

COMMISSION DECISION

C(2008)3569 of 16 July 2008

adopting an IPA monitoring programme under the IPA-Transition Assistance and Institution Building component for 2008

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 of 17 July 2006 establishing an Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)¹, 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 and potential candidate countries.
- (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 established for all candidate and potential countries an Accession Partnership or a European Partnership. The Commission has adopted on 29 May 2007² a multi-beneficiary multi-annual indicative planning document 2008 which presents indicative allocations for the main priorities for pre-accession assistance to all countries concerned.
- (4) Therefore, the IPA monitoring programme under the IPA Transition Assistance and Institution Building Component for year 2008 aims at enhance the effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of Community assistance to the countries of the Western Balkans and Turkey, by monitoring the execution of projects implemented under Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 and Regulation (EC) No 2666/2000³, in accordance with Article 16 of Regulation (EC) 1085/2006.
- (5) 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

¹ OJ L210, 31.7.2006, p. 82.

² C(2007) 2205

³ OJ L 306, 7.12.2000, p. 1 Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2112/2005 (OJ L 344, 27.12.2005, p.23)

implementation of Council Regulation No 1605/2002⁴ and constitutes thus a financing decision within the meaning of Article 75 of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002⁵ on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities.

- (6) The measures provided for by this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the IPA Committee,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The IPA monitoring programme under the IPA-Transition Assistance and Institution Building component for 2008, as set out in the Annex, is hereby adopted.

This programme shall be implemented by centralised management.

Article 2

The maximum amount of Community assistance shall be EUR 2,000,000 to be financed through item 22.020702 of the General Budget of the European Communities for 2008.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission

Member of the Commission

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

⁵ OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p.1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC, Euratom) 1995/2006 (OJ L 390, 30.12.2006, p.1).

ANNEX

THE IPA MONITORING PROGRAMME UNDER THE IPA-TRANSITION ASSISTANCE AND INSTITUTION BUILDING COMPONENT FOR 2008

1 IDENTIFICATION

Beneficiaries	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo (UNSCR 1244) and Turkey.
Programme	IPA Monitoring programme
CRIS number	2008/019-734
Year	2008
Cost	EUR 2,000,000
Implementing Authority	The European Commission
Final Date for contracting:	30/11/2009
Final date for execution	30/11/2011
Sector Code	99810
Budget line	22.020702: evaluation of results of Community aid, follow-up and audit measures. The remark of the relevant Item of the General Budget allows for the monitoring of activities for both IPA and previous pre-accession financial instruments
Programming Task Manager	DG Enlargement, Unit for Regional Programmes
Implementation Task Manager	DG Enlargement, Unit for Regional Programmes

2 PRIORITY AXES/PROJECTS

2.a Priority axes

The overall objective of this IPA monitoring programme is to enhance the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of the assistance to the Western Balkans and Turkey. Monitoring provides the Commission with regular analytical assessments on implementation of projects and programmes. This programme covers the monitoring of projects financed from the CARDS National and Regional Annual Action programmes as well as from IPA National and Multi Beneficiary Annual Action Programmes managed by the Commission Headquarters or Delegations.

2.b Description of projects grouped per priority axis

MONITORING

Monitoring of projects will be done through Results-Oriented Monitoring. The Results-Oriented Monitoring system gathers information on projects in the field and is based on analysis of the relevant project documents, site visits and consultations with relevant stakeholders in project implementation, whether or not identified in the original design of the project. This information is mainly provided to the Commission through reports on technical and managerial aspects of project implementation and can assist the Commission to:

- ensure that projects and other activities remain on course to reach their objectives;
- obtain early feedback from project implementation to subsequent project design, in advance of conclusions from possible ex-post evaluations;
- support reporting mechanisms to the Member States, the European Parliament and the Council.

A service contract with the title "*Monitoring system of the implementation of projects and programmes of external co-operation financed by the European Community, Lot6 – Western Balkans and Turkey*" was awarded to the consortium led by the Institute of Communication and Computer Systems of the National Technical University of Athens for an amount €1,639,287 and a legal duration of 12 months. This contract was signed on 26 November 2007. The award of the contract was based on a tender procedure following the general provisions of the Financial Regulation (Part one, Title V, Chapters 1 and 2).

An extension of the current service contract mentioned in the paragraph above, for a maximum duration of 12 months and a maximum budget of EUR 2,000,000 is envisaged to be signed before the end-date of the said on-going contract.

The legal basis for the extension of the current service contract is Article 126(1)(f) in conjunction with Article 126(3) of the Implementing Rules to the Financial Regulation.

2.c Overview of past and on going assistance including lesson learned

Results-Oriented Monitoring has been used for assessing project and programme implementation in the Western Balkans since November 2004. Results-Oriented Monitoring is also used by EuropeAid Co-operation office in every geographical area it covers. Results-

Oriented Monitoring has been seen as a very useful tool for the Commission in the implementation of projects and programmes. However, some important lessons have been learned over the years. The role of the Commission and especially that of the Delegations as a stakeholder of the monitoring process should be clarified and enhanced. As observed during the last three years of monitoring activities, regular involvement of Commission hierarchy substantially enhances the effectiveness of the monitoring projects and generally increases attention to, and use of, monitoring results by Project Managers. Continuity of monitoring by the same monitor has also contributed to a better overall involvement and understanding of the particular project issues.

2.d Benchmarks

	N	N+1 (cumulative)
Extension to the current service contract 2007/145-210	1	1
Tenders launched (number)	0	0
Contracting Rate (%)	100%	100%

3 BUDGET (AMOUNTS IN EURO)

3.1. Budget table (indicative breakdown)

	EU – IPA assistance			Total Co-financing of Project (indicative)	Total (IPA plus Co- financing)
	Institution Building	Investment	Total (IB and INV)		
Priority axis 07 – Support activities	2,000,000		2,000,000		2,000,000
07.71 - Support activities: Monitoring	2,000,000		2,000,000		2,000,000
07.71.01 Project 1 "Extension of Current Service contract"	2,000,000		2,000,000		2,000,000
TOTAL	2,000,000		2,000,000		2,000,000

3.2 PRINCIPLE OF CO-FINANCING APPLYING TO THE PROJECTS FUNDED UNDER THE PROGRAMME

The Community contribution, which represents 100% of the total budget allocated to this programme, in accordance with Article 67(3) of Commission Regulation (EC) No 718/2007 of 12 June 2007 (the IPA Implementing Rules)⁶ has been calculated in relation to the eligible expenditure, which in the case of centralized management is based on the total expenditure.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Method of implementation

The programme will be implemented on a centralised basis by the European Commission in accordance with Article 53a of the Financial Regulation⁷ and the corresponding provisions of the Implementing Rules⁸.

4.2 General rules for procurement

Procurement shall follow the provisions of Part 1, Title V of the Financial Regulation and Chapter of Part 1, Title V of its Implementing Rules.

The Commission shall also use the procedural guidelines facilitating the application of the above rules provided for in the "Vademecum on Public Procurement Procedures in the Commission" and the standard templates and models as published on the BUDG website⁹ at the date of the initiation of the procurement or grant award procedure

5. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

5.1 Monitoring

The Commission may undertake any actions it deems necessary to monitor the 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 the IPA Implementing Rules, with the aim of improving the quality, effectiveness and consistency of the assistance from Community 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 OJ L 170, 29.6.2007, p.1

⁷ OJ L 248, 16.09.2002, p.1. Regulation as amended by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1995/2006 (OJ L 390, 30.12.2006, p.1)

⁸ OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p.1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 478/2007 (OJ L 111, 28.04.2007, p.13)

⁹ http://intracomm.cec.eu-admin.net/budg/imp/procurement/imp-080-030-010_contracts_en.html

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 Community, 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) 2185/96¹⁰.

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

7. LIMITED CHANGES

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 nature¹¹, 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.

¹⁰ OJ L 292; 15.11.1996; p. 2

¹¹ 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.