



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 9/11/2010  
C(2010)7794

**COMMISSION DECISION**

**C(2010)7794 of 09 November 2010**

**adopting a Multi-Beneficiary programme 2 under the IPA -Transition Assistance and  
Institution Building Component for the year 2010**

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### **adopting a Multi-Beneficiary programme 2 under the IPA -Transition Assistance and Institution Building Component for the year 2010**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 of 17 July 2006 establishing an Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 14(2)(a) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 lays down the objectives and main principles for pre-accession assistance to candidate countries and potential candidates.
- (2) In accordance with Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006, the assistance should be provided through multi-annual or annual programmes, which can be established by country and by component, or, as appropriate, by group of countries or by theme. These programmes should be drawn up in accordance with the general policy framework referred to in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 and the relevant multi-annual indicative planning document referred to in Article 6 of that Regulation.
- (3) The Council has established an Accession Partnership or a European Partnership for all candidate countries and potential candidates. The Commission adopted on 16 June 2009 a Multi-beneficiary Multi-annual Indicative Planning Document 2009-2011<sup>2</sup> which presents indicative allocations for the main priorities for multi-beneficiary pre-accession assistance to the countries concerned and which provides, *inter alia*, that support should be given to the Secretariat of the Regional Cooperation Council as well as for a number of regionally identified priorities.
- (4) The European Union has committed to support the operational budget of the Regional Cooperation Council Secretariat representing approximately a third of the annual budget. The operational budget of the Secretariat is co-financed by the South Eastern European members of the Regional Cooperation Council and other interested donors of the international community.
- (5) Decision C(2008)729 adopted on 27 February 2008 committed EUR 1.5 million to support the running costs of the Secretariat of the Regional Cooperation Council for the period from 1 January 2008 until 30 June 2009.
- (6) Decision C(2008)8440 adopted on 19 December 2008 further supported the operational budget of the Secretariat of the Regional Cooperation Council for the period from July 2009 to December 2010.
- (7) It is considered appropriate to provide ad-hoc technical assistance support to the Regional Cooperation Council, in order to help developing capacity for current and future activities in line with best practices in other European regions.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 210, 31.7.2006, p. 82.

<sup>2</sup> C(2009)4518, 16.6.2009.

- (8) The Regional Cooperation Council, following approval by its Board, has agreed to take over the follow up of the activities of the Council of Europe's "Ljubljana Process", in order to foster cultural heritage and reconciliation by physical reconstructions and valorisation of cultural monuments. This is in line with the Commission's objectives of increasing regional ownership of a number of key activities.
- (9) It is appropriate to implement part of this programme by joint management with the Council of Europe in order to ensure the assistance to the Regional Cooperation Council Secretariat in taking over of the "Ljubljana Process". The Commission and the Council of Europe are bound by a long-term framework agreement laying down the administrative and financial arrangements for their cooperation.
- (10) The Regional Cooperation Council, following approval by its Board, has agreed to take over the follow up of the South East Europe Investment Committee's activities from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), in order to foster economic development and investments in the region. This is also in line with the Commission objectives of increasing regional ownership of a number of key activities.
- (11) In the framework of implementing South East Europe regional priorities in the field of culture, it is considered appropriate, along the lines of the Thessaloniki European Council in June 2003, in which the EU "*invited the countries of the region to take concrete initiatives with the objective of revising history textbooks*", that support is further provided to initiatives taken to this end.
- (12) Therefore, this Multi-Beneficiary programme 2 is thus intended to continue for three years the support for the operating costs of the Secretariat of the Regional Cooperation Council as well as the other following activities : a) the taking over by the Regional Cooperation Council Secretariat of "Ljubljana Process" and of "South East Investment Committee"; b) Strengthening the Regional Cooperation Council Secretariat on its capacity and efficiency as a regional organization; and c) continue activities in the area of preparing reference material for Western Balkans history teaching.
- (13) This decision meets the requirements of Article 90 of Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation No 1605/2002<sup>3</sup> (hereafter: "Implementing Rules") and constitutes thus a financing decision within the meaning of Article 75 of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities<sup>4</sup> (hereafter: "Financial Regulation").
- (14) The measures provided for by this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the IPA Committee,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

#### *Article 1*

The Multi-Beneficiary programme 2 under the IPA Transition Assistance and Institution Building Component for the year 2010, as set out in the Annex, is hereby adopted.

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<sup>3</sup> OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p. 1.

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p.1.

This programme shall be implemented partly by centralised management and partly by joint management with the Council of Europe.

*Article 2*

The maximum amount of European Union contribution shall be **EUR 6 480 000**, to be financed through Item 22.020701 of the general budget of the European Union for 2010.

Done at Brussels,

*For the Commission,  
Štefan Füle  
Member of the Commission*

**ANNEX: Multi-Beneficiary programme 2 under the IPA -Transition Assistance  
and Institution Building Component for the year 2010**

**1. IDENTIFICATION**

Beneficiaries	Western Balkans and Turkey (for project 1) <sup>1</sup>
CRIS number	2010/022-507
Year	2010
Cost	EUR 6 480 000
Implementing Authority	European Commission except for: Part of Project 2 - Support to the Ljubljana Process II – Rehabilitating our Common Heritage - to be implemented by joint management with the Council of Europe
Final date for concluding the financing agreements	The programme is implemented without financing agreements
Final dates for contracting	30 November 2011 These dates apply also to the national co-financing.
Final dates for execution	30 November 2014 These dates apply also to the national co-financing.
Sector Code	Project 1 - Support to the operating expenditures of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) Secretariat and Strengthening the RCC Secretariat: 91010 Project 2 - Support to the Ljubljana Process II – Rehabilitating our Common Heritage: 16061 Project 3 - Support to the South East Europe Investment Committee – implementation by the RCC Secretariat: 33110 Project 4 - Strengthening the Southeast European Joint History Project as a strong tool for reconciliation in Southeast Europe:16061
Budget line concerned	22.020701: regional and horizontal programmes
Programming Task Manager	Unit D3 Regional Programmes, DG Enlargement
Implementation Task Manager	Unit D3 Regional Programmes, DG Enlargement

<sup>1</sup> Beneficiaries listed in Annex I and Annex II of the IPA regulation (Council Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 of 17 July 2006 establishing and Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA), as last amended. (OJ L 210, 31.7.2006, p. 82).

## **2. PRIORITY AXES / PROJECTS**

In the line with the IPA Multi-Beneficiary Multi-annual Indicative Planning Document (MIPD) 2009-2011<sup>2</sup>, the proposed areas of activities aim, as part of the political criteria, to ensure the smooth operation of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) Secretariat, to promote regional cooperation and to promote good neighbourly relations.

The objective of the assistance aims also to address the economic criteria and in particular the competitiveness of the economy by facilitating investments both at national and local level.

### **2.a Priority axes**

*Priority axis 1: Political criteria.*

The Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) is a regionally-owned cooperation structure located in Sarajevo and co-financed by the countries of the region, the European Commission and other interested donors. The RCC took over from the Stability Pact in 2008 and after three years is a well established and functioning organisation.

The RCC and its Secretary General – with a Secretariat based in Sarajevo and a Liaison Office in Brussels – constitutes a focal point for regional cooperation and ensures continued cooperation between members of the South Eastern Europe Cooperation Process (SEEC) and the international donor community engaged in the region. The work of the RCC focuses on six priority areas: economic and social development, energy and infrastructure, justice and home affairs, security cooperation, building human capital, and parliamentary cooperation as an overarching theme.

The European Union is a member of the RCC Board and has committed to provide around a third of the running costs of the RCC Secretariat for the first years of its existence, while the rest should be co-financed by the region (SEEC members) and other international donors. The annual budget of the RCC Secretariat is set at approximately EUR 3 million.

Regional cooperation and good neighbourly relations remain essential to European integration. In line with the Enlargement Strategy, the EU will continue to support local ownership of initiatives in regional cooperation. The RCC being the key interlocutor for regional cooperation becomes then a fundamental actor for supporting and implementing a number of thematic or sector specific regional initiatives originally launched under the Stability Pact which have been identified as priorities and confirmed by the RCC Board through the approval of the RCC Strategy Paper (2011-13) on June 23 2010, like the "Ljubljana Process" regarding rehabilitation of cultural heritage and the work of the "Investment Committee".

In addition, the protection and promotion of tangible and intangible cultural heritage including the understanding of shared history is very much part and parcel of the enlargement process as it facilitates reconciliation between communities.

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<sup>2</sup> C(2009)4518, 16.06.2009.

*Priority axis 2: Economic criteria.*

Encouraging implementation of investment-related policies is a key element for increasing the competitiveness of the Western Balkans. It increases rates of employment and improves the current account balance of the targeted Beneficiaries by facilitating exports.

In addition, as regards the project on cultural heritage, the renovation and valorisation of cultural goods has a major impact on sustainable local socio-economic development and the tourism industry.

**2.b Description of projects**

**Project 1 - Support to the operating expenditures of the RCC Secretariat and Strengthening the RCC Secretariat - EUR 3.2 million**

This project includes two different components:

- Component 1: Support to the operating expenditures of the RCC Secretariat for the period 2011-2013, representing the entire European Union contribution.

It will be implemented by means of a grant contract for an amount of EUR 2.4 million to be signed with the RCC Secretariat in the fourth quarter of 2010 on the basis of Article 168.1 (f) of the Implementing Rules to the Financial Regulation, which provides for the award of direct grants *“for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals”*. The RCC, launched on 27 February 2008, as the successor of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe has established itself as an international and regional key player gathering experience and expertise in the area of regional strategic development, donor coordination and becoming a focal point for regional dialogue in both economic and political relevant questions. The RCC combines the required technical capacity, knowledge and authority to facilitate the contacts, finance and partnerships for the successful development of regional cooperation within a Euro-Atlantic perspective. The RCC provides the Southeast European Cooperation Process (SEECPP) with operational capacities and acts as a forum for the continued involvement of those members of the international donor community engaged in the region. Therefore only the RCC Secretariat has received the mandate of the international community to sustain focused regional cooperation in South East Europe through a regionally owned and led framework.

The grant contract will specify the mandate and modalities for the implementation of this contribution as well as the mechanisms of control put in place. The budget will be executed in accordance with the conditions of the grant contract. An external auditor will also be contracted by the RCC Secretariat to audit its financial statements of the period covered by this grant. In accordance with the Financial Regulation this operating grant to the RCC Secretariat decreases with respect to contributions made in previous years. As the Commission funding decreases it is expected that the contribution from the other donors, which currently represents two thirds of the budget will increase.

- Component 2: Strengthening the capacity of the RCC Secretariat, for the period 2011 - 2012 – EUR 0.8 million.

This component is designed to strengthen the capacity and efficiency of the RCC Secretariat in accordance with its mandate of: a) Representing the region; b) Assisting the regional cooperation political process i.e. SEECF; c) Monitoring regional activities; d) Exerting leadership in regional cooperation; and e) Providing a regional perspective in donor assistance. Several other regional cooperation initiatives exist at regional level in Europe, e.g. Nordic Council, Council of the Baltic Sea States, the Visegrad Group, etc., from which experience could be derived. The mobilised support will aim to support administrative capacity development, including training, in order to contribute to the strategic planning of activities, identification and formulation of general strategic and sector priorities and follow up and prioritising of the regional initiatives.

This project will be implemented through a grant contract following a restricted call for proposals aimed at public sector operators and component international organisations to be launched in the first quarter of 2011. The grant beneficiary will contribute with a minimum of 10% of the total eligible cost of the project. The essential selection and award criteria for the award of grants are laid down in the Practical Guide to contract procedures for EU external actions.

## **Project 2 - Support to the Ljubljana Process II – Rehabilitating our Common Heritage – EUR 1.5 million**

The IRPP/SAAH methodology (The Integrated Rehabilitation Project Plan/Survey of the Architectural and Archaeological Heritage, jointly developed by the Council of Europe / European Commission), further referred as the Ljubljana Process when of application to the Western Balkans, has gathered the support of the Ministers of Culture of the Western Balkans which decided to continue the process<sup>3</sup>. In order to give the adequate ownership to this initiative it was agreed that it would now be temporarily entrusted to the Regional Cooperation Council with the support and guidance of the Council of Europe and the Commission.

The support to the taking over and implementation of the "Ljubljana Process" by the RCC Secretariat for the period 2011-2013 includes two complementary components:

- Component 1 is designed to set up a new and transitional operational framework aiming at continuing the Ljubljana Process by the RCC with a view to transferring, in the medium term, the operational management of this programme to the Beneficiaries, as well as ensuring the assistance and expertise of the Council of Europe in this process.

It will be implemented by means of a grant contract for an amount of EUR 1.1 million to be signed in the fourth quarter of 2010 with the RCC Secretariat on the basis of Article 168.1 (f) of the Implementing Rules to the Financial Regulation, which provides for the award of direct grants "*for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals*". Only the RCC, whose role is to sustain focused regional cooperation in South East Europe through a regionally owned and led framework, has the mandate, the leverage, the technical capacity and knowledge to support the launch,

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<sup>3</sup> Adoption by the Western Balkan Culture Ministers of a joint statement on the implementation of the next phase of the Ljubljana process in Ljubljana on 7 November 2009.

implementation for a number of years, and transfer to local organisations, of the Ljubljana Process II.

The grant will be financed in full based on Article 253 (1) (e) of the Implementing Rules to the Financial Regulation, where it is in the interest of the European Union to be the sole donor to an action, and in particular to ensure visibility of the action. It is important for the sustainability of the Ljubljana Process that the countries in the region called to sustain it in the future will do so convinced that the European Commission has shaped, participated and financially backed such initiative, and that it will respect and ensure the EU standards in the field of cultural heritage in the framework of future accession of these Beneficiaries. There is no other regional organisation in the Western Balkans based on the principle of all inclusiveness that possesses the necessary know-how in substance and which can provide the political support needed for the implementation of this initiative. Furthermore, the European Commission is one of key contributors, together with the countries of the region and other international donors to the operating budget of the RCC. A request for RCC co-financing for the action would imply additional request for support to its operating expenditure which would be counter to the substantial reduction in this field already foreseen.

- Component 2 is designed to mobilise the necessary support from the Council of Europe in order to oversee the transition of the "Ljubljana Process" to the RCC Secretariat, set up of the necessary administrative arrangements and manage the financial contributions to the national / local coordination structures. It will be implemented by means of a contribution agreement with the Council of Europe under joint management for an amount of EUR 0.4 million to be concluded in the fourth quarter of 2010. The Council of Europe should contribute with a minimum of 10% of the total eligible cost of the project.

### **Project 3 - Support to the South East Europe Investment Committee – implementation by the RCC Secretariat – EUR 0.8 million**

This project is designed to provide the necessary resources to the RCC Secretariat for it to be able to resume management and coordination of the work of the South East Europe Investment Committee, in accordance with the mandate received from the RCC Board for the period 2012 - 2013. This project will be implemented by means of a grant contract to be signed in the fourth quarter of 2011 with the RCC Secretariat on the basis of Article 168.1 (f) of the Implementing Rules to the Financial Regulation, which provides for the award of direct grants *“for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals”*. Only the RCC, whose role is to sustain focused regional cooperation in South East Europe through a regionally owned and led framework, has the mandate, the leverage, the technical capacity and knowledge to address the foreseen tasks.

The grant will be financed in full based on Article 253 (1) (e) of the Implementing Rules to the Financial Regulation, where it is in the interest of the European Union to be the sole donor to an action, and in particular to ensure visibility of the action. It is important for the sustainability of the South East Europe Investment Committee that the countries in the region called to sustain it in the future will do so convinced that the European Commission has shaped, participated and financially backed such initiative, and that it will assist them in their preparation for accession. There is no

other regional organisation in the Western Balkans based on the principle of all inclusiveness that possesses the necessary know-how in substance and which can provide the political support needed for the implementation of this initiative. Furthermore, the European Commission is one of key contributors, together with the countries of the region and other international donors to the operating budget of the RCC. A request for RCC co-financing for the action would imply additional request for support to its operating expenditure which would be counter to the substantial reduction in this field already foreseen.

#### **Project 4 - Strengthening the Southeast European Joint History Project as a strong tool for reconciliation in Southeast Europe: EUR 0.98 million**

This project is designed to support activities aiming at further developing and disseminating multi-perspective and inclusive history teaching material and teacher training activities. Activities like needs assessment studies of the sector, dissemination and translation (into the languages of the region) of history teaching material, multiplication of training activities (train the trainers), and awareness raising activities (workshops, seminars, conferences) could be envisaged.

This project will be implemented by means of a grant contract to be signed in the first quarter of 2011 with the Centre for Democracy and Reconciliation in South East Europe (CDRSEE) on the basis of Article 168.1 (c) of the Implementing Rules to the Financial Regulation, which provides for the award of direct grants “*to bodies with a de jure or de facto monopoly*”. The CDRSEE is the leading agency in the field of multi-perspective history teaching and the only actor with enough practical experience in this area able to implement this sensitive regional project. Its impact has been recognised by the European Parliament as a key actor in the field having, after more than 12 years in operation, a group of established and trusted partners among History teachers’ organisations in the Balkans. The centre has provided for a set of History teaching workbooks in 8 languages, a well developed network of local partners, the cooperation of 800 history teachers who have undergone training seminars, the collaboration with Balkan education authorities and ministries and the support of key academic figures to the initiative. Furthermore it is the only organisation to have developed a methodology and “User’s manual” for the adequate teaching of its didactic material. The project will aim to further develop the Joint History Project activities of the CDRSEE for the production of a set of alternative history-teaching education materials (workbooks), teacher training and outreach and media work. The CDRSEE should contribute with a minimum of 5% of the total eligible cost of the project.

#### **2.c Overview of past and on going assistance (EU / IFI / Bilateral and national assistance) including lessons learned and donor coordination**

##### *Past and on-going assistance*

The European Union is a member of the RCC Board and has committed to provide around a third of the running costs of the RCC Secretariat for the first years of its existence, while the rest would be co-financed by the region (SEECF members) and other international donors. The annual budget of the RCC Secretariat is set at approximately EUR 3 million. In order to fulfil its commitment towards the RCC, a Decision was adopted on 27 February 2008 committing EUR 1.5 million to support the running costs of the Secretariat of the Regional Cooperation Council for the period from 1 January 2008 until 30 June 2009. A subsequent decision was adopted on 19

December 2008 to provide additional EUR 1.5 million towards the operational budget of the RCC Secretariat for the period from July 2009 to December 2010. The positive experience undertaken under these initiative shows that the RCC has adequately absorbed and implemented the funds allocated.

The *Integrated Rehabilitation Project Plan/Survey of the Architectural and Archaeological Heritage (IRPP/SAAH)* began in 2003, and will continue until the end of 2010, as part of the Council of Europe's *Regional Programme for Cultural and Natural Heritage in South-East Europe*. The IRPP/SAAH project has triggered and strengthened international cooperation, with advice and direct funding from bilateral donors (e.g. Austria, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States) and institutions (such as the World Bank, Packard Foundation, Cultural Heritage without Borders, etc).

The South East Europe Investment Committee is the institutional structure supported and managed by the OECD Investment Compact for South East Europe. Launched in 2007 to enhance regional leadership for common strategies, this high-level co-ordination body supports the implementation of policies promoting foreign and domestic investment. The OECD Investment Compact has ensured high levels of involvement and ownership by the SEE countries and has developed a good working relationship with the RCC. In order to allow the South East European economies themselves take direct ownership of regional dialogue and coordination of initiatives on investment and business climate reforms, the Fifth Meeting of the SEE IC held on 16 November 2009 in Paris endorsed the proposal to transfer coordination of the SEE IC from the OECD to the RCC.

As for history teaching, there have been different initiatives promoting alternative teaching material assembled by history teachers and academics from the region. These include among others the Democracy and Reconciliation in South East Europe (CDRSEE)<sup>4</sup> and the European Association of History Educators (EUROCLIO)<sup>5</sup>. There is also fruitful collaboration among academics spurred by Centres such as the Novi Sad Centre for History. The history teaching initiatives are looking at issues like: history curricula, creation of national identity, ethnocentric teaching of history and are working towards creating teams of historians from the Balkans and Turkey to produce joint historical reference material. In the case of the CDRSEE, 4 volumes of History Workbooks covering from 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century, to be used as complementary material in the classrooms, have been produced and 800 teachers have been trained in using them. This material is meant for reference use in the classroom and do not intend to substitute the history texts to be provided by the national curricula established by the corresponding ministries of Culture in the region.

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<sup>4</sup> Centre founded in 1998 located in Thessaloniki. It is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation that seeks to foster democratic societies and reconciliation in Southeast Europe via seminars, conferences, research projects, exchange programmes, opinion polls, and publications.

<sup>5</sup> Established in 1993 represents more than 60 organisations from over 40 countries to promote the development of history education so that it strengthens peace, stability, democracy and critical thinking.

### *Lessons learned*

The RCC has completed two years of operation. The transition from the Stability Pact has been successfully completed and the RCC Secretariat is fully operational and has profiled itself as a key strategic partner for promoting regional cooperation in South East Europe. It will now undertake to sharpen its strategic role by identifying gaps and overlaps in regional cooperation and undertake the necessary work to assist the countries in the region to meet these challenges.

The IRPP / SAAH has succeeded in creating a regional coordination forum, strengthening multilateral co-operation and cultural heritage policy formulation, especially in terms of institutional capacity-building and improvement of the respective legislative frameworks by exchange of experience and good practice. However, there are still considerable gaps among the Beneficiaries in areas like: methodological and management tools, capacity building and project management procedures.

Approaching history of the region in a multi-perspective manner with the goal of discussing and reconciling with the recent past is a constructive and effective response to enhancing the notion of a shared past and therefore a basis for a shared future in the region. Alternative history teaching is being implemented through different initiatives but there is certain fragmentation in this field. Dissemination has also proven to be of great importance when judging the efficiency and impact of history teaching initiatives. In addition, as there is a very important link between developing history curricula and the national authorities, there should be a greater effort by the promoters of history-teaching activities to establish dialogue and collaboration with the education ministries as the political support and commitment for these activities could be greater.

In the economic area, and with regard to the attraction of foreign investments, SEE countries and the RCC have indicated that they would welcome assuming a greater leadership and co-ordination role. A regional body such as the RCC, with a specific mandate to ensure regional co-operation, is well placed to garner the political support required for co-ordination and collaboration in the investment-related policy sphere.

In the management of previous and ongoing Multi-beneficiary IPA, CARDS Regional and Phare Multi-Country projects and programmes a number of applicable lessons have emerged through the project monitoring and evaluation reports as well as the evaluation report on the implementation of CARDS assistance to the Western Balkans which are applicable to this programme.

By involving the beneficiaries and the Regional Cooperation Council in the initial project conception phase of the programming cycle through primarily the IPA multi-beneficiary coordination meetings, and participation in the working groups on sector plans, ownership of the multi-beneficiary programme has improved considerably compared to, for example, the CARDS programme. Such involvement affords beneficiaries the opportunity to judge their absorption capacity for each project as well as to evaluate how each project would fit into the national plans. In order to avoid duplications and to ensure complementarities, the IPA National Programmes have been carefully assessed against the proposed multi-beneficiary projects.

### *Donor coordination*

Efforts are being made by the Commission to ensure good coordination in the programming as well as the implementation process by organising regular meetings

throughout the year with Beneficiaries, Delegations, EU Member States, International Financial Institutions (IFI), the Regional Cooperation Council and other stakeholders. This process is aimed at ensuring complementarities, avoiding overlaps and enhancing, as far as possible, local ownership of the choices, content and design of the programmes. Special importance should be given to the role of the Regional Cooperation Council in which the European Commission plays an active role, as the interlocutor for the Beneficiaries in particular for the Regional Cooperation Process in the Western Balkans.

The Commission organised a Donor Coordination conference in October 2008 where the Commission and Member States, together with the IFIs and non-EU donors, agreed to an active and affirmative approach concerning the need for enhanced donor coordination. It was agreed that the MIPDs could become a strategic instrument for donor coordination and that the consultation on the 2009-2011 MIPDs will be used as a key tool to determine areas of common interest and possibilities for sector coordination and division of labour. The results and plans for action stemming from these consultations were reported during the last donor conference held in April 2009 in Albania.

#### **2.d Horizontal issues**

Cross cutting issues, such as equal opportunities and non-discrimination, support to minorities and vulnerable groups, environmental protection, public health and good governance with particular attention to fight against corruption, have, as appropriate, become an integral part of each project. This is particularly true as regards the Ljubljana Process where the integrated approach to restoration of cultural heritage takes fully into account the respect of its natural environment. Furthermore as regards the History teaching project, its main objective is reconciliation based in the non biased teaching of shared history in full respect of minorities. The mainstreaming of the cross cutting issues in each project shall ensure that strategies, policies, structures and operating procedures of the Beneficiary are in conformity with the principles defined in the various projects.

#### **2.e Conditions**

The commitment of the Beneficiaries to make the necessary resources available, to cooperate closely and to share knowledge as well as experiences are essential to the success of the projects included under this programme.

## 2.f Benchmarks

	2010		2011 (cumul.)	
	EU	NF	EU	NF
<b>Number of Operating Grants</b> Support to the RCC secretariat	1		1	
<b>Number of Calls for Proposal</b> Strengthening the RCC			1	
<b>Number of Direct Grants</b> Support to the taking over and implementation of the Ljubljana Process and Investment Committee (2) Strengthening the Southeast European Joint History Project (1)	1		3	
<b>Number of Contribution Agreements</b> CoE	1		1	
Contracting Rate (%)	50		100	

### 3. BUDGET (AMOUNTS IN EUR)

#### 3.1. Indicative budget table

Centralised management	Institution Building (IB)					Investment (INV)					Total (IB + INV)	Total IPA EU contribution	
	Total expenditure	IPA EU contribution		Other contribution*		Total expenditure	IPA EU contribution		National contribution*		EUR (g)=(a)+(d)	EUR (h)=(b)+(e)	% <sup>(2)</sup>
		EUR (a)=(b)+(c)	EUR (b)	% <sup>(1)</sup>	EUR (c)		% <sup>(1)</sup>	EUR (d)=(e)+(f)	EUR (e)	% <sup>(1)</sup>			
<b>Priority axis 1</b>	12 449 000	5 680 000	46	6 769 000	54						12 449 000	5 680 000	88
Project 1 - Operating expenditures & strengthening the RCC	9 880 000	3 200 000	32	6 680 000	68						9 880 000	3 200 000	-
Project 2 -Support to the Ljubljana Process II	1 540 000	1 500 000	97	40 000	3						1 540 000	1 500 000	-
Project 4 - Strengthening the SEE JHP	1 029 000	980 000	95	49 000	5						1 029 000	980 000	-
<b>Priority axis 2</b>	800 000	800 000	100								800 000	800 000	12
Project 3 - Support to the SEE Investment Committee	800 000	800 000	100								800 000	800 000	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13 249 000</b>	<b>6 480 000</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>6 769 000</b>	<b>51</b>						<b>13 249 000</b>	<b>6 480 000</b>	<b>100</b>

\* contribution (public and private national and/or international contribution) provided by national counterparts

(1) Expressed in % of the Total expenditure IB or INV (column (a) or (d)). (2) Priority axis rows only. Expressed in % of the grand total of column (h). It indicates the relative weight of the priority with reference to the total IPA EU contribution of the entire FP.

### **3.2. Principle of Co-Financing applying to the projects funded under the programme**

The EU contribution, which represents 49% of the total budget allocated to this programme, has been calculated in relation to the **eligible expenditure**, which in the case of centralised management and joint management is based on the **total expenditure**. Parallel co-financing will be used.

Due to its regional character it is not possible to require national co-financing for all the projects in this Programme.

In the case of grants, and unless specified otherwise, final grant beneficiaries should contribute a minimum of 5% of the eligible expenditure of the project.

## **4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS**

### **4.1. Method of implementation**

The programme will mainly be implemented on a centralised basis by the European Commission in accordance with Article 53a of the Financial Regulation<sup>6</sup> and the corresponding provisions of the Implementing Rules<sup>7</sup>, save for the following exception:

- Component 2 of project 2 will be implemented by the European Commission by joint management with the Council of Europe following Article 53d of the Financial Regulation and the corresponding provisions of the Implementing Rules. To this end, the European Commission and the Council of Europe will conclude a Contribution Agreement.

### **4.2. General rules for procurement and grant award procedures**

Procurement shall follow the provisions of Part Two, Title IV of the Financial Regulation and Part Two, Title III, Chapter 3 of its Implementing Rules as well as the rules and procedures for service, supply and works contracts financed from the general budget of the European Union for the purposes of cooperation with third countries adopted by the Commission on 24 May 2007 (C(2007)2034).

Grant award procedures shall follow the provisions of Part One, Title VI of the Financial Regulation and Part One, Title VI of its Implementing Rules.

The Commission shall also use the procedural guidelines and standard templates and models facilitating the application of the above rules provided for in the "Practical Guide to contract procedures for EU external actions" ("Practical Guide") as published on the EuropeAid website<sup>8</sup> at the date of the initiation of the procurement or grant award procedure.

The general rules for procurement and grant award procedures shall be defined in the Contribution Agreement between the Commission and the Council of Europe implementing such programme/activity.

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<sup>6</sup> Regulation 1605/2002 (OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p.1).

<sup>7</sup> Regulation 2342/2002 (OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p. 1).

<sup>8</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/procedures/implementation/practical\\_guide/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/procedures/implementation/practical_guide/index_en.htm).

## **5. MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

### **5.1. Monitoring**

The Commission may undertake any actions it deems necessary to monitor the programmes concerned. These actions may be carried out jointly with the international organisation(s) concerned by this programme.

### **5.2. Evaluation**

Programmes shall be subject to ex ante evaluations, as well as interim and, where relevant, ex post evaluations in accordance with Articles 57 and 82 of IPA Implementing Regulation, with the aim of improving the quality, effectiveness and consistency of the assistance from European Union funds and the strategy and implementation of the programmes.

The results of ex ante and interim evaluation shall be taken into account in the programming and implementation cycle.

The Commission may also carry out strategic evaluations.

## **6. AUDIT, FINANCIAL CONTROL AND ANTI-FRAUD MEASURES**

The accounts and operations of all parties involved in the implementation of this programme, as well as all contracts and agreements implementing this programme, are subject to, on the one hand, the supervision and financial control by the Commission (including the European Anti-Fraud Office), which may carry out checks at its discretion, either by itself or through an outside auditor and, on the other hand, audits by the European Court of Auditors. This includes measures such as ex-ante verification of tendering and contracting carried out by the Delegation in the Beneficiary Country.

In order to ensure the efficient protection of the financial interests of the European Union, the Commission (including the European Anti-Fraud Office) may conduct on-the-spot checks and inspections in accordance with the procedures foreseen in Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) 2185/96<sup>9</sup>.

The controls and audits described above are applicable to all contractors, subcontractors and grant beneficiaries who have received European Union funds.

## **7. NON SUBSTANTIAL REALLOCATION OF FUNDS**

The authorising officer by delegation (AOD), or the authorising officer by sub-delegation (AOSD), in line with the delegation of powers conferred upon him by the AOD, in accordance with the principles of sound financial management, may undertake non substantial reallocations of funds without an amending financing decision being necessary. In this context, cumulative reallocations not exceeding 20% of the total amount allocated for the programme, subject to a limit of EUR 4 million, shall not be considered substantial, provided that they do not affect the nature and objectives of the programme. The IPA Committee shall be informed of the above reallocation of funds.

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<sup>9</sup> OJ L 292; 15.11.1996; p. 2.

## **8. LIMITED ADJUSTMENTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME**

Limited changes in the implementation of this programme affecting essential elements listed under Article 90 of the Implementing Rules to the Financial Regulation, which are of an indicative nature<sup>10</sup>, may be undertaken by the authorising officer by delegation (AOD), or by the authorising officer by sub-delegation (AOSD), in line with the delegation of powers conferred upon him by the AOD, in accordance with the principles of sound financial management without an amending financing decision being necessary.

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<sup>10</sup> These essential elements of an indicative nature are, for grants, the indicative amount of the call for proposals and, for procurement, the indicative number and type of contracts envisaged and the indicative time frame for launching the procurement procedures.