

Safer aviation thanks to regional cooperation

As growth in tourism and business continues to drive increases in air traffic in the Western Balkans, the need for regional cooperation in aviation safety inevitably grows, too. This is why the EU has provided assistance to promote a common approach to the challenges of safe and efficient operations.

BRINGING AVIATION AUTHORITIES TOGETHER

The project has enabled representatives from the region to meet for exchanges on safety procedures, and allowed them to share their concerns and discuss ways of reinforcing cooperation through dedicated workshops. Pooling of experts, partnership in creating manuals and guidance material, and common frameworks for reporting aviation incidents are some of the concrete results so far. The joint activities organised within the project serve to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of each country involved, and to promote compatibility among safety management systems. The project has also provided a forum for aviation authorities in the region to meet their colleagues from elsewhere in Europe, and from around the world. The results have included a real contribution to supporting the countries in the region to become part of the EU's single aviation market – which is one of the objectives of the enlargement strategy. The project has been extended to run until March 2014.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Successful growth in aviation is an important enabler of economic growth. Many of the improvements that citizens in Western Balkans expect from future EU membership depend on this economic growth.

And working together on issues with an obvious international dimension – such as aviation – has another valuable spin-off. It promotes regional exchange and it helps the countries in the region advance towards closer partnership with the EU.

Ultimately, the success lies in the project's contribution towards better aviation safety. And with more and more people travelling to and from the region, increased cooperation on safety has direct benefits for the citizens too, be they from the Member States or from the enlargement countries.

CROATIA JOINED EASA

The European Aviation Safety Agency, which was one of the principal partners in the project, welcomed Croatia as its 32nd member state on the country's accession to the EU in July 2013. The Agency had worked closely with Croatia over recent years, to prepare it for the new rules it would have to comply with.

"I participated in the flight standards workshop – a worthwhile activity and a good opportunity to share experience with other countries from the region", said Eva Mertiri, Head of Flight Crew Licensing in the Civil



Instrument for Pre-accession assistance (IPA)

Western Balkans

IPA – AN INVESTMENT IN EUROPE. AN INVESTMENT IN SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY.

Aviation Authority of Albania. Marijana Vukcevic, an advisor for international cooperation in the Montenegro Civil Aviation Agency, said: "The project created a very positive cooperation atmosphere and provided excellent assistance to the Montenegro Civil Aviation Agency." And Selma Hodzic, Assistant Director General for

International Relations in Directorate of Civil Aviation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, said: "The EASA project has proven very valuable to the Western Balkans region. Almost all technical experts from our administration have been involved in at least one project activity. The feedback I received was always very positive."

PROJECT DETAILS –

European Aviation Safety Agency project

Partners:

Civil Aviation Agency of the Republic of Croatia

Total cost in €: 700,000

EU Contribution in €: 100%

Start date: January 2012

End date: March 2014

Results:

Enhanced regional cooperation and efficiency;
Production of manuals and guidance material;
Agreement on common frameworks for reporting aviation incidents

Techniques:

Meetings and seminars

