

Project Fiche – IPA National programmes / Component I

1 IDENTIFICATION

Project Title	Participation to JASPERS
CRIS Decision number	2012/024-306
Project no.	14
MIPD Sector Code <i>The numbering is for the sake of EU statistics and does not need to correspond with the numbering in the beneficiary MIPD</i>	9. Support and other activities
ELARG Statistical code	01.40
DAC Sector code	15110
Total cost (VAT excluded) ¹	EUR 1.0 m
EU contribution	EUR 1.0 m
Management mode	Centralised
<i>Centralised mngmt:</i> EU Delegation in charge	EU Delegation to the Republic of Serbia
Implementation management	EIB direct centralised management
Implementing modality	Standalone project
Project implementation type	C01 - Project-type interventions
Zone benefiting from the action(s)	Republic of Serbia

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

Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions (JASPERS)

Beneficiary	Serbia
Year	2012
Cost	EUR 1 000 000

1. Purpose

The objective of the Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions (JASPERS) initiative is to accelerate Serbia's preparations for the absorption of the EU funds by supporting the development of a project pipeline of projects in the environment, transport and regional competitiveness sectors.

2. Implementation

JASPERS in Serbia will be implemented by a direct grant awarded to the European Investment Bank in accordance with Article 53(a) of the Financial Regulation and Article 168 (1) (f) of the Implementing Rules to the Financial Regulation.

In view of the experience developed within JASPERS since 2006, documented by a steep increase of approved projects having received support from JASPERS, it has acquired a high degree of specialisation necessary to deliver the relevant support to Member States and candidate countries. The funding will be used mainly to cover the costs of staff in the JASPERS unit within EIB, in the form of a flat rate per month (EUR 26.142 per expert) and external consultancy costs (on actual cost basis). Mission costs will also be eligible on an actual cost basis, subject to a ceiling per expert per year. Other costs, such as translation, external audit and the costs of some events throughout the year will also be eligible on actual cost basis.

Financing of the action will be done 100% by the European Commission in accordance with Article 253 (1) (d) of the Implementing Rules to the Financial Regulation. A Contribution Agreement will be concluded by the European Commission and the EIB in the after signature of the Financing Agreement for a total of EUR 1 000 000.

3. Principle of co-financing applying to the part of the programme devoted to JASPERS in Serbia

The IPA EU contribution, which represents 100% of the total budget allocated to this part of the programme, has been calculated in relation to the **eligible** expenditure, which in the case of centralised management is based on the total expenditure.

The EU contribution represents 100% of the total budget allocated to this programme, as allowed by article 67.3 of IPA Implementing Regulation²: "*In the event of centralised or joint management, the Commission shall decide the rate of the Community contribution, which may amount to 100% of the eligible expenditure*".

4. Method of implementation

The programme will be implemented on a centralised basis by the European Commission in accordance with Article 53a of the Financial Regulation³ and the corresponding provisions of the Implementing Rules⁴, as it consists of activities to be carried out by DG REGIO to allow for the preparation of a project pipeline for the EU funds in Serbia, which will be implemented through DG REGIO's JASPERS ("Joint Assistance for Supporting Projects in European Regions") joint technical assistance initiative following a cross-delegation from DG ELARG.

5. General rules for procurement and grant award procedures

The general rules for procurement and grant award procedures shall be defined in the Contribution Agreement between the Commission and the European Investment Bank (EIB) implementing the part of the programme.

6. Scope of activities

Technical assistance of JASPERS may finance preparatory, management, monitoring, evaluation, information and control activities and activities to reinforce the administrative capacity of national authorities for implementing the assistance under the IPA Regional development component.

With regard to the appraisal of the projects by the EIB via JASPERS, this will specifically include:

- advice on the conceptual development and structuring of projects;
- advice on strategic and conceptual papers supporting individual projects;
- advice on specific aspects of project preparation, such as financial and economic cost-benefit analysis, environmental impact assessment, procurement plans, design;
- review of documentation such as feasibility studies, environmental impact assessments, Natura 2000 studies, technical designs, tender documents;
- advice on compliance with relevant EU acquis in particular environmental legislation, state aid and competition rules, transport regulatory requirements, and conformity with EU policy standards;

² Regulation 718/2007 (OJ L 170, 29.6.2007, p. 23).

³ Regulation 1605/2002 (OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p.1).

⁴ Regulation 2342/2002 (OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p. 1) as last amended by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 478/2007 (OJ L 111, 28.4.2007, p. 13).

- assistance in the review, preparation or completion of applications for funding under the Regional Development component of IPA, the Cohesion Fund or the ERDF;
- typically, assistance under JASPERS will complement or supplement feasibility studies funded or organised by beneficiary country but in some cases assistance under JASPERS may also involve the preparation of full feasibility studies, especially in cases where there is a lack of in-country technical assistance available;
- assistance may also cover advice on implementation issues such as project management, procurement (for example: preparation of tender documentation, advice on procurement planning, advice on calls for tenders procedures), structuring of Project Implementation Units and helping with conditions set out in the grant application.

JASPERS will also provide assistance on horizontal issues if the above areas of JASPERS intervention appear in more than one project (in particular EIA, public procurement, state aid) and it may also include project implementation support for projects prepared with the assistance of JASPERS, if necessary: e.g. review of procurement strategy, review of modification proposals, assistance during implementation in order to follow standard requirements for contract management (e.g. FIDIC rules).