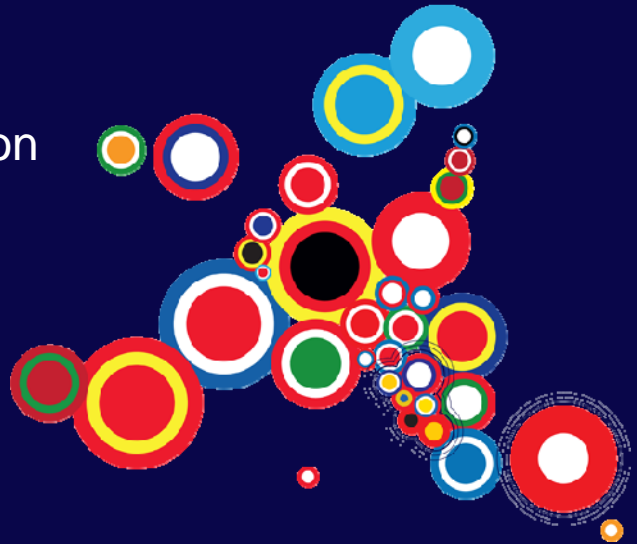




## INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE (IPA II) 2014-2020

### ALBANIA

EU Support for the Participation  
in Union Programmes and  
Agencies



#### Action summary

The Action will facilitate and enable the participation of Albanian institutions in the Union Programmes and Agencies. It will promote the further alignment of Albania with European Union policies and working methods and it will increase Albania's active participation in and commitment to the Union Programmes. The Action will contribute to achieve the objectives of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA), in particular those related to education and training, cooperation in research, and technological development. Cooperation shall take into account the priority areas related to the EU *acquis* in the field of research and technological development.

<b>Action Identification</b>			
<b>Action Programme Title</b>	IPA 2018 Annual Action Programme for Albania		
<b>Action Title</b>	EU Support for the Participation in Union Programmes and Agencies		
<b>Action ID</b>	IPA 2018/040-211.01/AL/EU Support for the Participation in Union Programmes and Agencies		
<b>Sector Information</b>			
<b>IPA II Sector</b>	Democracy and Governance		
<b>DAC Sector</b>	43010 - Multisector aid		
<b>Budget</b>			
<b>Total cost</b>	EUR 4,263,671		
<b>EU contribution</b>	EUR 3,000,000		
<b>Budget line</b>	22.02.01.01		
<b>Method of implementation</b>	Indirect management		
<i>Indirect management:</i> <b>National authority or other entrusted entity</b>	National authority: Ministry of Finance and Economy National Fund		
<b>Implementation responsibilities</b>	Ms. Veronika Korkaj, Head of the National Fund		
<b>Location</b>			
<b>Zone benefiting from the action</b>	Albania		
<b>Specific implementation area(s)</b>	N/A		
<b>Timeline</b>			
<b>Final date for concluding Financing Agreement(s) with IPA II beneficiary</b>	At the latest by 31 December 2019		
<b>Final date for concluding procurement and grant contracts</b>	3 years following the date of conclusion of the Financing Agreement, with the exception of cases listed under Article 189(2) of the Financial Regulation		
<b>Final date for operational implementation</b>	6 years following the conclusion of the Financing Agreement		
<b>Final date for implementing the Financing Agreement (date by which this programme should be de-committed and closed)</b>	12 years following the conclusion of the Financing Agreement		
<b>Policy objectives / Markers (DAC form)</b>			
<b>General policy objective</b>	<b>Not</b>	<b>Significant</b>	<b>Main</b>

	<b>targeted</b>	<b>objective</b>	<b>objective</b>
Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aid to environment	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender equality (including Women In Development)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trade Development	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>RIO Convention markers</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Main objective</b>
Biological diversity	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Combat desertification	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change mitigation	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change adaptation	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## 1. RATIONALE

### PROBLEM AND STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

With the prospect of enlargement of the European Union, in order to better prepare candidate countries for the adoption of the EU acquis and for accession to the European Union, the European Commission had proposed in 1997 the progressive opening-up to candidate countries of a broad range of Community programmes (now Union Programmes). Encompassing most Community policies, these programmes are a major pre-accession instrument that familiarises candidate countries and their citizens with the European Union policies and working methods.

The endorsement at the European Council in June 2003 of the Thessaloniki Agenda for Western Balkans countries integration in the European Union, led to the candidate and potential candidate countries of the Western Balkans being entitled to participate in Community Programmes on the basis of Framework Agreements.

A Framework Agreement between the European Community and Albania on participation in Union Programmes was ratified in May 2005.

Since 2008, Albania has benefited from financial assistance under IPA for co-financing entry tickets to a number of Union Programmes. However, still Albanian institutions cannot provide sufficient funding for covering all the costs of entry tickets.

In the **IPA 2007-2013** cycle Albania participated actively in 7 EU Programmes:

1. **7th Framework Programme (FP7)** for research, technological development and demonstration activities (MoU signed on 17 December 2007, effective as from 1 January 2008);
2. **Entrepreneurship and Innovation Specific Programme (CIP-EIP)** of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (MoU signed on 27 June 2008, effective from 4 November 2008);
3. **Europe for Citizens Programme** (MoU signed on 02 February 2009, ratified by the Albanian Parliament on 19 March 2009);
4. **Culture Programme** (MoU signed on 20 December 2011, ratified by the Albanian Parliament on);
5. **Customs 2013** (MoU signed on 16/07/2012);
6. **Life Long Learning Programme** (MoU signed on 15/07/2013);
7. **Youth in Action** (under implementation Decision No 1349/2008/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on 16 December 2008, amending Decision No 1719/2006/EC establishing the Youth in Action programme for the period 2007 to 2013).

After a thorough process of consultations with different institutions and stakeholders, and after taking into consideration the interest expressed by the relevant institutions for participating in the Union Programmes for **IPA 2014-2020 cycle**, the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs prepared a short-list of Union Programmes and Agencies where IPA II support would be considered:

- **Customs 2020** – beneficiary: Ministry of Finance and Economy (Directorate General of Customs) (Agreement signed 27<sup>th</sup> July 2014);
- **Fiscalis 2020** – beneficiary: Ministry of Finance and Economy (Directorate General for Taxation) (Agreement signed 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2014);
- **Programme for Employment and Social Innovation** – beneficiary: Ministry of Finance and Economy, Ministry of Health and Social Protection (Agreement signed 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015);
- **Erasmus +** : Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Health and Social Protection (Agreement signed 19<sup>th</sup> June 2014);
- **COSME** – beneficiary: Ministry of Finance and Economy (Agreement signed 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015);

- **Creative Europe, Sub-Programme “Culture”** – beneficiary: Ministry of Culture (Agreement signed 20<sup>th</sup> June 2014);
- **Creative Europe, Sub-Programme “MEDIA”** – beneficiary: Ministry of Culture (On 8 October 2014 it was confirmed that Albania has met the conditions set out in Directive 2010/13/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10th March 2010 (the AVMS Directive) thus officially confirming her participation on the Creative Europe – MEDIA Sub-programme as of 9 October 2014);
- **Europe for citizens** – beneficiary: Ministry of Culture (Agreement signed 26 February 2015);
- **Horizon 2020** - beneficiaries: Ministry of Education and Sports; Ministry of Environment and Tourism; Ministry of Finance and Economy (Agreement signed 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014);
- **Justice** – beneficiary: Ministry of Justice (Agreement signed 28 September 2016, and 12 February 2018 as regards the drugs-related component of the programme)
- **EU Fundamental Rights Agency** – beneficiary: Ministry of Justice (Agreement pending)

An EU-funded technical assistance project (EuropeAid/137244/DH/SER/AL) is supporting the participation of Albanian institutions in Union Programmes. The purpose of the project is to provide technical assistance to the beneficiaries in order to strengthen the capacity of the relevant administrative bodies to achieve improved and proper levels of participation of the beneficiary country in the Union Programmes where a MoU has been concluded and is in force. The project started in January 2016 and will be completed in January 2018.

IPA assistance to support the Albanian Institutions to participate in Union Programmes has been already provided under:

- IPA 2014 for an amount of EUR 1.000.000
- IPA 2015 for an amount of EUR 1,000,000
- IPA 2016 for an amount of EUR 1,000,000

These annual allocations of IPA funding have been used to co-finance the entry-ticket of Albania's participation in Union Programmes.

## **OUTLINE OF IPA II ASSISTANCE**

The main objective of this 2018 Action will be to ensure participation of Albania in Union Programmes by co-financing the costs of the entry-tickets/participation fees to be paid in areas such as Creative Europe, Employment and Social Innovation, Europe for Citizens, Fiscalis 2020 etc. The action will also support the participation of Albania in the Agency for Fundamental Rights.

Expected results from implementation of activities are: 1) Enhanced participation of Albanian institutions in Union Programmes and Agencies, including increased exchanges with EU Member States; 2) Strengthened ownership and responsibility of Albanian institutions (including in financial terms, i.e. partial payment of entry tickets) for participation in Union Programmes and Agencies; 3) Enhanced capacities of MEI and other Government institutions to co-ordinate participation in Union Programmes; 4) Enhanced capacities of Albanian beneficiary organisation to apply and successfully participate in Union Programmes.

The Ministry of European Integration is the main leading institution in coordinating the Union Programmes and Agencies, however a number of other key institutions shall be benefiting directly, such as: Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Education and Sports; Ministry of Environment etc.

## **RELEVANCE WITH THE IPA II STRATEGY PAPER AND OTHER KEY REFERENCES**

The Indicative Strategy Paper (ISP) 2014-2020 foresees the concentration of EU financial assistance over the next seven years on six priority sectors: i) democracy and governance, ii) rule of law and fundamental rights,

iii) environment, climate action and energy iv) transport, v) competitiveness, innovation, agriculture and rural development vi) education, employment and social policies and.

The selected Union Programmes are all supporting the above mentioned priority sectors, more specifically: Erasmus +, Programme for Employment and Social Innovation, Horizon 2020, Creative Europe, Europe for Citizens support the priority sector of “Education, employment and social Policies”; the COSME Programme supports the priority sector of “Competitiveness and innovation”; while the Fiscalis 2020 Programme and the Customs 2020 Programme are in line with the priority sector “Democracy and governance”. Albania's participation in the Justice Programme supports the priority sector “Rule of law and fundamental rights”, as would its participation as an observer in the EU Fundamental Rights Agency.

The Indicative Strategy Paper confirms that IPA may continue to co-finance Albania's contribution for its participation in Union Programmes and Agencies in the context of the on-going policy dialogue under the relevant sector and accession negotiations chapters.

### **DESCRIPTION OF RELEVANT UNION PROGRAMMES AND AGENCIES**

***Participation in the Customs 2020 Programme***– The Programme supports cooperation between customs authorities. The Customs 2020 programme is an invaluable tool for capacity building and experience sharing for the Albanian Custom Administration. As was the case with the previous programme, the Customs 2020 Programme will continue to strengthen the cooperation with other EU Member States participating in the programme. It will as well be an important tool for creating networks with professionals from different countries, which will provide to the Albanian administration specific technical knowledge and expertise sharing in identifying, developing and applying best working practices in all areas of customs processes.

The Agreement with Albania was signed on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2014. The Albanian Customs Administration (ACA) is responsible for the participation and management of the Customs 2020 programme. The Customs 2020 programme is an invaluable tool for capacity building and experience sharing for the Albanian Custom Administration. The previous program, Customs 2013, has achieved significant results toward in capacity building of Albanian customs officers who have participated in the activities under the programme. The programme for 2015 has supported the ACA administration through participation in seminars, workshops, project groups, and working visits.

***Participation in the Fiscalis 2020 Programme*** – FISCALIS 2020, with a budget of EUR 234.3 million, will support cooperation between tax authorities in the EU to help maximise their efficiency and avoid mismatches in their work, which could hinder the functioning of the Internal Market.

Participation of Albania in the Programme is in line with the “Strategy Plan of Albanian Tax Administration 2014-2017”, which is based on the draft strategy for the Management of the Public Finance of Albania 2013-2020. The expectations from participating in this programme consist are: (i)enhancing the administrative capacity of tax authority and advancing technical progress and innovation; (ii) ensuring effectiveness of tax collection and the fight against fiscal fraud and tax evasion, and; (iii) reducing the administrative burden for tax authorities and compliance costs for the taxpayers.

The Agreement with Albania was signed on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2014. The General Directorate of Taxation (GDT) is responsible for the participation and management of the FISCALIS 2020 programme. The support in Albania has consisted in participation in workshops, seminars, conferences.

***Participation in the EaSI Programme***–EaSI programme supports initiatives and strategies aiming to modernise the labour markets, social security systems increase the rates of employment, in particular among young people, supporting job creation, promoting a highly skilled workforce, encouraging adaptation to change and the anticipation of restructuring, enhancing geographical mobility and promoting social innovation. EaSI brings together three EU programmes managed separately between 2007 and 2013: PROGRESS, EURES and Progress Microfinance. The total budget for 2014-2020 is EUR 919 million.

In accordance with Europe 2020 and the Albanian National Employment and Skills Strategy 2014-2020, the Programme will contribute to tackling the pressing problem of youth unemployment. Young people will, therefore, be given a future and the prospect of playing a key role in developing society and the economy in Europe, which is of particular importance in times of crisis.

The Agreement with Albania was signed on 9 March 2015. The Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth (MSWY) is responsible for participation in and management of EaSI.

**Participation in the Erasmus + Programme** – ERASMUS + is the new programme aiming at boosting skills and employability as well as modernising Education, Training and Youth work. The Programme has a budget of EUR 14.7 billion. It is a result of the integration of Lifelong Learning Programme, Youth in Action, Erasmus Mundus, Tempus, Alfa, Edulink and the programme for cooperation with industrialised countries in the field of higher education.

Albania will fully participate in Erasmus+ Key Action 2 (KA2) "Capacity Building of Higher Education Institutions" through capacity building projects. Albania will also participate in Erasmus+ Key Action 1 (KA1) "International Credit Mobility" as well as "Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees". Furthermore, Albania will fully participate in the Jean Monnet Programme of Erasmus +.

The Agreement with Albania was signed on 19th June 2014. The National Office for Erasmus Plus manages the programme in Albania.

**Participation in the COSME Programme** – The programme for the Competitiveness of enterprises and SME's aim is to strengthen the competitiveness and sustainability of the Union's enterprises, including in the tourism sector, encourage an entrepreneurial culture, and promote the creation and growth of SMEs. It will engage a budget of EUR 2.3 billion for the 7 years running from 2014 to 2020.

The "Albanian Business and Investment Strategy 2014-2020", which is an integral part of the draft of National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI 2015 - 2020), is in line with the targets set in the Programme COSME 2014-2020. Furthermore, the implementation of the Business and Investment Development Strategy for the period 2014-2020 is followed by a complete Action Plan, including three fundamental pillars: (i) Integrated growth; (ii) Smart growth; (iii) Sustainable growth. In the light of all the above mentioned factors, COSME is seen as a major instrument for the realisation of the activities included in the Action Plan and, as a result, will support Albania's economic development. COSME also has direct relevance to the National Economic Reform Programme of Albania.

The Agreement with Albania was signed on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015. The Ministry of Economic Development, Trade, Tourism and Entrepreneurship (MEDTTE) is responsible for participation in and management of the COSME Union Programme.

Albania is part of the European Enterprise Network (EEN) through an application awarded to a Consortium led by AIDA (Albanian Investment Development Agency) under the COSME Programme in 2014.

**Participation in the Creative Europe Programme** – the Creative Europe Programme gives support to safeguard and promote the European cultural and linguistic diversity and support to strengthen the competitiveness of the cultural, creative and audiovisual sector. Creative Europe brings together the Culture and MEDIA Sub-programmes. It has a budget of €1.46 billion for 7 years running (2014-2020). Albania participates in both the **Culture Sub-programme** and the **MEDIA Sub-programme** of Creative Europe: Albania joined first the Culture Sub-programme signing an Agreement on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2014, and later also the MEDIA sub-programme as of 9 October 2014, after showing alignment with Directive 2010/13/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10th March 2010 (the AVMS Directive).

The Ministry of Culture (MC) is responsible for participation in and management of the Creative Europe Union Programme. It has established 2 Creative Europe Desks (for Culture, operational since June 2014, and for MEDIA, operational since June 2015).

***Participation in the Europe for Citizens Programme*** –Europe for Citizens aims to encourage cooperation between citizens and organisations from different countries and facilitate the development of a sense of belonging to common European ideals and to promote the process of European integration. It has a budget of EUR 185 468 000 for the period 2014-2020.

Albania has been participating in the Europe for Citizens since 2009. For 2014-2020, the Programme will be focused on two thematic areas: (i) European Remembrance; and (ii) Democratic engagement and civic participation. As a country that is leaving behind the transition period, Albania needs to further strengthen both its democratic engagement and civic participation. The Agreement with Albania for the new programme was signed on 26 February 2015. The Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth (MSWY) is responsible for the Programme in Albania.

***Participation in the Horizon 2020 Programme*** – Horizon 2020 is the financial instrument of the European Commission for the 7 years running from 2014 to 2020 with a budget of nearly EUR 80 billion. The EU's framework programme for research and innovation is part of the drive to create new growth and jobs in Europe.

This programme makes it possible for Albanian researchers to establish cooperation with the best international research and innovation actors. The Government's top priorities are to stimulate growth and create new jobs, to offer assistance to public universities, to strengthen advice and career centres. Moreover, the Government intends to undertake policies in order to synchronise the coordination of scientific research abroad with international developments. Within this framework, it aims to grant support for cooperation among national scientific researchers and scientific researchers abroad. The participation of Albania in Horizon 2020 will help the country to strengthen the current scientific research and innovation capabilities in the first place, and will as well contribute to further integrate the country into the European Research and Innovation framework. Horizon 2020 has direct relevance to the National Economic Reform Programme of Albania.

The Agreement between Albania and the EU was signed on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014. The National Agency of Scientific Research and Innovation (NASRI) is the contact point for EU support programmes dedicated to R&D and innovation, including Horizon 2020.

***Participation in the Justice Programme*** – This programme contributes to the development of a European area of justice based on mutual recognition and mutual trust. It promotes judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, judicial training, and effective access to justice in Europe, including rights of victims of crime and procedural rights in criminal proceedings, and supports initiatives in the field of drugs policy as regards judicial cooperation and crime prevention aspects.

The Memorandum of Understanding between Albania and the EU on Albania's participation in the Justice Programme, covering the Programme's specific objectives on judicial cooperation, judicial training and access to justice, was signed on 28 September 2016. It was ratified by the Albanian Parliament via Law no. 11/2017 (Official Gazette no. 26, 20/2/2017) which entered into force on 7 March 2017. The Memorandum of Understanding for the drugs-related aspects of the Justice Programme was signed on 12 February 2018. The Ministry of Justice is the contact point for the Justice Programme.

***Participation as observer in the EU Fundamental Rights Agency*** – Reinforcing the protection of fundamental rights is one of the conditions Albania needs to meet in order to move forward on the EU Integration path. Albania needs to systematically implement existing legislation and consolidate past reform efforts by adopting and implementing legislation still missing. Being an observer in the Fundamental Rights Agency will help Albania with its gradual alignment to the EU *acquis* and EU standards. In March 2016 the Commission adopted a proposal for a Council Decision on a Union position in the EU-Albania Stabilisation and Association Council that would allow Albania to participate in the work of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency as observer. As the Union position has been adopted by the Council, the Decision on the observer status can now be taken by the Stabilisation and Association Council. Should this procedure not be finalised



on time for participation in 2018 and/or 2019, the 80% IPA reimbursement of the Albanian contribution for participation in the EU Fundamental Rights Agency for the year(s) concerned will be earmarked for the participation of Albania in the Horizon 2020 programme.

## **LESSONS LEARNED AND LINK TO PREVIOUS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

In the 2007-2013 cycle Albania participated actively (but still modestly) in 7 EU Programmes. Participation in the 2014-2020 cycle is still at its early phase, as for the majority of Programmes the agreements were signed only in 2015.

Experience from the enlargement context shows that successful participation in Union Programmes requires a high degree of ownership and initiative by the beneficiary. Active involvement by the beneficiaries 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 beneficiaries continue to plan clearly and consequently the activities to be followed.

The Albanian institutions which will manage the programmes need to show maximum dedication and determination, including adequate staffing and budget resources, to implement their activities to the full satisfaction of the European Commission and other stakeholders (such as programme partners).

Some **key issues** that have been common for all Albanian institutions participating in the previous Programmes include:

- There is still low number of proposals submitted by the Albanian institutions and low success rate of applications.
- Potential applicants from Albania prefer to apply as partners, rather than as lead organisation, recognising their limited capacities to both draft a competitive proposal and effectively manage project implementation. This is in particular the case with certain Union Programmes such as Horizon 2020 and COSME
- Generally there has been a weak coordination between the various institutional actors involved in Union Programmes, leading to insufficient integration, lack of harmonisation and of synchronised actions/initiatives in relation to dissemination of information
- The flow of information on Union Programmes is not systematic. This is particularly true as concerns information to potential stakeholders outside Government, such as NGOs. Gaps and bottlenecks in the diffusion of information on Calls for Proposals, on the possibilities of applying for funding under the Union Programmes, and even on some of the awareness-raising events it organised that should – as far as possible – be addressed, reduced and eventually eliminated.
- Wider, more systematic approaches to awareness-raising are needed, focused both on the research community and the wider public of other Union Programmes.

By participating in the EU programmes, applicants from Albania had the opportunity to establish partnerships with the applicants from other countries in the region and from the EU Member States. They were able to become a part of the networking and exchange ideas, experiences, best practices, know-how and information technologies with the applicants from other countries. Cross-border cooperation and mobility of stakeholders are highly encouraged, as the programmes offer various types of trainings, seminars, workshops, info-days, study visits for the coordinators and the partners within a project.

Although, the participation of the country in the EU programmes in the previous years demonstrated significant potential for good projects' submission and programmes' utilisation, there is still need to increase awareness of the EU Programmes in Albania among public institutions and to increase capacities for utilisation of EU Programmes and applying for funds.



## **2. DESCRIPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS**

### **INTERVENTION LOGIC**

#### **Objective:**

- To ensure the participation of Albania in Union Programmes by co-financing the costs of the entry-tickets/participation fees to be paid in areas such as Creative Europe, Employment and Social Innovation, Europe for Citizens, Fiscalis 2020, etc. The action will also support the participation of Albania as observer in the Agency for Fundamental Rights.

#### **Results:**

- Enhanced participation of Albanian institutions in Union Programmes and Agencies, including increased exchanges with EU Member States;
- Strengthened ownership and responsibility of Albanian institutions (including in financial terms, i.e. partial payment of entry tickets) for participation in Union Programmes and Agencies;
- Enhanced capacities of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and other Government institutions to co-ordinate participation in Union Programmes;
- Enhanced capacities of Albanian beneficiary organisations to apply and successfully participate in Union Programmes.
- Strengthened capacity of Albania to become a programme country under Erasmus+

#### **Indicators:**

- Number of Programmes for which an International Agreement has been concluded;
- Number of applications overall;
- Number of successful applications;

#### **Assumptions**

- The Albanian Government is expected to sign the participation agreement for each Union Programme/Agency in due time and allocate in the annual budget the necessary amounts to finance the annual cost of participation (entry ticket),
- The Albanian Government must not only provide the co-financing but also the funds necessary for the payment of the total entry ticket, prior to receiving the partial reimbursement from IPA II.

### **IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES**

Implementation will consist in the transfer of the IPA II co-financing of Albania's costs for entry tickets/participation fees to the Albanian National Fund. The National Fund will transfer to the line Ministries the IPA contribution for the participation in Union programmes.

IPA 2018 will co-finance entry tickets / participation fees for the years 2018 and 2019.

The participation of Albania in Union Programmes, including payment by the country of the entry ticket/participation fees, shall follow the specific terms and conditions set out for each Programme in the relevant International Agreement. Co-financing rates from previous participation shall be taken into account,

and in line with the principle of increasing Albania's ownership and responsibility IPA funding rates shall decrease over the years in real or relative terms.

Albania must not only provide the co-financing but also the funds necessary for the payment of the total entry ticket, prior to receiving the partial reimbursement from IPA II. The line ministries will regularly inform the NIPAC on payment of the relevant entry tickets.

The implementation by the NIPAC of an action plan for Albania's future participation in Union programmes continues to be the basis for a policy to make full use of the various Union Programmes. This policy should notably ensure proper coordination between all the Albanian institutional actors involved. The publicity necessary to attract academics, ministry representatives and municipalities, and the private sector (particularly SMEs) also needs to be ensured. The Line Ministries and Agencies need to earmark adequate budgetary resources to ensure that National Contact Points can participate in Programme Meetings/Information Days outside of Albania.

The relevant final beneficiaries (Line Ministries/Agencies) will regularly provide Union Programmes implementation reports (including rates of participation and success) to the NIPAC. The NIPAC will regularly monitor the participation and success rates in Union Programmes by Albanian stakeholders (universities, research centres, think tanks, foundations, associations, NGOs, local and central authorities). In the context of the IPA monitoring committees it will report on these rates, on co-financing trends and on how programme implementation was made responsive to the gender and social inclusion dimensions (minorities, persons with disabilities etc).

The NIPAC will ensure that gender-disaggregated data are collected on a regular basis by the final beneficiaries with respect to participation in each individual Union Programme.

## **COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY**

Communication and visibility activities shall be implemented in accordance with the rules of each Union programme. The relevant programme managing entity shall be responsible for monitoring of the visibility activities. The NIPAC office needs to make sure that the national institution participant of the respective Union Programme, establishes direct contacts with the EU Delegation in order to plan and implement together visibility actions linked to the implementation of the respective Union Programme.

### 3. . BUDGET BREAKDOWN (INDICATIVE)

Entry ticket	Total expenditure (fees) for participation in 2018	IPA II contribution for participation in 2018		PA II beneficiary contribution for participation in 2018		Total expenditure (fees) for participation in 2019	IPA II contribution for participation in 2019		PA II beneficiary contribution for participation in 2019		Total expenditure (fees) for participation in 2018 and 2019	Total IPA II contribution for participation in 2018 and 2019	Total IPA II beneficiary contribution for participation in 2018 and 2019
		EUR	%	EUR	%		EUR	%	EUR	%			
<b>Customs 2020</b>	65,000	52,000	80%	13,000	20%	70,000	56,000	80%	14,000	20%	<b>135,000</b>	<b>108,000</b>	<b>27,000</b>
<b>Fiscalis 2020</b>	40,000	32,000	80%	8,000	20%	45,000	36,000	80%	9,000	20%	<b>85,000</b>	<b>68,000</b>	<b>17,000</b>
<b>Employment and social innovation (EaSI)</b>	100,000	80,000	80%	20,000	20%	100,000	80,000	80%	20,000	20%	<b>200,000</b>	<b>160,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>
<b>Erasmus +</b>	90,000	72,000	80%	18,000	20%	90,000	72,000	80%	18,000	20%	<b>180,000</b>	<b>144,000</b>	<b>36,000</b>
<b>COSME</b>	232,885	186,308	80%	46,577	20%	232,885	186,308	80%	46,577	20%	<b>465,770</b>	<b>372,616</b>	<b>93,154</b>
<b>Creative Europe, Sub-Prog. Culture</b>	55,000	44,000	80%	11,000	20%	55,000	44,000	80%	11,000	20%	<b>110,000</b>	<b>88,000</b>	<b>22,000</b>
<b>Creative Europe, Sub-Prog. MEDIA</b>	95,000	76,000	80%	19,000	20%	95,000	76,000	80%	19,000	20%	<b>190,000</b>	<b>152,000</b>	<b>38,000</b>
<b>Europe for Citizens</b>	20,000	16,000	80%	4,000	20%	20,000	16,000	80%	4,000	20%	<b>40,000</b>	<b>32,000</b>	<b>8,000</b>
<b>Horizon 2020</b>	1,200,000	821,750	68%	378,250	32%	1,300,000	767,312	59%	532,688	41%	<b>2,500,000</b>	<b>1,589,062</b>	<b>910,938</b>
<b>Justice*</b>	43,260	34,608	80%	8,652	20%	44,974	35,980	80%	8,994	20%	<b>88,234</b>	<b>70,588</b>	<b>17,646</b>

<b>Fundamental Rights Agency**</b>	106,667	85,334	80%	21,333	20%	163,000	130,400	80%	32,600	20%	<b>269,667</b>	<b>215,734</b>	<b>53,933</b>
<b>TOTAL for ACTION</b>	<b>2,047,812</b>	<b>1,500,000</b>		<b>547,812</b>		<b>2,215,859</b>	<b>1,500,000</b>		<b>715,859</b>		<b>4,263,671</b>	<b>3,000,000</b>	<b>1,263,671</b>

\* The entry ticket for the Justice programme (excluding the drugs component) is EUR 37,260 for participation in 2018 and EUR 38,974 for participation in 2019. For the drugs component, whose agreement was signed and entered into force in February 2018, only 11 months of participation have been counted for 2018 (the entry ticket for that component is EUR 6,000 / year for participation in 2018 and 2019). Thus the entry ticket for 2018 (justice incl. drugs component) calculated pro rate equals  $37,260 + (6,000/12)*11 = \text{EUR } 42,760$ .

\*\* The entry ticket for participation in the Agency as an observer is EUR 160,000 for the first year of participation, which is expected to be 2018. Only 8 months of participation in the Agency have been counted for 2018. Thus the entry ticket for 2018 calculated pro rata equals  $(160,000/12)*8 = \text{EUR } 106,667$ . In case the procedure to become observer in the Agency is not finalised on time for participation in 2018 and/or 2019, the reimbursement for the year(s) concerned will be earmarked for the participation of Albania in the Horizon 2020 programme.

## **ANNEX**

### **Overview of Albania's public institutions that have signed International Agreements with the European Commission and dates of entry into force or latest amendments to the International Agreements**

- Customs 2020 –The International Agreement was signed by the European Commission and the General Directorate of Customs in July 2014.
- Fiscalis 2020 –The International Agreement was signed by the European Commission and the General Directorate of Tax Administration on 23.11.2014.
- EaSI – The International Agreement was signed by the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth in January 2015, was countersigned on March 9<sup>th</sup> 2015 by the Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion, and entered into force on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015.
- Erasmus + - The International Agreement was signed by the Ministry of Education and Sports on 19.06.2014.
- COSME –The International Agreement between the European Union and the Ministry of Economic Development, Tourism, Trade and Entrepreneurship was signed on 03.03.2015.
- Creative Europe (Sub-Programmes "Culture" and "MEDIA") – The International Agreement was signed by the Ministry of Culture on 20.06.2014.
- Europe for Citizens - The International Agreement was signed by the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth on 26.02.2015.
- Horizon 2020 - The International Agreement was signed by the Ministry of Education and Sport on 01.07.2014.
- Justice - The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Ministry of Justice on 28.09.2016, and the Memorandum of Understanding for the drugs-related aspects of the Justice Programme was signed on 12.02.2018.