

Project Fiche 4.1 Community Programmes and Agencies

1. Basic information

1.1 CRIS Number: 2007/19297

1.2 Title: Participation in Community Programmes and Agencies

1.3 ELARG Statistical code: Axe 04 - 65

1.4 Location: The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Implementing arrangements:

1.5 Contracting Authority

European Commission, EC Delegation, on behalf of beneficiary

1.6 Implementing agency

European Commission, EC Delegation, on behalf of the beneficiary

1.7 Beneficiary (including details of project manager):

The Beneficiaries are: Secretariat for European Affairs, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Labour and Social policy, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, and the potential beneficiaries of the priority Community Programmes for the period 2007- 2008.

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1.8 Overall costs (VAT excluded)¹: EUR 1.053613 million.

1.9 EU contribution: EUR 0.941613 million.

1.10 Final date for contracting

Two years from the date of the conclusion of the Financing Agreement

1.11 Final date for execution of contracts:

Two years from the final date for contracting.

1.12 Final date for disbursements

One year from the final date for execution of contracts.

2. Overall Objective and Project Purpose

2.1 Overall Objective

The overall objective of the project is to give support to the beneficiary to participate in Community Programmes and Agencies.

2.2 Project purpose

The purpose of the project is on the one hand to co-finance the costs of the "entry-tickets" which the beneficiary has to pay for the participation in Community Programmes and Agencies and, on the other hand, to strengthen the capacity of the relevant administrative bodies to ensure proper participation of the beneficiary in Community Programmes and Agencies.

2.3 Link with NPAA / EP / SAA

The European Partnership underlines the importance to strengthen the research and technological development capacity in order to ensure successful participation in the Community Research Framework Programme. Concerning the life-long learning and youth programmes the Progress Report 2006 states that considerable efforts are needed to ensure the conditions for adequate participation in the relevant Community programmes.

There is also a strong link to the SAA as there is the Protocol on participation in Community Programmes attached to it.

¹ The total costs of the project should be net of VAT and/or other taxes. Should this not be the case, the amount of VAT and the reasons why it should be considered eligible should be clearly indicated.

The NPAA outlines as one of its priorities the participation in Community Programmes and Agencies. In particular with a view of participating in the 7th Research Framework Programme the NPAA foresees the establishment of a separate unit within the Ministry for Education and Science responsible for cooperation issues within the scope of the Framework Programme. Furthermore, the NPAA envisages the employment of additional 15 persons in support of the participation in Community Programmes.

2.4 Link with MIPD

The MIPD identifies as a priority area of intervention support participation in Community Programmes and Agencies and recalls the need for a selective and gradual approach. As participation in Community programmes can entail sizeable expenditure for a partner country, IPA support may be used to prepare for participation and to co-finance the costs.

2.5 Link with National Development Plan (where applicable)

Not applicable.

2.6 Link with national / sectoral investment plans (where applicable)

Not applicable.

3. Description of project

3.1 Background and justification:

The EU agreed in the Thessaloniki Agenda to open participation in Community Programmes to the Western Balkan countries, following the approach used in the past for candidate countries. The Commission proposed concrete steps in its Communication of 3 December 2003², underlining the need for a selective and gradual approach.

Further to the Thessaloniki Agenda for the Western Balkans and in line with its Communication “Preparing for the participation of the Western Balkan countries in Community programmes and agencies”³ the Commission negotiated respective Framework Agreements with the beneficiaries. Consequently, EU funds may be used to prepare for participation and to co-finance the costs.

These agreements were signed on 22 November 2004, on the occasion of the EU Western Balkans Forum, assent was then given by the European Parliament on 10 May 2005 and, finally, Council proceeded with the conclusion of the agreements on 2 June 2005⁴. The Framework Agreement has been ratified by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on 10 June 2005 and finally entered into force on 29 June 2005.

In recent years, the Government has planned to participate fully in various Community Programmes. However, until today no such participation has materialised. The main reason has been insufficient knowledge of the different possibilities and insufficient capacity within

² Communication of the Commission “Preparing for the participation of the Western Balkan countries in Community programmes and agencies” [COM (2003) 748 of 3.12.03] – accessible on the internet at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/see/docs/com03_748_en.pdf

³ COM(2003) 748 final of 03/12/2003

⁴ The Council decisions and the framework agreements have been published in the Official Journal *OJ L 192 of 22.07.2005*

the Government to appropriately prepare a participation plan as well as to manage the actual participation.

The beneficiary has expressed its interest to participate in the following Community Programmes and Agencies:

- 7th Research Framework Programme
- PROGRESS
- Competition and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP)
- Citizens for Europe
- Culture
- Life+
- Media 2007
- Lifelong Learning
- Youth in Action
- Fiscalis
- Customs

Prior to the participation in the Community Programmes on Lifelong Learning and Youth in Action national agencies for managing these programmes must be established (which is supported by another IPA project). These agencies are expected to be in place in late 2008. Thus, participation in these two programmes will not be before 2009. Against this background, these programmes will not be subject to this project fiche.

Furthermore, since 2005 funds were made available each year as part of the CARDS national programme to co-finance the financial contribution for the participation in Community Programmes and Agencies. Therefore, remaining funds will be used to pay the entry tickets for participating in some of the listed programmes, notably the 7th Research Framework Programme, PROGRESS, and CIP-EIP⁵.

The participation of the beneficiary in Community Programmes follows specific terms and conditions set out for each such programme in a so called Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Such a MoU has already been signed (by the beneficiary and the Commission) with regard to:

- the 7th Research Framework Programme
- PROGRESS
- **CIP-EIP**

As regards the other Community Programmes i.e. *CIP-ICT,IEE*, *Citizens for Europe*, *Culture*, *Media*, *Fiscalis*, *Customs* the signature of a MoU is planned to take place in the fourth quarter of 2007 at the latest. The MoU for the Community Programmes on *Life-long Learning* and *Youth in Action* could be signed by the end of 2008.

⁵ CIP has three sub-programmes: 1. Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP), 2. Information and Communication Technology Programme (ICT) and 3. Intelligent Energy Europe Programme (IEE). Participation in EIP in 2007 and 2008 will be co-financed with CARDS funds, whereas participation in the other two sub-programmes in 2008 will be co-financed with IPA funds.

With a view to fully participating in certain Community Agencies in 2008, the beneficiary is still in the process of assessing its needs towards participation in Community Agencies.

3.2 Assessment of project impact, catalytic effect, sustainability and cross border impact (where applicable)

The impact of the project will be manifold, reflecting the diversity of the listed Community Programmes and Agencies in which the beneficiary intends to participate. The aim and supported activities of each programme can be found on the European Union's internet homepage.

In a generic approach it can be said that participation in Community Programmes and Agencies is expected to support the country's efforts towards faster integration and cohesion by facilitating transfer of know how and good practice, in particularly in those areas which are key reference points for the reform process. It is expected that the projects implemented will enhance public awareness and information on the EU. It will allow citizens, companies and national administrations of candidate countries to join in co-operation and exchange networks in very different areas covered by Community Programmes and thus benefit from experiences of other partners.

Clearly, the expected impact of participating in Community Programmes and Agencies as outlined above will most likely generate a series of positive catalytic effects. For instance, enlarged personal or institutional networks also enlarge the scope for follow-up activities and offers access to an increased information market. In cases of transfer of know-how and best practices, especially in more innovative areas, we may expect positive spill over effects (i.e. improved X-efficiency) thus multiplying the value added of the initial output.

In as far as the neighbouring countries participate in the same Community Programmes, good practices can be exchanged and joint project-initiatives can be supported.

3.3 Results and measurable indicators

Expected Results

The project implementation shall generate the following results:

- The beneficiary participates in all Programmes and Agencies as listed below (see 3.4 Activities).
- To achieve appropriate participation in the Community Programmes and Agencies in line with the provisions outlined in the respective MoUs.

The *measurable indicators* include:

- The ratio of number of Community Programmes and Agencies the beneficiary participates in to those mentioned in the indicative list;
- Number of persons participating in Community Programmes;
- Number of persons participating in Community Programmes relative to the respective costs (and relative to entry ticket);
- Number of projects;
- Number of projects relative to the respective costs (and relative to entry ticket);

- Comparison of these indicators with past experience and other beneficiaries.

Qualitative assessment of the beneficiary's participation in Community Programmes and Agencies will be done through the evaluation reports provided by the respective line DGs responsible for the management of a specific programme.

3.4 Activities:

The aim is to co-finance under the present programme the participation of the beneficiary in, inter alia, the following Community Programmes in 2008 and, depending on the availability of funds, also in 2009:

- PROGRESS
- CIP-ICT,IEE
- Citizens for Europe
- Culture
- Life+
- Media
- Fiscalis
- Customs

The exact financial allocation to be paid by the beneficiary for participating in Community Programmes and Agencies are determined in the relevant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the beneficiary and the respective line DG. The EU's contribution to the entry ticket will be negotiated between the beneficiary and DG ELARG, normally before the MoU is signed.

The participation of the beneficiary in Community Programmes shall follow the specific terms and conditions set out for each such programme in the MoU.

The contracting arrangements are as follows:

Following the signature of the MoU and following a request by the beneficiary, the Commission signs for each entry ticket a grant contract (direct payment) with the beneficiary over the co-financing amount. The contracts are expected to be signed during the first quarter 2008.

3.5 Conditionality and sequencing:

Co-financing of entry tickets for participating in a certain programmes will only be progressed once a respective MoU between the Commission and the beneficiary has been signed. Prior to the participation in the Community Programmes Life-long Learning, Youth in Action and Culture, the relevant national agencies must be in place.

3.6 Linked activities

As already mentioned, remaining CARDS funds will be used to pay the entry tickets for participating in certain Community Programmes in 2007 and 2008 (i.e. 7th Research Framework Programme, CIP-EIP, PROGRESS⁶).

3.7 Lessons learned

The beneficiary currently has little familiarity with participating in Community Programmes and Agencies. Experience from the enlargement context, shows that successful participation in Community Programmes and Agencies requires a high degree of ownership and initiative by the beneficiary. (Pro-)Active involvement by the beneficiary in gathering the necessary information on programmes, procedures and working methods as well as in establishing networks and structures and informing the public are essential in order to reap the benefits of participation in programmes and agencies. Against this background it is thus very important, that the beneficiary has a good sense and plan of the overall activities to be followed.

4. Indicative Budget (amounts in EUR mn)

	IPA support		Contribution from the national budget		Total financial contribution to the programme
	EUR	% of Total	EUR	% of Total	EUR
PROGRESS	90000	90.0	10000	10.0	100000
Citizens for Europe	13500	90.0	1500	10.0	15000
Media	23700	84.6	4300	15.4	28000
Culture	28800	90.0	3200	10.0	32000
Life+	393613	89.0	48000	11.0	441613
Fiscalis	81000	90.0	9000	10.0	90000
Customs	81000	90.0	9000	10.0	90000
CIP-IEE/ICT	230000	89.7	27000	10.3	257000
TOTAL	941613	88.9	112000	11.1	1053613

Amounts net of VAT

5. Indicative Implementation Schedule (periods broken down by quarter)

	(Expected) Signature of MoU	Signature of contract	Payment
PROGRESS	Q3 2007	Q1 2008	Q1 2008
Citizens for Europe	Q4 2007	Q1 2008	Q1 2008
Media	Q4 2007	Q1 2008	Q1 2008
Culture	Q4 2007	Q1 2008	Q1 2008
Fiscalis	Q4 2007	Q1 2008	Q1 2008
Customs	Q4 2007	Q1 2008	Q1 2008
CIP-IEE/ICT	Q4 2007	Q1 2008	Q1 2008
Life+	Q3 2008	Q1 2009	Q1 2009

6. Cross-cutting issues (where applicable)

- **Equal opportunities and non-discrimination**

⁶ For PROGRESS the entry ticket for participating in 2007 will be co-financed with CARDS funds whereas the entry ticket for 2008 will be co-financed through IPA funds.

The beneficiary has to ensure that selection of and selection criteria for participants to Community Programmes and Agencies are based on the principle of equal treatment and non-discrimination for grounds as outlined in the European Charta of Fundamental Rights.

- **Support to minority and vulnerable groups**

As regards minorities, the beneficiary has to ensure that selection of and selection criteria for participants to Community Programmes and Agencies are based on the principle non-discrimination of minorities.

- **Environmental protection**

The European Community has a longstanding commitment to address environmental concerns in its assistance programmes (as part of a wider commitment to sustainable development). Key references include art. 6 of the Treaty and also the Cardiff process, which foresees the systematic consideration of environmental aspects in EC development cooperation and in other policies.

- **Good governance, with particular attention to fight against corruption**

The activities undertaken by each Programme will assist the country in strengthening its capacities, creating conditions for better governance and will intervene where there is a clear EU value added contributing to economies of scale.

ANNEXES

- 1- Log frame in Standard Format
- 2- Amounts contracted and Disbursed per Quarter over the full duration of Programme
- 3 - Reference to laws, regulations and strategic documents:
 - a) Reference list of relevant laws and regulations
 - b) Reference to AP /NPAA / EP / SAA
 - c) Reference to MIPD
 - d) Reference to National Development Plan
 - e) Reference to national / sectoral investment plans
- 4- Details per EU funded contract (*) where applicable.

ANNEX I: Logical framework matrix in standard format

LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR Community Programmes and Agencies Project Fiche	Programme name and number: Participation in Community Programmes and Agencies		
	Contracting period expires two years from the date of the conclusion of the Financing Agreement	Execution period expires two years from the final date for contracting	Disbursement period expires one year from the final date for execution of contracts.
		Total budget: EUR 1.053613 million	IPA budget: EUR 0.941613 million
Overall objective	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	
The overall objective of the project is to give support to the beneficiary to participate in Community Programmes and Agencies.	Not applicable	Not applicable	
Project purpose	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
The purpose of the project is to co-finance the costs of the "entry-tickets" which the beneficiary has to pay for participating in Community Programmes and Agencies.	Payments to the beneficiary in order to co-finance the various entry tickets	CRIS	None
Results	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The beneficiary participates in the Community Programmes and Agencies as outlined in the Project Fiche. To achieve appropriate participation in the Community Programmes and Agencies in line with the provisions outlined in the respective MoUs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ratio of number of Community Programmes and Agencies the beneficiary participates in to those mentioned in the indicative list; Number of persons participating in Community Programmes; Number of persons participating in Community Programmes relative to the respective costs (and relative to entry ticket); Number of projects; Number of projects relative to the respective costs (and relative to entry ticket); Comparison of these indicators with past experience and other beneficiaries. 	Evaluation reports provided by the respective line DGs responsible for the management of a specific programme.	None
Activities	Means	Costs (IPA; in EUR)	Assumptions
To co-finance the participation of the beneficiary in the following indicative list of Community Programmes: PROGRESS CIP-ICT,IEE Citizens for Europe Life+ Media Culture Fiscalis Customs	Grant with the beneficiary Grant with the beneficiary Grant with the beneficiary Grant with the beneficiary Grant with the beneficiary Grant with the beneficiary Grant with the beneficiary Grant with the beneficiary	90.000 230.000 13.500 393 613 23.700 28.800 81.000 81.000	The respective MoUs are signed in time and the beneficiary is paying the entry ticket.

Preconditions

Signature of the respective MoU.

ANNEX II: Indicative planning of the amounts (in €Million) contracted and disbursed by quarter for the project

Contracted	Q1 2008	Q2 2008	Q3 2008	Q4 2008	Q1 2009	Q2 2009	Q3 2009	Q4 2009
PROGRESS	90.000							
CIP-ICT,IEE	230.000							
Europe for Citizens	13.500							
Life+	393.613							
Media	23.700							
Culture	28.800							
Fiscalis	81.000							
Customs	81.000							
Cumulated	900.000							
Disbursed								
PROGRESS	90.000							
CIP-ICT,IEE	230.000							
Europe for Citizens	13.500							
Life+	393.613							
Media	23.700							
Culture	28.800							
Fiscalis	81.000							
Customs	81.000							
Cumulated	900.000							

ANNEX III: Reference to laws, regulations and strategic documents:

3.a) Reference list of relevant laws and regulations

Not applicable.

3.b) Reference to AP / NPAA / EP / SAA

The European Partnership underlines the importance to strengthen the research and technological development capacity in order to ensure successful participation in the Community Research Framework Programme. Concerning the life-long learning and youth programmes the Progress Report 2006 states that considerable efforts are needed to ensure the conditions for adequate participation in the relevant Community programmes. There is also a strong link to the SAA as there is the Protocol on participation in Community Programmes attached to it.

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3.c) Reference to MIPD

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3.d) Reference to National Development Plan

Not applicable

3.e) Reference to national / sectoral investment plan

Not applicable