

Project Fiche – IPA National programmes / Component I

IPA National Programme 2012 for Albania

1 IDENTIFICATION

Project Title	<i>Support for participation in Union Programmes</i>
CRIS Decision number	<i>2012/023-036</i>
Project no.	<i>16</i>
MIPD Sector Code	<i>9. Support and other activities</i>
ELARG Statistical code	<i>04.65 - Participation in Community programmes and Agencies</i>
DAC Sector code	<i>43082 - Research/scientific institutions</i>
Total cost (VAT excluded)¹	<i>3.011.662 EUR</i>
EU contribution	<i>2.434.000 EUR</i>
Management mode	<i>Centralised</i>
EU Delegation in charge	<i>Delegation of the European Union to Albania</i>
Implementation management	<i>Ministry of European Integration</i>
Implementing modality	<i>Stand alone project</i>
Project implementation type	<i>C01 - Project-type interventions</i>
Zone benefiting from the action(s)	<i>Albania</i>

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

2 RATIONALE

2.1 PROJECT CONTEXT: ISSUES TO BE TACKLED AND NEEDS ADDRESSED

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 in the European Union, the European Commission had proposed in 1997 the progressive opening-up to candidate countries of a broad range of Community 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.

In the Thessaloniki Agenda, the EU agreed to open participation in Community Programmes to Western Balkan countries, following the approach used in the past for candidate countries. The Commission proposed concrete steps in its Communication of 3 December 2003², highlighting the need for a selective and gradual approach.

Further to the Thessaloniki Agenda for the Western Balkans and in line with its Communication “Preparing for the participation of the Western Balkan countries in Community programmes and agencies”³ the Commission negotiated respective Framework Agreements with the beneficiaries. Consequently, EU funds may be used to prepare for participation in and to co-finance the costs of Community Programmes.

These agreements were signed on 22 November 2004, on the occasion of the EU Western Balkans Forum, assent was then given by the European Parliament on 10 May 2005 and, finally, Council proceeded with the conclusion of the agreements on 2 June 2005⁴. The Framework Agreement has been ratified by the Parliament of the Republic of Albania by the law No. 9404 on 19 May 2005 and finally entered into force in June 2005.

The beneficiary currently participates in the following Union Programmes:

1. 7-th Research Framework Programme
2. Competition and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP-EIP)
3. Youth in Action
4. Europe for Citizens
5. Culture

Furthermore, the beneficiary has expressed interest to participate in the “Customs 2013” Union Programme.

The participation of the beneficiary in Union Programmes follows specific terms and conditions set out for each such programme in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

For the 7th Research Framework Programme, the Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the European Community and the Republic of Albania on 17th December 2007 confirming Albania's participation for the duration of FP7 as of 1st January 2008.

² Communication of the Commission “Preparing for the participation of the Western Balkan countries in Community programmes and agencies” [COM (2003) 748 of 3.12.03] – accessible on the internet at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/see/docs/com03_748_en.pdf

³ COM(2003) 748 final of 03/12/2003

⁴ The Council decisions and the framework agreements have been published in the Official Journal *OJ L 192 of 22.07.2005*

For CIP, the Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the European Community and the Republic of Albania on 27th June 2008 confirming Albania's participation until 2013. The conditions for the entry into force of the agreement were fulfilled with effect from 4th of November 2008.

A Memorandum of Understanding for the Community Programme Europe for Citizens was signed between the European Community and the Republic of Albania on 2nd February 2009. The Memorandum of Understanding entered into force following its ratification by the Albanian Parliament on 19th March 2009.

Youth in Action Program is 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.

The Memorandum of Understanding for Culture programme has been signed by the Republic of Albania and the European Commission on 20th of December 2011.

The Memorandum of Understanding for Custom 2013 programme was approved in principal by the Decision of Council of Minister no. 124 on 22nd of February 2012 and is still in process of the approval in the respective structures in Brussels.

This Project Fiche covers the participation of Albania in the Union Programmes FP7, CIP-EIP, Culture and Customs for the year 2013.

The beneficiary institutions are in charge of the coordination of the selected Union Programmes and the Ministry of European Integration is in charge of the overall coordination of these programmes.

2.2 LINK WITH MIPD AND NATIONAL SECTOR STRATEGIES

The Multiannual Indicative Planning Document (MIPD) 2011-2013 foresees the concentration of EU funds over the next three years on six priority sectors, which are: i) Justice and Home Affairs, ii) Public Administration Reform, iii) Transport, iv) Environment and Climate Change, v) Employment and Social Inclusion, and vi) Agriculture and Rural development. According to the MIPD IPA may finance actions that fall outside the scope of these sectors, such as participation in Union Programmes for which the country becomes eligible.

This project will contribute to achieve the strategic goals of three national strategies - The National Strategy of Science, Technology and Innovation 2009-2015, The Business and Development Strategy 2007-2013 and the Strategy on Culture.

Main goals of The National Strategy of Science, Technology and Innovation 2009-2015 are summarised and quantified below:

1. Increase public spending on research to 0.6% of GDP by 2015. A number of observers found this target too modest. However, it would represent a significant increase compared to the current situation. Equally, it would be a higher relative share than a number of less developed EU countries, some Western Balkan countries and many emerging economies.

2. Increase the share of gross expenditure on R&D from foreign sources notably from the EU (FP, etc.) and international donors to cover 40 per cent of all research spending in the years 2010–2015.
3. Create 4-5 Albanian Centres of Excellence in Science (ACES) including dedicated laboratory equipment or workspaces that could be used for new technology based firms (pre-incubation, testing, certification, etc.).
4. Double the number of researchers, through ‘brain gain’ incentives and training of new researchers (establishment of graduate schools; train 500 PhDs). This will involve the creation, in synergy with the Higher Education Strategy action plan, of up to three new ‘PhD schools’ (or doctoral programmes) in Albanian universities. New PhD schools are planned to be opened this year with curricula and standards comparable to those stipulated in the Bologna Charter.
5. Increase innovation activity in 100 companies (this figure may be revised once the results from the first business RTDI survey are published) through investment in R&D through own laboratories, or via consortia with the academic RIs or in partnership with foreign partners.

Participation in CIP-EIP programme will contribute to the achievement of the strategic priorities of Business and Development Strategy for the development of SME sector:

- Harmonize with sector strategies that have an impact on SME
- Ensure transparencies of decisions, actions and measures that affect business environment
- Ensure fair competition and support SME integration into global market
- Develop the information technology and entrepreneurship culture

and ultimately contribute to the SME development long-term objectives, defined in strategic framework for SME development in 2007:

- Increase employment by 5% annually
- Increase the number of new businesses by 15% annually
- Increase credit to the private sector by 3-4 times in 4 years
- Increase micro credit capacity by 3-4 times in 4 years
- Gradually reduce the informal sector

According to Draft strategy on Culture, approved by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports (MTCYS) the national cultural policy in Albania is built on European standards and models. The underlying goal of such a cultural is to “bring down the walls that isolated Albania from the rest of the world, especially the West”.

Culture and the arts, in this sense, are considered to be tools that will help to bring democratic development to the country and re-assert its cultural identity within the region and as an integral part of European cultural identity. According to the same document, the implementation of the Strategy will increase the autonomy, competition and multidimensional role of arts and culture institutions in the country's civil, democratic and economic life.

2.3 LINK WITH ACCESSION PARTNERSHIP (AP) / EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP (EP) / STABILISATION AND ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT (SAA) / ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Link with European Partnership

This project will contribute to promote and to strengthen the regional cooperation in the fields of research, technological innovation, culture, education, customs and training, as foreseen in the European Partnership⁵ (EP) priority: "Albania must ensure successful participation in the Community Programmes..."

The EP underlines the need to strengthen the efforts to improve the quality of education and to create a modern vocational education and training system, and promote regional cooperation in the field of higher education.

In regard to Custom the European Partnership asks to further align customs legislation and procedures with EU practices. The aim of the Customs 2013 programme is to help customs administrations in participating countries to facilitate legitimate trade and to simplify and speed up customs procedures.

Link with Stabilisation and Association Agreement

This project will contribute to achieve the objectives of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA), which was signed on 12 June 2006 and entered into force on 1 April 2009, and in particular those mentioned in Article 100, education and training, Article 109, cooperation in research and technological development, Article 97 for Custom and Article 101 for culture. Cooperation shall take into account the priority areas related to the EU acquis in this field of research and technical development.

2.4 PROBLEM ANALYSIS

In recent years, Albania gradually increased the participation in Union Programmes, showing slow but steady progress in participation level, building up support structure and adopting work procedures. Current research data indicate a modest number of applicants from Albania. Potential applicants from Albania still prefer to apply as partners and not as lead applicants, recognising their limited capacities to draft competitive proposals as well as managing and reporting.

Apart from the general reluctance to invest in a huge programming effort without the guarantee of getting the project funding, many organisations feel a certain degree of 'inadequacy' which restrains them from becoming a Lead Applicants, even when there are valid project ideas. Organisations tend to resort for assistance from NCP structures, which are improving, but still need to build its capacities and broaden the offer of service.

Envisaged activities will support the effort of both the country to access participation in the programmes and to beneficiaries and potential stakeholders to further build capacities for effective participation in Union Programmes.

⁵ "The European Partnership Document for Albania adopted by Council Decision of 18 February 2008 on the principles, priorities and conditions contained in the European Partnership with Albania and repealing Decision 2006/54/EC.;

2.5 LINKED ACTIVITIES AND DONOR COORDINATION

CARDS 2005 provided financial contribution for the participation in Community Programmes to pay the entry ticket for participation in FP7 for the year 2008. Under CARDS 2006 funds were made available to co-finance the entry tickets for participation in the CIP-EIP and Europe for Citizens Programmes. This arrangement has continued under the IPA 2008, IPA 2009 and IPA 2011 programmes. Since 2008, Albania has received technical assistance from the EU to help the Government to increase the participation of potential applicants in programmes where the country is an active member. The main beneficiary of this assistance has been the public agencies that are responsible for the co-ordination and management of the relevant programmes.

The remaining part of entry ticket for programme is financed by the Government. To support the participation in Community Programmes, the Government of Albania also finance NCP systems and their respective local activities.

As a support to capacity building for participation, available only to member countries and associated countries, a series of FP7 NCP CSA projects (one per FP7 key priority area) funded from FP7 budget support capacity building of NCP system and its international activities in a small scale, through twinning between NCP offices or internal network training. Similar small scale activities are organised by DG ENTR and EEN for CIP NCPs, and by EACEA for Culture programme. Being associated to the respective programmes, Albania may benefit from the actions.

2.6 LESSONS LEARNED

The beneficiary currently has still limited familiarity with participating in Union Programmes, in particular in programme and project management. 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 beneficiary 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 beneficiary continues to plan clearly and consequently the activities to be followed. As the participation of Albania in Union programmes is also a test for the seriousness of its EU integration efforts and ambitions, the Albanian institutions which will manage the programmes should show maximum dedication and determination, including adequate staffing and budget resources, to implement their activities to the full satisfaction of the EU Commission and other stakeholders (such as programme partners).

Based on the experiences in recently finished technical assistance projects, the key administrative obstacle to successful participation is lack of harmonisation of national legislation and Community programmes rules.

3 DESCRIPTION

3.1 OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

The overall objective of the project is to promote the further alignment of Albania with European Union policies and working methods.

The project purpose is to increase Albanian active participation and commitment to participation in Union Programmes.

As a potential candidate country, Albania benefits from participation in Union Programmes through learning about procedures and project management in environment of international competition. Participation in Union Programmes enables gradual capacity building for effective membership, supports aligning of national development priorities with EU priorities, increases the visibility of the country and supports the integration process even in the early stage.

Participation in Union programmes will also bring a number of concrete public benefits through building scientific and technology base of the country, raising awareness on European citizenship and importance of active citizenship, increasing the visibility of the country, supporting preserving cultural identity thorough cultural programmes.

3.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE(S) OF THE PROJECT

The specific objectives of the project is to raise the overall quality of participation in Union programmes by creating conditions for effective participation and further developing capacities to generate high quality projects and manage them effectively.

This is to be achieved by committing adequate human and financial resources to cover the costs of entry tickets, and develop sustainable and capable internal support structure.

3.3 RESULTS

Activity 1

Expected result 1: costs of entry tickets for Union Programmes co-financed

Expected result 2: participation of beneficiaries in FP7 programme achieved

Expected result 3: participation of beneficiaries in CIP-EIP programme achieved

Expected result 4: participation of beneficiaries in Culture programme achieved

Expected result 5: participation of beneficiaries in Customs 2013 programme achieved

Activity 2:

Expected result 1: enhanced capacity of MEI to coordinate, prioritise and plan the further involvement in Union Programmes

Expected result 2: improved capacities of beneficiary staff to manage programme and projects, and assist clients in all aspects of participation

Expected result 3: enhanced capacities of potential national stakeholders to apply to calls for proposals launched by relevant Community Programmes

Expected result 4: enhanced capacities of potential stakeholders to establish and effectively manage internal project units

3.4 MAIN ACTIVITIES

There are two main activities of this project:

1. Co-finance the participation of the beneficiary in the selected Union Programmes (FP7, CIP-EIP, Culture and Customs 2013) and, depending on the availability of funds, in subsequent years.⁶

For each programme, the Commission has concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with the beneficiary country wishing to take part in the programme. The Memorandum of Understanding lay down the rules governing participation, in particular the administrative capacities required, the planned financial contribution, the mechanism for taking part in the management of the programme and the financial control provisions. The exact financial allocation to be paid by the beneficiary for participating in Union Programmes and Agencies are determined in the relevant MoU signed between the beneficiary and the respective line DG.

The EU's contribution to the entry ticket for FP7 programme for the year 2013 will be 75 % and that of the beneficiary 25 %. For the CIP-EIP programme for the year 2013, the EU contribution to the entry ticket will be 95% and that of the beneficiary 5 % and for the Culture programme for year 2012 the EU contribution to the entry ticket will be 90,24% and that of the beneficiary 9,76 %. For Culture in the year 2013 the EU contribution to the entry ticket will be 85,36% and that of the beneficiary 14,64 %. For Customs 2013 the contribution to entry ticket will be 100%.

EU contribution to the entry ticket costs shall be realised through four contracts, one per each MoU.

2. Technical assistance for participation in Union Programmes

⁶ Where appropriate and depending on the availability of funds the participation in Community Programmes other than those mentioned in the list may be supported.

The aim of this activity is to provide technical assistance to the beneficiary 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 MoU is in place.

This activity is to be realised through provision of services. A tender for provision of services should be published, and one contract awarded.

3.5 ASSESSMENT OF PROJECT IMPACT, CATALYTIC EFFECT AND CROSS BORDER IMPACT (WHERE APPLICABLE)

The impact of the project will be manifold, reflecting the diversity of the listed Union Programmes in which the beneficiary intends to participate. The aim and supported activities of each programme can be found on the European Union's internet homepage.

On the one hand, it is expected that participation in Union Programmes will support the country's efforts towards faster integration and cohesion by facilitating transfer of know-how and good practice, particularly in those areas which are key reference points for the reform process. The projects implemented will enhance public awareness and information on the EU. Citizens, companies and national administrations of beneficiary country will have the possibility of joining in co-operation and exchange networks in very different areas covered by those Union Programmes, thus benefiting from diverse and complementary experiences of other partners.

These programmes can help to spread more "European feeling" among ordinary Albanian citizens; they can be suitable also to bring in Albanian assets and thus improve Albania's image in the EU. Participation in Union Programmes as outlined above will most likely generate a series of positive catalytic effects. For instance, enlarged personal or institutional networks also broaden the scope for follow-up activities and offer access to a wider information market. In cases of transfer of know-how and best practices, especially in more innovative areas, positive spill-over effects multiplying the value added of the initial output may be expected.

3.6 SUSTAINABILITY

In order to ensure sustainability of results, beneficiary will apply measures to commit sufficient human and financial resources to maintain and gradually increase the level of active participation in respective Union Programmes, and particularly in programme bodies and NCP networks. Beneficiary will commit resources to maintain and gradually develop NCP networks and improve access to information and assistance to potential project participants.

3.7 ASSUMPTIONS AND PRE-CONDITIONS⁷

The main pre-condition is the fulfilment of the Memorandum of Understanding on participation in selected Union Programmes between the European Commission and the Government of Albania.

The responsible line ministries and agencies must ensure co-financing for entry tickets. In addition, potential applicants should provide co-financing of projects within a specific Union Programme.

The project is based on assumption that potential budget execution difficulties will not imperil the fulfilment of MoUs. Should such difficulties occur, the beneficiary will take measures to ensure timely co-financing through prioritising and budget redistribution.

4 IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

Contracts are to be implemented through a centralised system, where contracting Authority is The European Union represented by the European Commission on behalf of the Government of Albania, and Implementing Agency is the Delegation of the European Union to Albania.

The Ministry of European Integration (MEI) is the main beneficiary, responsible for coordination of activities at beneficiary level, and appoints the project manager. Other beneficiaries are governmental institutions – line ministries and agencies responsible for implementation of respective Union Programmes.

4.1 INDICATIVE BUDGET

⁴ Assumptions are external factors that have the potential to influence (or even determine) the success of a project but lie outside the control of the implementation managers. Such factors are sometimes referred to as risks or assumptions but the Commission requires that all risks shall be expressed as assumptions. Pre-conditions are requirements that must be met before the sector support can start.

Indicative Project budget (amounts in EUR)

PROJECT TITLE			SOURCES OF FUNDING									
			TOTAL EXPENDITURE	IPA CONTRIBUTION		NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION					PRIVATE CONTRIBUTION	
	IB (1)	INV (1)	EUR (a)=(b)+(c)+(d)	EUR (b)	% (2)	Total EUR (c)=(x)+(y)+(z)	% (2)	Central EUR (x)	Regional/Local EUR (y)	IFIs EUR (z)	EUR (d)	% (2)
Activity 1												
FP7 (2013)	X	-	2.256.000	1.692.000	75	564.000	25	564.000	0	0	0	-
CIP-EIP (2013)	X	-	72.662	69.000	95	3.662	5	3.662	0	0	0	-
Culture (2012)	X	-	41.000	37.000	90.24	4.000	9,76	4.000	0	0	0	-
Culture (2013)	X	-	42.000	36.000	85.36	6.000	14.64	6.000	0	0	0	-
Customs (2013)	X	-	100.000	100.000	100	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0	
Activity 2												
Technical assistance for Union Programmes	X	-	500.000	500.000		0.00		0.00				
TOTAL IB			3.011.662	2.434.000		577.662		577.662	0	0	0	-
TOTAL INV			-	-		-		-				-
TOTAL PROJECT			3.011.662	2.434.000		577.662		577.662	0	0	0	-

Amounts net of VAT

(1) In the Activity row, use "X" to identify whether IB or INV

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

4.2 INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE (PERIODS BROKEN DOWN BY QUARTER)

Contracts	Start of Tendering/ Call for proposals	Signature of contract	Project Completion
Contract 1.1 Entry ticket for FP7	N/A	2Q 2013	2Q 2014
Contract 1.2. Entry ticket for CIP-EIP	N/A	2Q 2013	2Q 2014
Contract 1.3. Entry ticket for Culture (2012)	N/A	4Q 2012	4Q 2013
Contract 1.4. Entry ticket for Culture (2013)	N/A	2Q 2013	2Q 2014
Contract 1.5. Entry ticket for Customs 2013	N/A	2Q 2013	2Q 2014
Contract 2.1. Technical assistance for Union Programmes	1Q 2014	3Q 2014	3Q 2016

4.3 CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

4.3.1 *Equal Opportunities and non discrimination*

The beneficiary has to ensure that selection of and selection criteria for participants to Union Programmes are based on the principle of equal treatment and non-discrimination for grounds as outlined in the European Charta of Fundamental Rights.

4.3.2 *Environment and climate change*

The European Union has a longstanding commitment to address environmental concerns in its assistance programmes (as part of a wider commitment to sustainable development). Key references include art. 6 of the Treaty and also the Cardiff process, which foresees the systematic consideration of environmental aspects in EC development cooperation and in other policies.

4.3.3 *Minorities and vulnerable groups*

The beneficiary will ensure non-discriminatory access to information on Union Programmes and assistance in project preparation and management provided by the beneficiary will be available on non-discriminatory basis. Where the beneficiary is in position to select participants in Union Programme, the beneficiary will ensure that selection of and selection criteria for participants to Union Programmes are based on the principle non-discrimination of minorities and vulnerable groups.

4.3.4 Civil Society/Stakeholders involvement

No specific measures have been taken to associate civil society and other stakeholders in the design or implementation of this project.

ANNEXES

Documents to be annexed to the Project fiche

1 Log frame

2 Description of Institutional Framework

(Including composition of the project Steering Committee, Sector Monitoring Sub-Committees, and sectoral working group)

3 Reference list of relevant laws and regulations only where relevant

4 Details per EU funded contract(*) where applicable:

For TA contracts: outputs expected from the contractor and indicative budget breakdown.

For twinning contracts: main components and activities foreseen, indicative budget breakdown, profile of the MS project leader, resident twinning advisor and key short term experts as well as name and position of the project leader of the BC.

For grants schemes: components of the scheme, eligible target group and activities (in case of direct grants, justification for selection of grant beneficiary without call for proposal).

*For supply contracts: reference to feasibility study as well as indicative list of items, cost estimate, intended beneficiary, indication on how detailed technical specifications will be prepared, provisions for maintenance + section to be filled in on assets' ownership(**).*

*For works contracts: reference to feasibility study for the construction works, identification of the site, indicative list of works to be completed and cost estimate, indication on how technical specifications will be prepared, provisions for maintenance and information on assets' ownership(**); account of services to be carried out for the service part of the contract.*

Please note that feasibility study is a pre-requisite when works and supply contracts are proposed.

For each activity, describe format and co-financing plan.

(*) Non standard aspects (in case of derogation to PRAG) also to be specified.

(**) Assets' ownership, maintenance plans (applicable to all supply and works contracts):

- Ownership of assets (current and after project completion)
- Maintenance plans
- Describe any co-financing arrangement how this will be implemented and by when

5 Project visibility activities

ANNEX 1: Logical framework matrix in standard format

LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR Project Fiche		Project title and number: Participation in Union Programmes		
		Contracting period expires: three years following the date of the date of conclusion of the Financing Agreement		Execution period expires: One year following the end date for the execution of contracts
		Total budget	3.011.662	
		IPA budget:	2.434.000	
Overall objective	Objectively verifiable indicators (OVI)	Sources of Verification		
To promote the further alignment of Albania with European Union policies and working methods	<p>Positive assessment by European Commission Progress Report</p> <p>Positive assessment during SAA subcommittees meetings</p>	<p>European Commission Progress Report</p> <p>Minutes of SAA subcommittees meetings</p>		
Specific objective	Objectively verifiable indicators (OVI)	Sources of Verification		Assumptions
To increase active participation of Albania in Union Programmes and countries' commitment to the Programmes	<p>Increased number of organisations participating in FP7, CIP-EIP, Culture and Customs Union Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ number of submitted projects proposals with Albanian partners ▪ amount of total funding relative to the respective entry ticket ▪ comparison of these indicators with past experiences 	<p>EU official records (CORDA database, DG ENTR, EACEA)</p> <p>Official Albanian records (MEI, line ministries)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased public spending for research to 0,6% GDP by 2015 ▪ Increased share of gross expenditure for R&D from foreign sources ▪ Creation of 4-5 Albanian Centers of Excellence in Science (ACES) ▪ Increased number of researchers ▪ Increased innovation activity in 100 companies ▪ ARTI in full function ▪ Basic NCP structure for all programmes operative ▪ NCAC established ▪ MoUs in place
Results	Objectively verifiable indicators (OVI)	Sources of Verification		Assumptions

Cost of entry tickets for Union Programmes co-financed	Reimbursement of entry ticket costs for FP7 (75%), CIP-EIP (5%) and Culture (85,36%) for 2013	EC receipts of payments by line DG	Responsible line ministries and agencies ensure co-financing for entry tickets
Participation of beneficiaries in FP7 achieved	<p>Number of submitted applications in FP7:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - at least 1 FP7 application with Albanian coordinator - at least 10 FP7 submitted and eligible applications with Albanian partner - positive trend in comparison with past experience and other beneficiaries 	<p>EC official records (CORDA database, DG Research)</p> <p>Official Albanian records (ARTI, MoES, MEI)</p>	<p>High interest for Union Programmes in community</p> <p>Basic support structure in place and operative</p>
Participation of beneficiaries in CIP-EIP achieved	<p>Number of submitted applications in CIP-EIP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - at least 2 CIP-EIP submitted application with Albanian partner - participation in EEN network activities - positive trend in comparison with past experience and other beneficiaries 	<p>EC official records (DG ENTR, EEN)</p> <p>Official Albanian records (METE, MEI)</p>	<p>High interest for Union Programmes in community</p> <p>Basic support structure in place and operative</p>
Participation of beneficiaries in Culture achieved	<p>Number of submitted applications in Culture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - at least 3 Culture submitted application with Albanian partner - at least 1 funded project 	<p>EC official records (DG Education and Culture, EACEA)</p> <p>Official Albanian records (MTCYS, NCAC, MEI)</p>	<p>High interest for Union Programmes in community</p> <p>Basic support structure in place and operative</p>

Participation of beneficiaries in Customs achieved	Number of submitted applications in Culture: - at least 2 funded projects	EC official records (DG Education and Culture, EACEA) Official Albanian records (MFIN, customs)	High interest for Union Programmes in community Basic support structure in place and operative
Enhanced capacity of MEI to coordinate, prioritise and plan the further involvement in Union Programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Needs and priorities of Albanian for future participation in Union Programmes identified ▪ Action plan for future participation set up ▪ Follow-up process in place and active 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A strategy for future participation in Union Programmes ▪ Action plan for future participation in Union Programmes ▪ Programming documents ▪ MEI reports ▪ Project reports 	MEI staff commitment to the project Government commitment to participation in Union Programmes
Improved capacities of beneficiary staff to manage programme and projects, and assist clients in all aspects of participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of assisted proposals increased ▪ Offer and availability of client services improved ▪ Project success rate increased 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Programme documents and reports ▪ Training reports ▪ Services list ▪ Project reports ▪ Evaluation reports 	Beneficiary commitment to participation in training and service development activities Sufficient human and material resources to develop level of services
Enhanced capacities of potential national stakeholders to apply to calls for proposals launched by relevant Community Programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of submitted proposals increased ▪ Number of retained projects increased ▪ Number of projects with lead Albanian partner increased 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Official EC records and databases ▪ Official beneficiary records ▪ Project lists 	Interest and commitment of potential stakeholders to active participation in Union Programmes
Enhanced capacities of potential stakeholders to establish and effectively manage internal project units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of internal project units established ▪ Internal unit operative procedures in place ▪ Internal unit staff trained ▪ Number of projects managed within units increased 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reports on unit establishment ▪ Internal units operative handbooks ▪ Training reports ▪ Project lists 	Interest and commitment of potential stakeholders to develop and maintain internal project units

Activities to achieve results	Means / contracts	Costs	Assumptions
Co-finance the participation in Union Programmes	Grants with the beneficiaries	Total costs: 3.011.662 EUR IPA Contribution: 2.434.000 EUR National contribution: 577.662 EUR	Fulfillment of MoUs on participation in Union Programmes between EC and GoA
Technical assistance for participation in Union Programmes	Tender for services	Total costs: 3.011.662 EUR IPA Contribution: 2.434.000 EUR National contribution: 577.662 EUR	Fulfillment of MoUs on participation in Union Programmes between EC and GoA

ANNEX 2

Description of the Institutional Framework

A reform of the research system is completed. It will closely link the existing research institutes to the universities. Among the priorities of Albania are research in support to SME's, regional co-operation with the other Western Balkan countries, mobility of researchers and the development of reliable sciences and technology indicators. The Albanian Government has approved the National Strategy of Science, Technology and Innovation, by the Decision of Council of Ministers no. 863, dated 29.07.2009. According to the action plan of this Strategy, the new law on research and science is adopted and Agency for Research, Technology and Innovation (ARTI) is established. Building capacities in some of the university research centres, which have been recently created by the reform of former scientific institutes of the Academy of Science is ongoing. All these will be matched with an increase in the national research funding.

Given the relatively low level of successful applications to FP7 from Albania ARTI will assist in the implementation of the programs FP7, COST, Life, Eureka, IPA, Interreg etc., , which would also increase effectiveness in the use of FP7 funds especially for the projects ERA, ERA PLUS, INCO-NET, etc.

The participation of Albania in the Union programme on Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP), for the period 2007-2013.

According the decision of European Parliament No. 1639/2006/EC regarding the starting of the programme for Competitiveness and Innovation, Competitiveness Innovation Programme, (CIP) for the period 2007-2013 it is allowed to apply even Albania.

Within CIP programme there are three main sub-programmes which are focused in SMEs with that type of technology that protect the environment:

Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP).

ICT policy support programme

The intelligent energy-europe programme (IEE).

METE has agreed in participating in the first and third sub-programme, respectively EIP and IEE.

With the Government Decree No. 713, date 24.10.2007, on the approval of the participation of Albania in the community programme "Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme" (CIP) was approved the participation of Albania in (CIP).

Minister of Economy, Trade and Energy Mr. Genc Ruli and Vice/President of European Commission Mr. Günter Verheugen, on 27 June 2008, have signed the memorandum of understanding for the participation of Albania in the first sub-programme Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP).

MoU was ratified with the Law no.9984, dated 11.09.2008 “On ratification of Memorandum of Understanding between Albanian Republic and European Community on the participation of Albanian Republic in the community programme Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP) of the framework programme of competitiveness and Innovation, 2007-2013 which was published on the Official Journal no.143 dated 22 September 2008 and has entered into force on 7 October 2008.

On 16 December 2008, METE for the participation to EIP, has paid the financial contribution to EU General Budget, in the value of 36,738 EUR.

Also METE/Albinvest applied in the programme Services in support of Business and Innovation ENT/CIP/07/0001. Application of Albania was approved by the Evaluating Committee in the second instance, after improvements.

Regarding the third component IEE, METE is in process of negotiating for signing the Memorandum of Understanding.

ANNEX 3

Reference list of relevant laws, regulations and strategic documents

- Law no. 10096 dated 19.03.2009 “On ratification of the MoU between Albanian Government and European Community for the participation of Republic of Albania in the programme: Europe for citizens”
- Decision of Council of Ministers no. 713, date 24.10.2007, “Approving the participation of Albania in the community programme Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme”;
- Decision of Council of Ministers no. 578, dated 05.09.2007 “Approving the participation of Albania in the community programme FP 7”
- Decision of Council of Ministers no. 863, dated 29.07.2009 “Approving the National Strategy of Science, Technology and Innovation”

ANNEX 4

Details per EU funded contract

Contracts in Activity 1 – Co-financing of entry tickets

The annual financial contribution to be paid by Albania to the budget of the European Union to participate in the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7) programme, CIP-EIP Programme, Culture Programme and Customs 2013 Programme are outlined in the respective Memoranda of Understanding signed by the European Commission and the Government of Albania.

Albania finances its contributions partly from Albania's State Budget, and partly from Albania's pre-accession funds, subject to annual programming procedures within the framework of Council Regulation (EC) No 2666/2000 of 5th of December 2000, as amended by Regulation (EC) No 2415 of 10th December 2001 on assistance for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Council Regulation (EC)1085/2006 of 17th of July 2006. The requested pre-accession funds will be transferred to Albania as a reimbursement of part of the annual financial contribution actually paid in response to annual calls for funds from the Commission.

Contract in Activity 2 – Technical Assistance for participation in Union Programmes

Four main outputs are expected from the contractor:

Expected result 1: enhanced capacity of MEI to coordinate, prioritise and plan the further involvement in Union Programmes

Expected result 2: improved capacities of beneficiary staff to manage programme and projects, and assist clients in all aspects of participation

Expected result 3: enhanced capacities of potential national stakeholders to apply to calls for proposals launched by relevant Community Programmes

Expected result 4: enhanced capacities of potential stakeholders to establish and effectively manage internal project units

The expected results are envisaged to be delivered through a technical assistance in duration of up to 2 years and 550 work days. The indicative budget for assistance of 500.000 EUR should allow for engagement of 2 key experts, 3-4 short term experts and up to 120.000 EUR of incidental costs for activities, including expert and beneficiary travels.

ANNEX 5

Project visibility activities

Project visibility activities will be carried out in accordance with EC visibility guidelines.