

Project Fiche: No. 16

Strengthening European Integration (SEI)

1. Basic information

- 1.1 CRIS Number:** 2011/022-964
- 1.2 Title:** Strengthening European Integration (SEI)
- 1.3 ELARG Statistical code:** 04 – 40 Supporting Programmes
- 1.4 Location:** Western Balkans: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, as well as Kosovo¹
Iceland, Turkey

Implementing arrangements:

- 1.5 Contracting Authority (EU):** European Union represented by the European Commission on behalf of the Beneficiaries.
- 1.6 Implementing Agency:** Not applicable
- 1.7 Beneficiary:** Western Balkans: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, as well as Kosovo
Iceland, Turkey

Financing:

- 1.8 Overall cost (VAT excluded)²:** EUR 3 000 000
- 1.9 EU contribution:** EUR 3 000 000
- 1.10 Final date for contracting:** 30 November 2012
- 1.11 Final date for execution of contracts:** 30 November 2014
- 1.12 Final date for disbursements:** 30 November 2015

¹ under UNSCR 1244/99

² The total cost 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.

2. Overall Objective and Project Purpose

2.1 Overall Objective

To ensure effective programming and project development as well as implementation of the Multi-beneficiary Programme under the IPA thus contributing to the overall progress of the accession process and increasing the effectiveness and impact of accession oriented projects financed through IPA.

2.2 Project purpose

To strengthen the ability of the beneficiaries to effectively design and develop programmes and projects to be submitted for financing under IPA Multi-beneficiary Programmes as well as to enable the implementation of a number of accession-related actions of various public/private actors in order to meet specific and urgent needs in the beneficiaries. Furthermore, to support the beneficiaries' participation in activities for the exchange of information, networking, participation in workshops, conferences, study visits and similar activities and to assist in smaller-scale projects supporting European Integration.

2.3 Link with AP/NPAA / EP/ SAA³

As for activity 8, maintaining full cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and ensure integrity of domestic war crimes proceedings features prominently as one of the key conditions in the accession process.

2.4 Link with MIPD

This project supports all priority areas of the IPA Multi-beneficiary MIPDs and will facilitate the preparation of various types of projects to be financed under the IPA Multi-beneficiary Programme.

3. Description of project

3.1 Background and justification

3.1.1 Project Preparation Facility (PPF)

The main objective of the IPA is to help the beneficiaries face the challenges of European integration, implement the reforms needed to fulfil EU requirements and make progress in the Stabilisation and Association Process. The Multi-beneficiary programme is designed to respond to Multi-beneficiary priority needs as indicated in the IPA Multi-beneficiary MIPDs, taking into account 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, the Regional Cooperation Council, EU Member States, civil society organisations and European Commission services.

³ AP = Accession Partnership; NPAA = National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis (for Candidate Countries), National Action Plan (for Potential Candidates); EP= European Partnership; SAA = Stabilisation and Association Agreement

The European Commission is responsible for the programming, contracting and implementation of the Multi-beneficiary Programme under IPA on behalf of the Beneficiaries, but involves the beneficiaries and other stakeholders at an early stage in the programming to ensure ownership of and involvement in the projects.

In order to improve the quality and speed up the programming and implementation of the Multi-beneficiary Programme it has been decided to create a Project Preparation Facility.

3.1.2 Unallocated Institution Building Envelope

Fulfilling EU requirements and making progress in the Stabilisation and Association Process require an increasing number of qualified experts, competent civil servants and necessitate expertise and EU knowledge in the judicial, economic and political matters. Concrete administrative structures and management systems should be established or strengthened which satisfy the requirements of the EU *acquis* in a number of areas.

The approximation of legislation to that of EU require developing the current institutional and legal structures besides some investment. Implementing bodies may lack the necessary expertise, knowledge and experience to carry out these tasks.

It is essential to create an envelope for unspecified institution building needs (e.g. training, technical assistance etc) for priorities identified in the AP, NPAA or Regular Reports. This envelope will cover a series of demand-driven requests such as short-term advisory assistance, study visits to EU Member States, attendance to accession related conferences and meetings/workshops by the administrations of the beneficiaries.

The eligible applicants for this component are the line ministries and public institutions/agencies and staff in the beneficiaries directly involved in the EU accession process.

3.2 Assessment of project impact, catalytic effect, sustainability and cross border impact

The impact of the SEI Project is significant. Effective delivery of the project results in:

- More effective implementation of the relevant programmes and projects – better designed projects produce better results and are also less likely to require subsequent addenda and contractual revision;
- Faster completion of tendering procedures – properly prepared documentation can be approved faster and will require less corrigenda once launched;
- Higher quality responses from organisations and companies submitting bids – tender documentation which is clear, logical and learns from experience elsewhere in the EU will ensure that submitted offers provide what is required by the Contracting Authority;
- Increased disbursement of available funds;
- Improved effectiveness of projects;
- Facilitation of the accession process.

Sustainability is ensured through demonstrating how good project design leads to good project implementation. This will encourage all stakeholders to attach greater priority to the programming and project design phases and should improve the ownership.

3.3 Results and measurable indicators

Results

1. Strategic plans are designed in different sector areas;
2. Stakeholder consultations organised, project fiches are drafted well;
3. Tender documents, terms of reference and technical specifications drafted;
4. Project preparatory and start-up actions implemented;
5. Urgent/bridging support to activities which lie at the kernel of the accession process is provided (Cooperation with ICTY);
6. Increased knowledge to develop, implement and monitor policies to prevent and fight corruption and crime affecting the economy;
7. Strengthened capacities of local data producers to carry out national surveys on corruption and crime

Measurable Indicators

1. Quality and quantity of strategic plans;
2. Quality of project fiches and quality and quantity of stakeholder consultations;
3. Quality and quantity of tender documents, terms of reference and technical specifications;
4. Number of preparatory and start-up actions implemented;
5. Number of urgent/bridging actions implemented;
6. Comprehensive assessment reports available on a country-by-country and regional basis.

3.4 Activities:

1. Support in designing effective strategic plans in different sector areas.
2. Support in planning and programming the IPA-funded projects by for example assisting in stakeholder consultations, advice on drafting Project Fiches and their annexes. Particular support will be provided by the South East Europe Rural Development Standing Working Group (SGW SEE) to the preparation of a region-wide pilot initiative in close collaboration with the Commission services, in particular DG Enlargement and DG Agriculture and Rural Development, the main focus of which will be agreed on the basis of an assessment of SWG's capacities yet to be finalised as part of a specific contract.

3. Provide expert assistance in drafting the tender documents and/or terms of reference and technical specifications for the implementation of IPA funded projects.
4. Project preparatory and start-up actions.
5. Provide short-term technical assistance including training, study-visits, management, organizational and other expert advice - to support the beneficiaries' institutions in developing/upgrading necessary technical know-how and management skills in project preparation and implementation.
6. Participation in *acquis* related meetings, workshops, study visits
7. Training on *acquis* related issues (developing human resources of relevant bodies for the adoption and implementation of the EU *acquis*)
8. Follow up on the support to the Joint European Commission-ICTY training to National Prosecutors and Young Professionals from the former Yugoslavia
9. Produce assessments of corruption and crime affecting the business sector based on experienced based comparable sample surveys while simultaneously strengthening national capacities to produce evidence-based assessments of corruption and crime in the business sector. National data producers and anti-corruption agencies to be fully involved.

3.5 Conditionality and sequencing:

Not applicable.

3.6 Linked activities

The SEI Project is linked to the IPA Monitoring Programme which is designed to enhance the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of the assistance to the Western Balkans and Turkey and to provide the Commission with regular analytical assessments on implementation of projects and programmes which is used during the implementation phase of projects as well as in the design of new projects.

It is also linked to the IPA Audit and Evaluation Programme where *audits* provide the Commission with assurance as to the legality and regularity of the assistance and *evaluation* provides the Commission with judgement of interventions according to their results, impacts and needs they aim to satisfy and contributes to the design of interventions, improve the quality and report on the achievements of the interventions, both of which the results are used in future programming.

Activity 8 is linked to actions initiated by the ICTY or in support of ICTY's work, regarding its legacy. More in particular, Activity 8 is a follow up to contract 2010/242144 (Joint European Commission and ICTY Training Project for National Prosecutors and Young Professionals from the former Yugoslavia).

3.7 Lessons learned

National programmes have both under the CARDS and IPA programmes included similar projects which have proven to be an excellent tool for supporting the programming process and the implementation of accession-related actions.

4. Indicative Budget (amounts in EUR)

			SOURCES OF FUNDING									
			TOTAL EXP.RE	EU CONTRIBUTION		NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION					PRIVATE CONTRIBUTION GRANT BENEFICIARY	
ACTIVITIES	IB	INV	EUR (a)=(b)+(c)+(d)	EUR (b)	%(1)	Total EUR (c)=(x)+(y)+(z)	% (1)	Central EUR (x)	Regional/ Local EUR (y)	IFIs EUR (z)	EUR (d)	% (1)
PPF	x		1 500 000	1 500 000	100	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
IBE	x		1 500 000	1 500 000	100							
TOTAL IB			3 000 000	3 000 000	100	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
TOTAL INV			/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
TOTAL PROJECT			3 000 000	3 000 000	100							

Amounts net of VAT

(1) Expressed in % of the **Total** Expenditure (column (a))

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

Contracts	Request for services and/or restricted tenders	Signature contracts	of	Project Completion
1 Direct Grant contract with SWG SEE	N/A	Q2 2011		Q2 2012
Up to 12 Service contracts	Q3 2011-Q3 2012	Q3 2011-Q4 2012		Q4 2013
Up to 5 Direct Grant contracts and/or Contribution Agreements	N/A	Q4 2011-Q4 2012		Q4 2014
1 Contribution Agreement with ICTY for Activity 8 (400.000 EUR)	Q2 2011	Q3 2011		Q3 2012
1 Contribution Agreement with UNODC for Activity 9 (450.000 EUR)	Q2 2011	Q3 2011		Q3 2012

Due to the nature of this project, for the time being it is not possible to foresee the precise timing of requests for services, tendering and contracting.

6. Cross cutting issues

6.1 Equal Opportunity

Equal opportunities and non-discrimination principles will be respected as regarding gender as well as minorities at the programming and implementation stage. Based on the fundamental principles of promoting equality and combating discrimination, participation in the project will be guaranteed on the basis of equal access regardless of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

ANNEXES

- I- Logical framework matrix in standard format
- II- Amounts (in EUR) contracted and disbursed per quarter over the full duration of project
- III- Details per EU funded contract

ANNEX I: Logical framework matrix in standard format

LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR Project Fiche	Programme name and number: Project Preparation Facility	CRIS No.: 2011/022-964
	Contracting period expires: 30 November 2012	Disbursement period expires: 30 November 2015
	Total budget: EUR 2 000 000	IPA budget EUR 2 000 000

Overall objective	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	
To ensure effective programming and project development as well as implementation of the Multi-beneficiary Programme under the IPA, thus contributing to the overall progress of the accession process and increasing the effectiveness and impact of accession oriented projects.			
Project purpose	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
To strengthen the ability of the beneficiaries to effectively design and develop programmes and projects to be submitted for financing under IPA Multi-beneficiary Programmes as well as to enable the implementation of a number of accession-related actions of various public/private actors in order to meet specific and urgent needs in the beneficiaries. Furthermore, to support the beneficiaries' participation in activities for the exchange of information, networking, participation in workshops, conferences, study visits and similar activities and to assist in smaller-scale projects supporting European Integration			

Results	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strategic plans are designed in different sector areas; 2. Stakeholder consultations organised, project fiches are drafted well; 3. Tender documents, terms of reference and technical specifications drafted; 4. Project preparatory and start-up actions implemented. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quality and quantity of strategic plans; 2. Quality of project fiches and quality and quantity of stakeholder consultations; 3. Quality and quantity of tender documents, terms of reference and technical specifications; 4. Number of preparatory and start-up actions implemented. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strategic plans 2. Project fiches, minutes from stakeholder consultations 3. Tender documents, terms of reference and technical specifications; 4. Results from preparatory and start up actions 	

Activities	Means	Costs	Assumptions
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support in designing effective strategic plans in different sector areas. 2. Support in planning and programming the IPA-funded projects by for example assisting in stakeholder consultations, advise on drafting Project Fiches and their annexes. Particular support will be provided by the South East Europe Rural Development Standing Working Group (SGW SEE) to the preparation of a region-wide pilot initiative in close collaboration with the Commission services, in particular DG Enlargement and DG Agriculture and Rural Development, the main focus of which will be agreed on the basis of an assessment of SWG's capacities yet to be finalised as part of a specific contract. 	<p>Specific contracts under Framework contracts and/or service contracts. Grant contracts, contribution agreement. Direct Grant Contract with SGE SEE. Contribution Agreement with the ICTY. Contribution Agreement with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)</p>	EUR 3 000 000	

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Provide expert assistance in drafting the tender documents and/or terms of reference and technical specifications for the implementation of IPA funded projects. 4. Project preparatory and start-up actions. 5. Provide short-term technical assistance including training, study-visits, management, organizational and other expert advice - to support the beneficiaries' institutions in developing/upgrading necessary technical know-how and management skills in project preparation and implementation. 6. Participation in acquis related meetings, workshops, study visits 7. Training on acquis related issues (developing human resources of relevant bodies for the adoption and implementation of the EU acquis) 8. Follow up on the support to the Joint European Commission-ICTY training to National Prosecutors and Young Professionals from the former Yugoslavia 9. Produce assessments of corruption and crime affecting the business sector based on experienced based comparable sample surveys while simultaneously strengthening national capacities to produce evidence-based assessments of corruption and crime in the business sector. National data producers and anti-corruption agencies to be fully involved. 			
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ANNEX II: Amounts (in EUR) contracted and disbursed per quarter over the full duration of project

Contracted	Q3 2011	Q4 2011	Q1 2012	Q2 2012	Q3 2012	Q4 2012	Q1 2013
Service / Grant Contracts; Contribution Agreement	100 000	650 000	100 000	650 000	400 000	100 000	
Direct Grant Contract SWG SEE	150 000						
Contribution Agreement ICTY	400 000						
Contribution Agreement UNODC	450 000						
Cumulated	1 100 000	1 750 000	1 850 000	2 500 000	2 900 000	3 000 000	3 000 000
Disbursed	Q3 2011	Q4 2011	Q1 2012	Q2 2012	Q3 2012	Q4 2012	Q1 2013
Service / Grant Contracts; Contribution Agreement	100 000	150 000	400 000	300 000	450 000	200 000	400 000
Direct Grant Agreement	50 000		50 000		50 000		

Contribution Agreement ICTY		200 000				200 000	
Contribution Agreement UNODC		150 000				300 000	
Cumulated	150 000	650 000	1 100 000	1 400 000	1 900 000	2 600 000	3 000 000

Due to the nature of the Facility for Project Preparation and Reinforcement of Administrative Capacity for the time being it is not possible to foresee the precise timing of contracting and disbursements, and the number and value of service contracts.

ANNEX III: Details per EU funded contract

It is expected that the project will be implemented through approximately 12 service contracts for a total indicative amount of EUR 1 000 000, procured through calls for tender (6) or under framework contracts (6), depending on the amount, which should be signed between Q3 2011 and Q3 2012. In addition, depending on the nature and scope of the demands and whenever the requirements and conditions for such implementation modalities are fulfilled, part of the project can be implemented also through grant contracts awarded in accordance with the provisions in the Financial Regulation and Implementing Rules (Title VI) and/or joint management with International Organisation(s) such as UN Organisations following Article 53d of the Financial Regulation and the corresponding provisions of the Implementing Rules. In the case of directly awarded grants, Article 168 (1) (c) of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation, to bodies with a de jure or de facto monopoly and/or Article 168 (1) (f) of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation, on account of its technical competence and high degree of specialisation, e.g. for regional initiatives such as the Igman Initiative (max. EUR 500 000) and RECOM (max. EUR 500 000) should apply. If applicable, the European Commission will sign a Contribution Agreement with the International Organisation at the latest in Q3 2012. The fulfilment of the conditions for such joint management agreements or grants will be laid down in the award decision(s) by the Authorising Officer by Sub-delegation.

One direct grant contract is foreseen with the South East Europe Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG SEE) for an indicative amount of EUR 150 000 to be awarded in Q2 2011, based on Article 168 (1) (f) of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation, since a particular type of body on account of its technical competence is required. Based on their regional presence and wide experience in horizontal actions, reviews and stakeholder coordination in the area of rural development, only SWG SEE combines the required technical capacity, knowledge and above all independence and authority to undertake a fair and consistent assessment, with a view to creating the conditions for effective coordination of a future regional pilot initiative.

One Contribution Agreement is foreseen with the ICTY for activity 8 based on Article 168 (1) (f) of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation, on account of its technical competence and high degree of specialisation. Only the ICTY, responsible for the war crime judgements, has the technical capacity and knowledge to conduct this assignment. Indicative amount of EUR 400.000 to be awarded in Q3 2011.

One Contribution Agreement is foreseen with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for activity 9 based on Article 168 (1) (f) of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation, on account of its technical competence and high degree of specialisation. UNODC has particular competences in coordinating and facilitating the development of benchmarks, methodologies and approaches for a global experienced based assessment of corruption, as well as anti-corruption efforts. Indicative amount of EUR 450.000 to be awarded in Q3 2011.