gas (GHG) Inventory Reports for EEA /United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) submitted;
- Number of guidelines for operators/authorities/verifiers on monitoring and reporting and accreditation and verification drafted.

2) Implementation arrangements for the action: Direct management by DG CLIMA

Procurement:

- a) The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 0.5 million.
- b) The indicative number and type of contracts: one service contract (international restricted tender following the PRAG rules).
- c) The indicative time frame for launching the procurement procedure: Q2 2016.

Provision applying to all grants under section 2.2: The maximum possible rate of EU financing may be up to 100% of the total cost of the action in accordance with Article 192 of Financial Regulation if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out. The necessity for full EU funding will be justified by the responsible authorising officer in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

3 BUDGET

3.1 INDICATIVE BUDGET TABLE -- MULTI COUNTRY ACTION PROGRAMME

CRIS/ABAC Decision number	Management Mode	Entrusted Entity	Max. EU Contribution (EUR)	Indicative Co-financing (EUR)	Entity providing co-financing	TOTALS (EUR)	Commission Implementing Unit
			16 500 000	1 724 000		18 224 000	
037-900	DM		2 500 000	180 000		2 680 000	NEAR A3
037-900	DM		5 000 000	750 000 150 000 Approx. 44 000 (\$ 50 000)	CoE UNDP WB	5 944 000	NEAR D5
SI2.729762	DM		3 000 000	*600 000	grant beneficiaries	3 600 000	Co-delegation to EACEA
037-900	DM		3 000 000	0		3 000 000	NEAR D5
037-900	DM		3 000 000	0		3 000 000	NEAR D5
			8 285 000	5 255 800		13 540 800	
037-900	DM		7 500 000	4 905 000	RCC	12 405 000	NEAR D5
037-900	DM		285 000	350 800	CEFTA	635 800	NEAR A3
037-900	DM		500 000	0		500 000	NEAR A4

	border areas								
	Regional investment support								
037-900	Action 9 - JASPERS	DM	16 500 000	116 500 000	133 000 000				
			1 000 000	0	1 000 000				NEAR D5
037-900	Action 10 – Regional Energy Efficiency Programme (REEP) Plus	IM	15 000 000	116 500 000	131 500 000				NEAR D5
039-320	Action 11 – TA Paris Climate	DM	500 000	0	500 000				Cross delegation to CLIMA
	TOTALS		41 285 000	123 479 800	164 764 800				

by CRIS/ABAC Decision	Max. EU Contribution	Indicative Co-financing	Total
037-900	37 785 000	122 879 800	160 664 800
039-320	500 000	0	500 000
SI2.729762	3 000 000	600 000	3 600 000
Total programme	41 285 000	123 479 800	164 764 800

DM - Direct management
IM – Indirect management

* The grant is a combination of unit costs and portion of eligible costs. The specific financial rules are outlined in the Erasmus+ Programme Guide.

4 IMPLEMENTATION MODALITIES AND GENERAL RULES FOR PROCUREMENT AND GRANT AWARD PROCEDURES

DIRECT MANAGEMENT:

Part of this programme shall be implemented by direct management by the European Commission in accordance with article 58(1)(a) of the Financial Regulation and the corresponding provisions of its Rules of Application.

Procurement shall follow the provisions of Part Two, Title IV Chapter 3 of the Financial Regulation No 966/2012 and Part Two, Title II, Chapter 3 of its Rules of Application.

Grant award procedures shall follow the provisions of Part Two Title IV Chapter 4 of the Financial Regulation No 966/2012 and Part Two Title II Chapter 4 of its Rules of Application.

Under the Financial Regulation, Parts One and Three of the Financial Regulation and its Rules of Application shall apply to external actions except as otherwise provided in Part Two, Title IV.

The European Commission may also use services and supplies under its Framework Contracts concluded following Part One of the Financial Regulation.

INDIRECT MANAGEMENT:

Part of this programme shall be implemented by indirect management with entrusted entities other than the IPA II beneficiary in accordance with Article 58(1)(c) of the Financial Regulation and the corresponding provisions of its Rules of Application.

The general rules for procurement and grant award procedures shall be defined in the relevant delegation agreements between the Commission and the entrusted entity implementing such action.

5 PERFORMANCE MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

As part of its performance measurement framework, the European Commission shall monitor and assess progress towards achievement of the specific objectives set out in the IPA II Regulation on the basis of pre-defined, clear, transparent measurable indicators. The progress reports referred to in Article 4 of the IPA II Regulation shall be taken as a point of reference in the assessment of the results of IPA II assistance.

The European Commission will collect performance data (process, output and outcome indicators) from all sources, which will be aggregated and analysed in terms of tracking the progress versus the targets and milestones established for each of the actions of this programme, as well as the Multi- Country Indicative Strategy Paper.

In the specific context of indirect management by IPA II beneficiaries, National IPA Co-ordinators (NIPACs) will collect information on the performance of the actions and programmes (process, output and outcome indicators) and coordinate the collection and production of indicators coming from national sources.

The overall progress will be monitored through the following means: a) Result Orientated Monitoring (ROM) system; b) IPA II Beneficiaries' own monitoring; c) self-monitoring performed by the EU Delegations; d) joint monitoring by DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations and the IPA II Beneficiaries, whereby the compliance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency and coordination in implementation of financial assistance will be regularly monitored by an IPA II Monitoring committee, supported by Sectoral Monitoring committees, which will ensure a monitoring process at sector level.

