



EUROPEAN
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Brussels, 20.7.2016
C(2016) 4887 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 20.7.2016

**amending Commission Implementing Decision C(2015) 5242 final of 22 July 2015
adopting a Multi-country Action Programme for the year 2015**

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amending Commission Implementing Decision C(2015) 5242 final of 22 July 2015 adopting a Multi-country Action Programme for the year 2015

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) The Multi-country Action Programme for the year 2015 was adopted on 22 July 2015 by Commission Implementing Decision C(2015) 5242 final, amended by Commission Implementing Decision C(2016) 1469 final adopted on 11 March 2016, and last amended by Decision approved by the authorising officer by sub-delegation on 22 April 2016.
- (3) Action No. 12 - Support to the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) for Technical Assistance for 2015 is to be partly implemented in indirect management by the European Investment Bank (EIB) in co-delegation with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB), the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) and the World Bank Group, which are all partners of the WBIF.
- (4) An identical action (Action No. 14 – Support to Western Balkans Infrastructure Investment Projects for 2014) under the Multi-country Action Programme 2014 is being implemented in direct management with the EIB.
- (5) It is appropriate to amend the Multi-country Action Programme under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II), and in particular, Action No. 12 to change the implementation management mode from indirect to direct, in order to allow for: (i) consistency of implementation and legal set-up for identical actions; (ii) a rapid and efficient signature of the agreement by using on the model of the Specific Grant Agreement already negotiated with the EIB and signed in December 2015 and; (iii) the urgently required launch of the implementation of the action.

¹ OJ L 77, 15.03.2014, 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).

- (6) It is appropriate to acknowledge that grants may be awarded without a call for proposals by the responsible authorising officer who ensures that the conditions for an exception to a call for proposals according to Article 190 of the Rules of Application are fulfilled. The reasons for and potential beneficiaries of such award should be identified, where known, in this Decision for reasons of transparency.
- (7) 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 1268/2012.⁴
- (8) The amended 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 231/2014 [⁵],

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole article

Adoption of the amendment

The Annex to Commission Commission Implementing Decision C(2015) 5242 final of 22 July 2015 is hereby replaced by the Annex to this Decision.

Done at Brussels, 20.7.2016

*For the Commission,
Johannes HAHN
Member of the Commission*

⁴ 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).

⁵ The Member States have declared, recalling the Council Conclusions of 18 February 2008, that the adoption of the amendment to the 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.

ANNEX 1

MULTI-COUNTRY ANNUAL ACTION PROGRAMME 2015

1 IDENTIFICATION

Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries listed in Annex I of the IPA II Regulation (IPA II beneficiaries)
CRIS/ABAC Commitment references	2015/031-609; MCP 2015 - part NEAR 2015/037-898; MCP 2015 - part ESTAT 2015/038-051; MCP 2015 – part MOVE
Total cost = EU Contribution	2015/038-052; MCP 2015 – part ECHO
Budget line	2015/038-054; MCP 2015 – part EMPL SI2.705880; MCP 2015 - part EACEA EUR 122 555 000 22.020401 – Multi-country programmes, regional integration and territorial cooperation
Management mode/ Entrusted Entity	Direct management by the European Commission Except for: Action 15 – Trusteeship agreements: indirect management by the European Investment Fund (EIF)
Final date for contracting including the conclusion of delegation agreements	at the latest by 31 December 2016
Final date for operational implementation	at the latest by 31 December 2019 Except for Action: No. 1: 31 December 2020 No. 7: 31 December 2020 No. 12: 31 December 2021 No. 13: 31 December 2020 No. 14: 31 December 2023 No. 15: 31 December 2023
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: Statistics, cross-delegated to DG ESTAT Action No. 2: Economic governance and competitiveness, DG NEAR Unit A.3,– Thematic Support, Monitoring and Evaluation

	<p>Action No. 4: Western Balkans Youth Window under Erasmus +, co-delegated to EACEA</p> <p>Action No. 6: Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA), DG NEAR Unit A.3</p> <p>Action No. 8: Disaster Risk, cross-delegated to DG ECHO</p> <p>Action No. 9: South East Europe Transport Observatory (SEETO), cross-delegated to DG MOVE</p> <p>Action No. 11: Employment platform, cross-delegated to DG EMPL</p> <p>Action No. 14: Enterprise Development and Innovation Facility (EDIF), DG NEAR Unit A.4– Financial instruments</p>
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2 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION PROGRAMME

2.1 PRIORITIES SELECTED UNDER THIS ACTION PROGRAMME

- Rationale for the selection

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.

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.

¹ C(2014)4293, 30.06.2014

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.

The 2015 multi-country action programme contains 15 regional and horizontal actions grouped under the three first headings of the Strategy Paper. 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:

The focus of the 2015 Multi-country action programme rests to a large extent on tackling the **fundamentals first**, e.g. rule of law, democracy and good governance, including economic governance as well as on the **connectivity agenda**.

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 Regional Cooperation Council (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, as illustrated already through the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF), focusing on fewer priorities, comprehensive and longer-term planning and, where relevant, a sector approach.

2.2 DESCRIPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTIONS

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	Statistics	Direct management	EUR 16.00 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 by a set of main activities which cover governance issues such as the application of the European Statistics Code of Practice, management, indicator development as well as a wide array of statistical areas, such as macro-economic statistics, trade statistics, labour market statistics, business statistics, social statistics, agriculture statistics, environment statistics as well as areas corresponding to political priorities, e.g. South – East Europe 2020 (SEE 2020).

Pilot projects will ensure provision of assessments and advice from external experts, transfer of know-how and financial contributions to National Statistical institutes (NSIs) and organisation of specific workshops. Beneficiaries can also participate in working groups, committees, training courses etc. in order to get acquainted with the existing EU *acquis* in statistics and with problems and solutions for its implementation, to be aware of new developments or provide input to new EU *acquis*.

Training courses will be organised at country and at regional level to target development both of horizontal skills, such as quality assurance, IT and management skills and of specific technical knowledge. Employees from beneficiary NSIs are seconded to Eurostat or to an NSI in a Member State or an EFTA country to study more thoroughly the functioning of the European Statistical System. Such study visits and consultancies allow the beneficiaries to acquire new knowledge tailored to their specific needs; establish close bilateral contacts and future partnerships.

Peer reviews provide systematic and comprehensive assessments of the institutional environment of the national statistical systems and their compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice. Sector assessments evaluate the administrative and technical capacity of beneficiaries to produce data in a statistical field, the level of compliance with the EU *acquis* and provide a list of recommendations.

Objective: To support the process of harmonisation with EU standards by aligning their present methodologies and output with the EU *acquis* in statistics and taking forward their integration into the European Statistical System.

Expected results: Increased availability of reliable, timely and comparable (produced according to EU standards) data to be used by policy makers at national, regional and European level; further integration of the NSIs into the European Statistical System; progress in implementing the European Statistics Code of Practice and strengthened management capacities of NSIs.

Key performance indicators:

- Compliance rate with the EU *acquis* in statistics (source Eurostat);
- Progress in the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice (source Eurostat).

(2) Implementation arrangements for the action: Direct management by DG ESTAT A3

Procurement:

- a) the **global** budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 10.00 million
- b) the indicative number and types of contracts: one service contract
- c) indicative time frame for launching the procurement procedure: Q1 2016

Grant – Direct grant award: EUR 6.00 million

- 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, based on a de jure or de facto monopoly to carry out the statistical activities included in this action. The NSI are, according to national statistical laws, the institutions inside the public administration of IPA II beneficiaries responsible for collecting, producing and disseminating official statistics.
- c) The names of the beneficiaries: National Statistical Institute (NSI) of Serbia, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey.
- d) Indicative amount of the grants: EUR 1.50 million each (subject to the outcome of the procedure).
- e) Maximum rate of EU co-financing: 95% of eligible cost.
- f) Indicative date for signing the grant agreements: Q4 2016.

Action 2	Improving economic governance and competitiveness	Direct management	EUR 16.70 million
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(1) Description of the Action, objectives, expected results and key performance indicators

Description of the Action: This action aims at creating favourable conditions for the IPA II beneficiaries to tackle the 'fundamentals first' agenda in economic governance and public administration reform early in the accession process and meet the economic and political membership criteria. It will support reforms and investments in complementarity with assistance planned under the indicative Strategy Papers with IPA II beneficiaries.

The Action encompasses three components: the first supports governments in competitiveness-enhancing reforms, including measures to implement the Small Business Act and enhance the competitiveness of SMEs, to monitor the implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy and to support the development and implementation of comprehensive Economic Reform Programmes (ERPs).

A second component supports trade facilitation, looking at most trade distortive non-tariff measures and develops appropriate recommendations.

The third component supports the governments in public finance management (PFM), including relevant assessments on public expenditure and financial accountability (PEFA), developing action plans and reform measures.

Objectives: To contribute to enhancing the competitiveness of the Western Balkan economies through the provision of monitoring tools and assessments, support to prioritisation of reforms and to reform implementation as well as measures of trade facilitation.

Expected results: Strengthened capacity to monitor, prioritise and implement competitiveness-enhancing reforms which meet the commitments contained in the SEE 2020 Strategy and in the Economic Reform Programmes; progress in the Implementation of the SBA; better application of relevant policy instruments for SME support; most trade distortive non-tariff measures identified and addressed; border clearance processes simplified; PEFA assessments carried out; improved public finance management.

Key performance indicators:

- GDP growth per person employed (source: National Statistics Institutes, SEE 2020 Strategy monitoring, Progress Reports);
- Net enterprise creation (source: National Statistics Institutes, SEE 2020 Strategy monitoring, Progress Reports);
- Increase of trade in goods and services (National Statistics Institutes, Eurostat, Central European Free Trade Area (CEFTA) statistics).

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

Component 1 and 3:

Grant – Direct grant award

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 a particular type of body on account of its technical competence and its high degree of specialisation is required. Component 1: The SEE Competitiveness Outlook is an Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) flagship publication. In addition, the OECD is unique in having the specialized technical capacity and knowledge to further support the preparing of the Economic Reform Programmes in 2016 and subsequent years. Component 3: The World Bank hosts the PEFA Secretariat, responsible of one of the main results of the component, and it has an acknowledged in-house expertise on PFM issues.

c) Name of the beneficiary: Component 1: OECD; Component 3: World Bank.

d) Indicative amount of the grant: OECD: EUR 10.70 million; World Bank: EUR 3.00 million.

e) Maximum rate of EU co-financing:

OECD: 99% of the eligible cost. The agreement with the OECD will be administered in accordance with provisions of the Framework Administrative Agreement between the European Union and the OECD signed in June 2015. In order to ensure the optimal continuation of the OECD's assistance on Economic Governance, derogation from the decision allows the OECD to exceed the annual percentage of per person charge back cost, with the conditionality to gradually decrease the percentage to the agreed ceiling of 6% by the end of the implementation of the action.

World Bank: 100%. For EU visibility reasons it is essential that the EU is the sole donor for the action.

f) Indicative date for signing the grant agreements: Q1 2016.

Component 2:

Grant – Call for proposal: Trade facilitation in the CEFTA region

- a) Objectives and foreseen results: see above.
- b) The essential eligibility criteria: Applicants are national public sector bodies or legal entities governed by private law with a public service mission and have their registered offices in one of the European Union Member States. Co-applicants can also be International Organisations.
- c) Maximum rate of EU co-financing: The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing will be 100% of the total cost of the action. Full financing of the action is essential for the action to be carried out because of EU visibility reasons.
- d) Indicative amount of the call: EUR 3 million
- e) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals: Q4 2015

Action 3	EU/Council of Europe Horizontal Facility	Direct management	EUR 20.00 million
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(1) Description of the Action, objectives, expected results and key performance indicators

Description of the Action: The Action will be part of a new framework for cooperation between the European Commission and the Council of Europe (CoE) on human rights, democracy and rule of law envisaged for the period 2015-2020. The European Commission and the CoE signed a Statement of Intent in April 2014 that will enable the two organisations to work together in a more strategic and result-focused manner in the IPA II beneficiaries based on the CoE's binding international conventions, monitoring bodies and assistance programmes.

Under this Action the CoE will provide legal expertise and technical assistance to the IPA II beneficiaries to review legislation and policies, provide expert advice, analysis and needs assessments, undertake capacity building measures and awareness raising activities and other relevant measures for mainly the implementation of priority recommendations that derive from assessments carried out by the CoE on compliance with EU *acquis* and European standards in the area of rule of law, democracy and human rights.

Objectives: To support IPA II beneficiaries tailored reform processes in the area of rule of law, democracy and human rights with the aim to enhance compliance of candidate

countries and potential candidates with the EU *acquis* and European standards in these areas.

Expected results: Implementation of key recommendations of CoE's monitoring bodies; increased compliance with CoE standards and conventions; relevant judgements or rulings of the European Court of Human Rights are applied.

Key performance indicators:

- Number of implemented monitoring bodies' recommendations and increased level of progress for those not fully implemented.

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

Grant – Direct grant award:

- 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, based on a de facto monopoly. With the unique triangle of standard-setting, monitoring and technical assistance, the CoE has a comparative advantage and can offer its expertise in a unique way by directly assisting with the implementation of the recommendations using the expertise of the monitoring and experts bodies without jeopardizing the independence of the bodies.
- c) The name of the beneficiary: Council of Europe
- d) Indicative amount of the grant: EUR 20.00 million
- e) Maximum rate of EU co-financing: 90% of the eligible cost of the action.
- f) Indicative date for signing the grant agreement: Q4 2015

Action 4	Western Balkans Youth Window under Erasmus+	Direct management	EUR 3.00 million
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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 support young people's transnational non-formal learning mobility through cooperation projects and activities. Actions supported by the Window aim at promoting active citizenship, social inclusion and solidarity amongst young people and

the society they live in. The Action fosters key skills and competences of young people, notably contributing to their employability, civic participation and intercultural understanding.

Expected results: To create increased opportunities for young people to experience international cooperation and to acquire socio-educational skills which could better facilitate their employability and their integration in society; increased participation of young people in democratic life and active citizenship in particular with regard to young people with fewer opportunities; long-lasting partnerships developed as well the exchange of expertise and know-how in the field of youth and non-formal education and improved organisational skills of organisations in the Western Balkans, in particular with regard to management of 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, in particular young people with fewer opportunities, and youth workers from all Western Balkan 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:

- 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 countries 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: 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.
- f) Indicative amount of the call: EUR 3.0 million annually.
- g) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals: Q4 2015 with two deadlines per year with indicatively EUR 1.5 million available in each.

Action 5	European Integration Facility	Direct management	EUR 2.00 million
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(1) Description of the Action, objectives, expected results and key performance indicators

Description of the Action: A number of smaller interventions, information, communication and outreach activities, provision of technical assistance, technical maintenance and development activities of already established regional initiatives, (pre-) feasibility studies, assessments, training, monitoring and evaluation activities, etc. or preparatory actions, which are not yet mature enough to be presented as stand-alone projects. It also covers relevant networking and visibility activities as well as unforeseen needs.

Objectives: To enable the implementation of a small number of accession-related actions in order to meet specific and urgent needs in the region.

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; information and communication material on IPA Multi-country assistance produced; outreach campaigns implemented, networking events organised; studies and assessments carried out; training delivered.

Key performance indicators:

- Timely implementation of multi-country action programmes - number of contracts under implementation.

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

Procurement:

- a) the **global** budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 1.5 million.
- b) the indicative number and types of contracts: 4 – 6 service contracts/specific contracts under framework contracts.
- c) indicative time frame for launching the procurement procedure: Q3 2015 – Q3 2016.

Grants – Direct grants award:

- 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 a particular type of body on account of its technical competence and its high degree of specialisation is required for the implementation of the grants. Only the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), responsible for the war crime judgements, has the technical capacity and knowledge to conduct the assignment, namely to promote transitional justice in the former Yugoslavia, through raising awareness of the ICTY's trials and of their role in the development of the rule of law and enforcement of human rights. Only the SENSE News Agency, who has been covering regularly and systematically all the trials and other relevant activities at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) for a number of years, has the technical capacity to conduct the assignment.

- c) The name of the beneficiaries: International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia; and the SENSE News Agency.
- d) Indicative amount of the grants: ICTY- EUR 0.4 million; SENSE-EUR 0.1million.
- e) Maximum rate of EU co-financing for each of the grants: 95% of the eligible cost of the action.
- f) Indicative date for signing the grant agreements: Q1 2016.

Priority 2: Regional structures and networks

Action 6	Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA)	Direct management	EUR 3.50 million
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(1) Description of the Action, objectives, expected results and key performance indicators

Description of the Action: Continuous support to ReSPA to deliver training and networking activities to the beneficiaries; to address national needs through regional capacity building activities at appropriate level, to carry out comparative studies and peer reviews; identify key priorities and good practices for public administration reform (PAR) and advise governments in the process; to steer actions that support implementation of the 5th Pillar of the South East Europe (SEE) 2020 Strategy "Governance for Growth".

Objective: To improve regional cooperation in the field of public administration and EU integration, and to strengthen administrative capacities in the Western Balkans, hence supporting them to create an accountable, effective and professional public administration system.

Expected results: ReSPA becomes a regional hub and delivers efficient and effective training and networking activities, tailored made capacity-building activities such as conferences, seminars, summer schools, study tours and comparative studies addressing genuine national needs and priorities on PAR and EU integration. ReSPA identifies and promotes good practices (both EU and Regional) and helps national authorities to adopt and integrate the recommendations stemming from its networks into relevant national strategies, policies and actions. ReSPA remains an effective point of coordination for the governance dimension of SEE 2020.

Key performance indicators:

- Increase (rank) of Government effectiveness (source: World Bank index);
- Number of policy recommendations endorsed by the beneficiaries and enforced by the end of the Action (source: SIGMA assessments, progress reports).

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

Grant – Direct grant award:

- 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, based on a de jure or de facto monopoly, as ReSPA is the only, genuinely regional institution created by all beneficiaries to deliver training and

networking activities in the area of public administration reform and European integration in the Western Balkans.

c) The name of the beneficiary: ReSPA.

d) Indicative amount of the grants: EUR 3.50 million.

e) Maximum rate of EU co-financing: 100% of eligible cost. For EU visibility reasons it is essential that the EU is the sole donor for the action.

f) Indicative date for signing the grant agreements: Q1 2016.

Action 7	Witness protection	Direct management	EUR 5.00 million
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(1) Description of the Action, objectives, expected results and key performance indicators

Description of the Action: The Action sets forth regional cooperation in criminal justice, in particular the WINPRO projects - Witness Protection in the fight against organised crime and corruption. In addition to addressing training needs and exchange of information and good practice, the Action will help to strengthen collaboration with EU member states, Europol and the wider international community. The Action will further support the institutional development of the Witness Protection Units at the national and regional level in order to support effective implementation of witness protection programmes in the beneficiaries.

Objective: The Action aims to reinforce the institutional capacity of the Witness Protection Units and other relevant agencies in the IPA II beneficiaries of the Western Balkans to offer protection to witnesses and collaborators of justice, before, during and after the trial, within and/or outside their territory; and to strengthen the inter-agency co-operation in witness protection at the national level across the beneficiaries.

Expected results: Reinforced institutional capacity of the Witness Protection Units and other relevant agencies; stronger co-operation and co-ordination of these Units with other law enforcement agencies as well as at regional and international level; national legislation, practices and procedures are aligned to European best practice and standards; Witness Protection Programmes are effectively working and adequately resourced.

Key performance indicators:

- Number of protected persons (often victims) coming forward and retained to participate in criminal proceedings (source: National Prosecution Offices).

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

Grant – Direct grant award:

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, in particular, since the organisation implemented phase 1 and 2 of the Action.

c) The names of the beneficiaries: NI-CO – Northern Ireland Co-operation Overseas Ltd

d) Indicative amount of the grant: EUR 5.0 million.

e) 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 agreements: Q4 2016.

Action 8	Disaster risk assessment and mapping	Direct management	EUR 3.00 million
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(1) Description of the Action, objectives, expected results and key performance indicators

Description of the Action: This Action will help to build capacity on risk assessment and mapping in the Western Balkans and Turkey. It has three elements: (i) create an open platform for development/improvement of national disaster loss databases, risk assessments and mapping; (ii) enhance the coherence among the national systems and methodologies and (iii) make them consistent with the existing EU guidelines and EU good practices. Each of these three elements – disaster loss databases, risk assessment and risk mapping, represents an important tool in the process of disaster risk management and should become eventually a wide spread instrument for the development of risk management strategies for the different sectors of the economy.

In addition to the contribution to the beneficiaries' capabilities to develop effective, coherent and EU oriented national systems for disaster loss data collection, risk assessment and mapping, the Action will also ensure their approximation and integration into the Union Civil Protection Mechanism. By the end of 2020 the European Commission is expecting that all IPA II beneficiaries will become members of the Mechanism.

Objective: The overall objective of the programme is to increase beneficiaries' capabilities to ensure proper disaster risk management at national, regional and EU level.

Expected results: Further developed and improved national systems for disaster loss data collection based on the EU guidelines and good practices; modalities for regional data sharing and linkages to European or global disaster loss databases are established; further developed and improved national risk assessments following EU guidelines and good practices, in particular including identification of risks of cross-border and regional aspects

Key performance indicators:

- Quality of the national systems for disaster loss data collection, risk assessment and mapping, and their proximity to the EU policy framework and good practice;
- Progress on integration into the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

(2) Implementation arrangements for the action: Direct management by DG ECHO A5

Procurement:

- a) the **global** budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: *EUR 3.00 million*.
- b) the indicative number and types of contracts: one service contract.
- c) indicative time frame for launching the procurement procedure; Q4 2015.

Action 9	South East Europe Transport Observatory (SEETO)	Direct management	EUR 0.755 million
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(1) Description of the Action, objectives, expected results and key performance indicators

Description of the Action: The implementation of the SEETO Strategic Work Programme 2015-2017 will support beneficiaries in their efforts to improve transport infrastructure and services compliant with the EU requirements in order to be part of a comprehensive European Transport market. The Action will help to ensure an effective development and management of the SEETO Comprehensive Network, strengthen the coordination mechanism for policy reforms; support implementation of the Railway Addendum to the MoU, strengthening the data analysis through an upgrade of the existing SEETIS (South East European Information System) and enhance road safety.

Technical assistance to SEETO will further strengthen focus on the connectivity agenda and the creation of the TEN-T Network for South East Europe.

Objectives: To support the implementation of the SEETO Strategic Work Programme (2015-2017) in view of fully integrating South East Europe into the European Transport market.

Expected results: SEETO's Strategic Work Programme implemented according to plan; Regional networking events and workshops organised; Functional and operational SEETIS; New implementing plan for the Railway Addendum; Established system for monitoring the SEETO regional Road Safety strategy.

Key performance indicators:

- Degree of progress in integrating South East Europe into the European Transport market, as well as enhancing the overall performance of the transport system and the SEETO Comprehensive Network (source: SEETO reports);
- Increased % of data fields in SEETIS (South East Europe Transport Information system);
- Number of additional geo-referenced maps produced;
- Number of new railway entrants on the market.

(2) Implementation arrangements for the action: Direct management by DG MOVE E1

Procurement:

- a) the global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 0.755 million
- b) the indicative number and types of contracts: two service contracts (specific contracts under framework contract) and one supply contract.
- c) indicative time frame for launching the procurement procedures: Q2 2016 (service contracts), Q3 2016 (supply contract).

Action 10	Technology Transfer	Direct management	EUR 1.50 million
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(1) Description of the Action, objectives, expected results and key performance indicators

Description of the Action: Support measures to establish an enabling environment to encourage intra-regional cooperation on research, increase levels of collaboration with industry and SMEs, and further foster the integration of the region into the European Research Area (ERA) and Innovation Union.

The Action is aimed at strengthening Technology Transfer capacity in the framework of the Western Balkans Innovation Strategy Exercise (WISE).

Objectives: The overall objective is to support regional economic growth and job creation. The specific objective is to strengthen technology transfer capabilities in the region, in order to encourage commercialisation of innovative research, fostering a vibrant early stage investment scene to reduce risk aversion, increasing investor's understanding within the framework of smart specialisation approach adopted by the EU Innovation Union.

Expected results: Knowledge of technology transfer (TT) in the region is improved and activities related to commercialisation of research are increased through the set-up of technology transfer offices and the training of TT practitioners; creation or restructuring of Science parks and incubation facilities with a focus on strategic sectors serving the smart specialisation goals of the Western Balkans; increase in the availability of technology transfer related financial instruments and improved access to investment for start-up companies thanks to extensive investor readiness training.

Key performance indicators:

- Number of University/industry collaborations;
- Number of patent family filed;
- % of royalties and licence fees receipts;
- Number of venture capital.

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

Procurement:

- a) the global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 1.13 million
- b) the indicative number and types of contracts: one service contract
- c) indicative time frame for launching the procurement procedure; Q3 2015

An **Administrative Arrangement** with JRC (EUR 0.37 million) will cover preparation, evaluation and monitoring of the whole Action.

Action 11	Employment platform	Direct management	EUR 3.00 million
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(1) Description of the Action, objectives, expected results and key performance indicators

Description of the Action: Activities will help to enhance the capacity of the relevant administrations to plan and implement the Employment and Social Reform Programmes (ESRP) in the IPA II beneficiaries, allow exchange of experience, peer reviews and mutual learning, as well as the development of methodological and analytical tools; Capacity building of Public Employment Services networks; Review of employment and social policies through the ESRP process; Sharing of good practices and experiences with the EU networks (Public Employment and Labour Inspectorates); Capacity building of labour inspectorates, labour administrations, social dialogue mechanisms and social partners.

Objectives: Establishment of a regional platform for employment and social affairs issues (ESAP).

Expected results: Strengthened regional cooperation related to the Employment and Social Reform Programmes; better networking of Public Employment Services; Social dialogue strengthened; Network of labour inspectorates established in the Western Balkans.

Key performance indicators:

- ESRPs adopted and national target defined;
- Regional Platform established, number of networking events;
- Regional information system for job vacancies in place.

(2) Implementation arrangements for the action: Direct management by DG EMPL A4

Grant – Direct grant award:

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. The RCC functions as a focal point for regional cooperation in South East Europe and its key role is to generate and coordinate developmental projects of a wider, regional character, to the benefit of each individual participant, and create an appropriate political climate susceptible to their implementation. The ILO is the most appropriate organisation to carry out the activities as it is the only international organisation which has developed and implemented worldwide international standards on tripartite social dialogue and collective bargaining.

c) Name of the beneficiaries: Regional Cooperation Council (RCC); International Labour Organisation (ILO).

d) Indicative amount of the grants: EUR 1.50 million each, total EUR 3.00 million.

e) The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for grants will be 87% of the eligible cost of the action.

f) Indicative date for signing the grant agreements: Q3 2015.

Priority 3: Regional investment support

Action 12	Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) – Technical Assistance; IFI coordination	Direct management	EUR 30.00 million
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(1) Description of the Action, objectives, expected results and key performance indicators

Description of the Action: This Action will support the preparation and implementation of priority infrastructure investment projects by providing technical assistance, studies, impact assessments and similar services for future infrastructure projects. In particular, it will support projects with a regional dimension which are priorities for the IPA II beneficiaries in the region in the context of the enlargement process.

Projects with a regional dimension have an impact beyond the territory of the country where the investment takes place and/or are part of the priority axes identified in macro-regional strategies², part of the indicative extension of the Trans-European Transport network (TEN-T)³ or the projects of Energy Community interest.

The WBIF has proven to be an effective forum for beneficiaries, the European Commission, International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and bilateral donors to coordinate support and pool their knowledge, experience and resources so as to expedite priority investments in key sectors and make progress in the connectivity agenda.

This Action has two components; Component I encompasses technical assistance for the preparation of priority infrastructure investment projects identified by the WBIF Steering Committee in the transport, energy, environment and social infrastructure sectors. Component II provides for the IFI coordination office to continue its supporting role in the WBIF, in particular by guiding the process of the establishment of National Investment Committees or equivalent structures in the beneficiaries that will develop Single Project Pipelines for priority investments.

Objectives: To support the preparation and implementation of priority infrastructure investment projects that may be financed by a combination of grants (EU and other funds) and loans (from IFIs) and to enhance cooperation and coordination between financial institutions, beneficiaries, bilateral donors and regional organisations.

Expected results: Increased number of mature priority infrastructure investments in transport, environment, energy and in the social sector; better coordination and prioritisation of investments; establishment of National Investment Committees (NIC) or equivalent structures; development of Single Project Pipelines.

² EU Strategy for the Danube Region and (draft) EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region.

³ as identified by Annex III of the TEN-T guidelines Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network. The network has been identified on the basis of the South East European Transport Observatory (SEETO) network.

Key performance indicators:

- Number of Technical Assistance grants fully implemented;
- Total value of the projects which received WBIF technical assistance;
- Number of projects which received WBIF technical assistance support and found financing;
- Number of beneficiaries with a NIC (or equivalent structure) and Single Project Pipeline.

(2) Implementation arrangements for the action:

Component I – Direct management by DG NEAR D5

Grant - Direct grant award: Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) – Technical Assistance:

- a) Objectives and foreseen results: see above
- b) Justification for the use of an exception to calls for proposals: Article 125 (7) of the Financial Regulation stipulates that grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to the EIB or the European Investment Fund for actions of technical assistance. In such cases Articles 131(2) to (5) and 132(1) shall not apply.
- c) Name of the beneficiary: EIB
- d) Indicative amount of the grant: EUR 26.12 million
- e) 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

Component II – Direct management by DG NEAR D5

Procurement:

- a) the global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 3.88 million.
- b) the indicative number and types of contracts: one service contract; extension of ongoing contract as foreseen in the procurement notice, subject to satisfactory performance.
- c) indicative time frame for launching the procurement procedure: Q4 2015.

Action 13	Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions - JASPERS	Direct management	EUR 4.00 million
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(1) Description of the Action, objectives, 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.

The Action will provide technical assistance to prepare mature, high quality major infrastructure projects identified by the beneficiaries' National Investment Committees,

with a specific focus on projects with a regional dimension or being part of the connectivity agenda. This will include assistance on project prioritisation, in preparing cost benefit analyses, draft terms of reference for project preparation documents, detail design or tender dossiers, etc. It will also comprise the transfer of know-how in project management and project development.

Objectives: The overall objective is to support the socio-economic growth of the Western Balkans by providing assistance to prioritise and prepare mature, high quality infrastructure projects, thus connecting the region.

Expected results: Development, management and review of major infrastructure investment projects identified by the National Investments Committees in their Single Pipelines of Projects.

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);
- Number of projects supported by JASPERS which secured EU financing (source: idem).

(2) Implementation arrangements for the action: Direct management by DG NEAR D5 Grant – Direct grant award:

- a) Objectives and foreseen results: see above.
- b) Justification for the use of an exception to calls for proposals: Article 125 of the Financial Regulation stipulates that grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to the EIB or the European Investment Fund for actions of technical assistance. In such cases Articles 131(2) to (5) and 132(1) shall not apply.
- c) Name of the beneficiary: European Investment Bank.
- d) Indicative amount of the grant: EUR 4.00 million. An amount of EUR 1.00 million under this Action is earmarked for Turkey.
- e) 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: Q4 2015

Action 14	Western Balkan Enterprise Development and Innovation Facility (WB EDIF) coordination	Direct management	EUR 5.10 million
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(1) Description of the Action, objectives, expected results and key performance indicators

Description of the Action: The Western Balkans Enterprise Development and Innovation Facility (EDIF) was launched in December 2012 and includes three regional financial instruments which are gradually being set up: two Equity Funds and a Guarantee Facility. Furthermore, EDIF includes a Support Services Facility to assist the

beneficiary governments in targeted reforms and the final beneficiary SMEs in building up their capacities for innovation and growth.

EIF acts as Platform Coordinator to support the stakeholders and ensure effective implementation and development of EDIF. This Action provides for the alignment of the coordination arrangements with the duration of the EDIF components, by extending the existing Agreement until end 2023. The Action will also facilitate the beneficiaries' participation in the Platform Advisory Group (PAG) meetings, by providing support aligned with that of the Western Balkans Investment Framework. Furthermore, it will streamline the EDIF coordination and governance by taking on board lessons learned and results of the Results Oriented Monitoring.

Objectives: To contribute to raising competitiveness of SMEs in the Western Balkans.

Expected results: Continuation of good governance structure of EDIF; clear and comprehensive reporting, centralising information from all pillars and managers of EDIF; continued proficient internal and external communication and promotion of the Platform as a whole to raise awareness in the market.

Key performance indicators:

- Net enterprise creation (new business per year) (source: National Statistics Institutes, SEE 2020 Strategy monitoring).

(2) Implementation arrangements for the action: Direct management by DG NEAR D5
Grant – Direct grant award:

- a) Objectives and foreseen results: Coordination of EDIF.
- b) Justification for the use of an exception to calls for proposals: Article 125 of the Financial Regulation stipulates that grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to the EIB or the European Investment Fund for actions of technical assistance. In such cases Articles 131(2) to (5) and 132(1) shall not apply.
- c) Name of the beneficiary: European Investment Fund (EIF).
- d) Indicative amount of the grant: EUR 5.10 million.
- e) The maximum possible rate of EU financing will be 100% of the total cost of the action. In accordance with the European Commission - EIF Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement the action will be implemented on an annual fee basis.
- f) Indicative date for signing the grant agreement: Q4 2015.

Action 15	Trusteeship agreements for European Fund for Southeast Europe and Green for Growth and replenishment of the Green for Growth Fund TA Facility	Indirect management with EIF	EUR 9.00 million
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(1) Description of the Action, objectives, expected results and key performance indicators

Description of the Action: This Action aims at securing continuation of the EU investments in two financial instruments: the Green for Growth Fund (GGF) and the European Fund for Southeast Europe (EFSE). In the case of GGF the Action is also to ensure continued delivery of technical assistance to the GGF beneficiary intermediaries. This will be achieved in particular through an extension of the European Commission trusteeships with the European Investment Fund (EIF) for the Green for Growth Fund (GGF), its TA Facility (GGF TAF) and the European Fund for Southeast Europe (EFSE).

Objectives: The overall objective is to foster economic development and prosperity in South East Europe through the provision of development financing for Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy projects and micro-finance.

Expected results: EIF will represent the European Commission in the GGF, GGF TAF and EFSE; EIF will monitor the underlying operations and will provide periodic reports on the performance of GGF to the European Commission as shareholder in the funds; Technical Assistance Facility of GGF replenished.

Key performance indicators:

- Annual reduction of energy consumption in MWh/year and CO2 emissions in tons/year;
- Number of partner institutions in energy specific lending (including energy efficiency and renewable energy) and associated technical assistance projects;
- Net enterprise creation (new business per year) (source: National Statistics Institutes, SEE 2020 Strategy monitoring).

(2) Implementation arrangements for the action:

Indirect management with EIF.

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

The EIF is the EU dedicated risk finance institution and as such possesses unique experience in developing and implementing EU financial instruments, in particular it has as the current trustee in the Funds a distinctive track record.

If negotiations with the above-mentioned entrusted entity fail, this action may be implemented in indirect management with the European Bank for Reconstruction and

Development (EBRD). The EBRD is an experienced risk finance institution and as such possesses significant experience in developing and implementing EU financial instruments.

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

The EIF will manage the participation of the European Commission in GGF, GGF TAF, and EFSE, in line with the Funds missions as specified in the articles of Incorporation. In particular, this refers to subscription of shares, supervision and management services, shareholder representation, Board of Directors representation. In addition, the EIF informs the European Commission which decisions of the shareholders meetings require European Commission approval, as well as communicates on activities of the Investment Committee, as defined in the Trusteeship Agreement. The EIF provides the European Commission with semi-annual progress reports on the funds, with information on the EIF management activities and evolution of the funds' operations, as well as with financial reports. Lastly, the EIF conducts annual monitoring missions, and organises the semi-annual meetings with the European Commission.

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

	transfer												
038-054	Action 11 Employment platform	DM			450 000							3 450 000	Gross delegation to EMPL
	Regional investment support											48 100 000	
031-609	Action 12 WBIF - TA	DM				30 000 000						30 000 000	NEAR D5
031-609	Action 13 JASPERS	DM				4 000 000						4 000 000	NEAR D5
031-609	Action 14 EDIF	DM				5 100 000						5 100 000	NEAR D5
031-609	Action 15 GGF & EFSE	IM		EIF		9 000 000						9 000 000	NEAR D5
	TOTALS					122 555 000				3 736 316		126 291 316	

by CRIS/ABAC Decision	Max. EU Contribution	Indicative Co- financing	Total
031-609	96 800 000	2 386 316	99 186 316
037-898	16 000 000	300 000	16 300 000
S12.705880	3 000 000	600 000	3 600 000
038-051	755 000	0	755 000
038-052	3 000 000	0	3 000 000
038-054	3 000 000	450 000	3 450 000
Total programme	122 555 000	3 736 316	126 291 316

DM - Direct management
IM - Indirect management
IMIO - Indirect management with International Organisation
NSI - National Statistical Institutes

* 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 action 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 action 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 Financing Agreement and the relevant delegation agreements between the European 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 Coordinators (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.