



Brussels, 6.12.2018
C(2018) 8524 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 6.12.2018

adopting an Annual Action Programme for Kosovo^{*} for the year 2018

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

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adopting an Annual Action Programme for Kosovo* for the year 2018

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012¹, and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures of the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action² and in particular Article 2 (1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the Annual Action Programme for Kosovo for the year 2018, it is necessary to adopt a financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 2018. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) The envisaged assistance is deemed to follow the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU³.
- (3) Regulation (EU) No 231/2014⁴ lays down the objectives and main principles for pre-accession assistance to beneficiaries listed in Annex I to that Regulation.
- (4) In accordance with Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 the assistance should be implemented through annual or multi-annual, country-specific or multi-country programmes. These programmes should be drawn up in accordance with the framework for assistance referred to in Article 4 of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 and the relevant country or multi-country indicative strategy papers referred to in Article 6 of that Regulation.
- (5) The Council established an Accession Partnership or a European Partnership for all beneficiaries listed in Annex I to Regulation (EU) No 231/2014. The Commission

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¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

² OJ L 77, 15.03.2014, p. 95.

³ www.sanctionsmap.eu Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

⁴ Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (OJ L 77, 15.03.2014, p. 11).

adopted an Indicative Strategy Paper for Kosovo for 2014-2020⁵. on 20 August 2014, revised on 10 August 2018⁶ which provides indicative allocations for the sectors for pre-accession assistance

- (6) Considering the proposals for action submitted by the beneficiaries concerned, the Annual Action Programme for Kosovo for the year 2018 aims at providing assistance for actions in the following sectors: democracy and governance, rule of law and fundamental rights, environment, climate action and energy, competitiveness and innovation, and education, employment and social policies.
- (7) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals, pursuant to Article 195 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 to the bodies identified in the Annex and for the reasons provided therein.
- (8) Pursuant to Article 4(7) of Regulation (EU) 236/2014, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the programme.
- (9) The Commission should be able to entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the entities indicated or to be selected in this Decision, subject to the conclusion of a delegation or contribution agreement. In accordance with Article 154(3) and (4) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, the authorising officer responsible needs to ensure that these entities guarantee a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union equivalent to that required when the Commission manages Union funds.

To this end, such entities and persons have been subject to an assessment of their systems and procedures in accordance with Article 154(4) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (10) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (11) The action programme provided for by this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the IPA II Committee set up by Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014⁷,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The programme

The Annual Action Programme for Kosovo for the year 2018 under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) as set out in the Annex, is hereby approved.

Article 2

Union contribution

⁵ Decision C(2014)5772, adopted on 20.08.2014.

⁶ Decision C(2018)5031, adopted on 20.08.2018, amending Commission Decision C(2014)5772, adopted on 20.08.2014.

⁷ The Member States have declared, recalling the Council Conclusions of 18 February 2008, that the adoption of this programme does not prejudice the position of each individual Member State on the status of Kosovo, which will be decided in accordance with their national practice and international law.

The maximum amount of the European Union contribution for the implementation of the programme referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 90 500 000 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

EUR 19 800 000 from the budget line 22.02.01.01

EUR 70 700 000 from the budget line 22.02.01.02.

The appropriations provided for in the first sub-paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

Article 3

Methods of implementation and entrusted entities or persons

The implementation of the actions carried out by way of indirect management, as set out in the Annex, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in the Annex.

Article 4

The following changes shall not be considered substantial, within the meaning of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions:

- (a) increases⁸ or decreases for not more than 20% of the maximum contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, and not exceeding EUR 10 million;
- (b) cumulated reassignments of funds between specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2;
- (c) extensions of the implementation and closure period;
- (d) within the limits of 20% referred to in points (a) and (b) above, up to 5% of the contribution referred to in the first paragraph of Article 2 of this financing decision may serve to finance actions which were not foreseeable at the time the present financing decision was adopted, provided that those actions are necessary to implement the objectives and the results set out in the programme.

The authorising officer responsible may adopt such non-substantial changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Article 5

Grants

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals pursuant to Article 195 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 to the bodies identified in the Annex, in accordance with the conditions specified therein.

⁸ These changes can come from external assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.

Done at Brussels, 6.12.2018

For the Commission
Johannes HAHN
Member of the Commission

ANNEX

to Commission Implementing Decision adopting an Annual Action Programme for Kosovo* for the year 2018

Annual Work Programme
This document constitutes the annual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046

1 IDENTIFICATION

Beneficiary	Kosovo
Basic act:	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA-II)
CRIS/ABAC Commitment references and budget line:	2018/041 245 / EUR 19 800 000 22.020101 2018/041 246 / EUR 70 700 000 22.020102
Total cost:	EUR 94 796 800
EU Contribution:	EUR 90 500 000
Method of implementation	<p>Direct management by the European Commission</p> <p>Indirect management by the entrusted entities listed below: Council of Europe for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Action 3: EU Support to Justice and Rule of Law - <i>Component 2: Project Against Economic Crime Phase III (PECK III)</i>- Action 9: EU for Education - Component 1.1 Improved access to education of students from disadvantaged groups in pre-primary, primary and secondary education; <p>International Organisation for Migration for Action 4: EU Support to Communities - Component I - Community Stabilisation Programme phase IV (CSP IV);</p> <p>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) for Action 6: EU Support to Waste Management in Kosovo- result 2: collection and transport of municipal</p>

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	<p>waste in all Kosovo is improved, result 3: Projects for the development of appropriate waste infrastructure are designed and implemented in accordance with priorities defined in the revised Kosovo Waste Strategy and result 4: The organisational and institutional capacity of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MEST), the municipalities, service providers and other relevant institutions of environment sector is strengthened for the transposition and implementation of the EU acquis; and</p> <p>Lux Development for Action 9: EU for Education: Component 2.1 - Planning and provision of vocational education is responsive to the needs of learners and employers in selected vocational schools.</p>
Final date for concluding <u>Financing Agreements</u> with the IPA II beneficiary	At the latest by 31 December 2019
Final date for contracting, including the conclusion of delegation/contribution agreements	3 years following the conclusion of the Financing Agreement
Indicative operational implementation period	6 years following the date of conclusion of the Financing Agreement.
Final date for implementing the Financing Agreement	12 years following the conclusion of the Financing Agreement.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION PROGRAMME

2.1 SECTORS SELECTED UNDER THIS ACTION PROGRAMME

- **Rationale for the selection of the specific sectors under this programme:**

Under the Action Programme for Kosovo for the year 2018, the following sectors will be supported: democracy and governance, rule of law and fundamental rights, environment, climate action and energy, and education, employment and social policies.

The main aim of the action under **democracy and governance** is to strengthen technical and administrative capacity of Kosovo's institutions in relation to the implementation of the European Reform Agenda, to support the effective and efficient management of funds of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II) and to contribute to the strengthening of the assembly of Kosovo by enhancing the accountability and effectiveness of the Assembly in its legislative functions notably on EU legal approximation process and oversight function towards the executive and independent agencies. In addition the action will aim to improve the professional capacity of the civil service to better serve Kosovo citizens and meet obligations arising from the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA), an EU-only agreement.

Assistance in the sector will also be provided to co-finance the costs of the entry-tickets/participation fees.

The action under the **rule of law and fundamental rights** aims to strengthen the judicial system in Kosovo and aligning its standards to the European ones and the EU *acquis*. This will be achieved through strengthening the independence and impartiality, accountability, professionalism, quality, efficiency and transparency of the institutions in the justice sector. The action will support the overall justice sector management. Activities will be developed to support the institutions with a more efficient, effective, transparent and functional legal and institutional framework, capacity building and improved working conditions. In addition, the action will enhance access to justice for all citizens, with particular focus on women, vulnerable, marginalised and disadvantaged groups. Furthermore, application of internationally recognised Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) and Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL) methodologies will strengthen Kosovo institutions in the fight against corruption and money laundering and terrorism in compliance with European standards.

The EU has been supporting the creation of an inclusive multi-ethnic society in Kosovo for many years and in this context further assistance in the sector will be provided to contribute to the stabilisation of the socio-economic situation of non-majority communities in Kosovo.

The action under **environment, climate action and energy** aims to contribute to Kosovo's compliance with its legislation and plan for reduction of emissions as well as with the *acquis* on environment, namely the Large Combustion Plants Directive and the Industrial Emissions Directive as required by the Energy Community Treaty for reduction

of emissions (dust particles and Nitrogen Oxides (NOx)) at Kosovo B Thermal Power Plant (TPP). In addition the action will aim to improve waste management in Kosovo in line with EU policy and principles and with Kosovo Waste Management Strategy and its subsequent Plan.

The actions in the **education, employment and social policies** sector aim to improve employability by supporting the creation and growth of start-ups through improving the entrepreneurship ecosystem. Support to improve access for persons with disability and reduced mobility to public facilities and support to promote tourism and creative industries by financing the design of a multi-function concert hall will also be ensured. In **education**, IPA II support will aim to contribute to development of a quality-based, all-inclusive and accountable education and training system, in line with the best international practices, by supporting the implementation of measures from the Kosovo Education Strategic Plan 2017-2021.

- **Overview of past and on-going EU, other donors' and/or IPA II beneficiary's actions in the relevant sectors:**

The actions under each sector build on past EU assistance delivered through IPA I and IPA II 2014-2017: lessons learned from past evaluations and audits were taken in account when designing the actions herein, as well as complementarity with actions financed from other donors.

In the sector of **democracy and governance** previous assistance focused on strengthening the capacity of Kosovo institutions, including the Assembly, in transposing, applying and implementing the EU *acquis*, especially in areas covered by the Stabilisation and Association Agreement. Furthermore, support was provided for the effective and efficient management and absorption of IPA II funds, support was provided to the assembly with the aim to build a functional and autonomous parliament in Kosovo, as well as to set up the necessary structures and procedures for EU Acquis approximation. In addition support was provided to increase in effectiveness, independence and accountability of Kosovo's civil service.

The proposed support under the **rule of law and fundamental rights** will build on the results and recommendations of previous EU funded and other donors' projects which has focused on key institutional reforms and capacity building of the various actors in the justice sector. Thus support was given to strengthen the administrative, policy making and legal drafting capacities within the Ministry of Justice and to reduce the backlog of cases in courts; the onetime Kosovo wide vetting and re-appointment of judges and prosecutors was supported; international experts have supported the Constitutional Court; the Kosovo Judicial and Prosecutorial Councils were assisted with the purpose of creating an independent and impartial judiciary. Similarly, the areas of international legal cooperation, legal education, forensic medicine, execution of criminal sanctions, free legal professions and juvenile justice have also received support. Ongoing support also includes building a National Criminal Records System (NCCR) and supporting the re-codification of a Civil Code for Kosovo. Areas in which the EU has been involved should be supported under this action in order to sustain previously achieved results of complex reforms that cannot realistically be achieved in a short period of only a few years. Furthermore, the support to communities builds upon the results, lessons learned and best practices developed from the previous phases of the community stabilisation programme.

Previous EU funded support has contributed to institutional development and reform promotion in the **energy** (sub)sector including energy market regulatory framework development, alignment of the legal framework with the *acquis*, strategic planning in energy efficiency and renewable energy sources. Significant assistance was provided under IPA I to support the policy making process including legislation on transposing the EU directive on energy services (2006/32) and on the implementation of energy efficiency measures in public buildings (67 schools and 3 hospitals). Support of the energy sector was provided by Kosovo institutions, World Bank, USAID, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) and other donors that have supported the development of energy sector in the implementation of projects for the operation of energy enterprises for the development of energy sector legislation, strategy papers and implementation programs, implementation of studies and concrete projects for transmission, distribution, and decommissioning, implementation of the cogeneration project Kosovo B - Termokos, preparation of the 'Kosova e Re' Power Plant project package, the realisation of the 400 kV line between Kosovo and Albania, implementation of environmental projects at Kosovo Energy Corporation (KEK) sites etc. The support to **waste management** builds on previous financial support from EU namely through technical assistance to strengthen the institutional capacity and institutional framework, support of waste management as well as support provided by Western Balkan Investment Framework (WBIF) to the environment sector. The action also builds upon the support from various donors for the transposition and implementation of EU environmental *acquis*, the development of strategic sector documents, the set-up and implementation of accompanying reform measures, as well as the preparation and implementation of several environmental infrastructure projects. The donor support included both technical assistance and capital investments, mainly oriented towards the improvement of municipal services and preparation of several technical documents.

Over the past 18 years the **education, employment and social policies** sector has received substantial EU and other donor (bilateral and multilateral) assistance aiming at the development of the education system. Demonstrating the link between the aid effectiveness and improved sector performance is not always straightforward due to frequent failures of aid recipient to build on donor support and ensure sustainability of the assistance. In terms of education support programs financed by multilateral and bilateral donors in Kosovo, some important lessons have been drawn and discussed among the donor community. Kosovo was supported in improving the quality and efficiency of education and training services by integrating information and communication technology into teaching and learning processes, thereby improving lifelong learning and employability perspectives. EU assistance contributed to poverty reduction through the enhancement of economic opportunities for Kosovo population, especially the most marginalized groups (achieving adequate minority representation in training and coaching, promoting adequate minority recruitment and representation in the civil service, the central and local administration and meeting the specific needs of Serbian, Roma, Ashkali, Egyptian and other communities).

List of Actions foreseen under the selected Sectors/Priorities:

Democracy and Governance

DIRECT MANAGEMENT	OTHER IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS
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Action 1 "EU Acquis Approximation Facility and Young Cell Scheme"	EUR 5 612 800	N.a.	N.a.
Action 2 "Support to Participation in Union Programmes"	EUR 187 200		
TOTAL	EUR 5 800 000	TOTAL	N.a.

Rule of Law Fundamental Rights

DIRECT MANAGEMENT		OTHER IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS	
Action 3 " EU Support to Justice and the Rule of Law"	EUR 7 000 000		
		Indirect Management with an International Organisation	EUR 2 000 000
Action 4 "EU Support to Communities"	EUR 2 500 000	Indirect Management with an International Organisation	EUR 2 500 000
TOTAL	EUR 9 500 000	TOTAL	EUR 4 500 000

Environment, climate action and energy

DIRECT MANAGEMENT		OTHER IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS	
Action 5 "EU Support to Clean Air for Kosovo"	EUR 40 000 000	N.a.	N.a.
Action 6 "EU Support to Waste Management in Kosovo"	EUR 4 900 000	Indirect Management with a Member State body	EUR 6 100 000
TOTAL	EUR 44 900 000	TOTAL	EUR 6 100 000

Education, Employment and Social Policies

DIRECT MANAGEMENT		OTHER IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS	
Action 7 "EU Support to start-ups"	EUR 3 000 000	N.a.	N.a.
Action 8 "EU for All"	EUR 3 700 000	N.a.	N.a.
Action 9 "EU for Education"	EUR 9 000 000	Indirect Management with a Member State body	EUR 2 000 000
		Indirect Management with an International	EUR 2 000 000

		Organisation	
TOTAL	EUR 15 700 000	TOTAL	EUR 4 000 000

2.2 DESCRIPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTIONS

The envisaged assistance to the Annual Action Programme for Kosovo for the Year 2018 is deemed to follow the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU¹.

SECTOR	Democracy and Governance		EUR 5 800 000
Action 1	EU Acquis Approximation and Young Cell Scheme	Direct management	EUR 5 612 800
		Total:	EUR 5 612 800

(1) Description of the action, objective, expected results and key performance indicators

The overall objective of the action is to facilitate the approximation with the EU *acquis* by enhancing capacities of the Kosovo administration and assembly for an efficient and professional, gender balanced, accountable and apolitical civil service at all levels in Kosovo.

The specific objectives of the action are:

EU Acquis Approximation Facility

1. To strengthen technical and administrative capacity of the Kosovo administration in relation to approximation with the EU *acquis* and to support the effective and efficient implementation of IPA assistance;
2. To support Kosovo authorities to gradually take over the responsibilities from the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX).

Support to the Assembly

To enhance the accountability and effectiveness of the Assembly in its legislative functions notably on EU legal approximation process and oversight function towards the executive and independent agencies.

Young Cell Scheme (YCS) – Round XIII

¹ https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/8442/consolidated-list-sanctions_en

To improve the professional capacity of the civil service to better serve Kosovo citizens and meet obligations arising from the SAA.

Expected results of this action include:

EU Acquis Approximation Facility

1. Coordinated response in order to meet urgent and unforeseen needs related to Kosovo's European perspective, improvement of the electoral framework in Kosovo and programming/implementation of IPA funds;
2. Kosovo's Ministry of European Integration and relevant line ministries capable of preparing and developing programming documents and aligning programmes with relevant processes (National Development Plan, Economic Reform Programme, European Reform Agenda, Medium-Term Expenditure Framework and the IPA Indicative Strategy Paper);
3. The capacity of Kosovo authorities to gradually assume responsibilities in view of EULEX's phasing out and to the visa liberalisation process has been strengthened.

Support to the Assembly

1. The institutional capacities of the Assembly with regard to EU legal approximation are strengthened;
2. Oversight function towards the executive and independent agencies are improved.

Young Cell Scheme (YCS) – Round XIII

1. Developed and implemented scholarship programme;
2. Supporting system to YCS returnees by YCS alumni is in place.

Key indicators:

- MEI's responsibility for coordination and management of EU assistance programmes;
- Number of projects developed and implemented under the EU acquis approximation facility;
- Quality documents developed and well defined IPA annual programmes;
- Degree of EULEX responsibilities transferred to Kosovo authorities;
- Number of the passed laws that are aligned with EU requirements;
- Number of laws approved by fast-track procedure used.
- Regular hearings organised by the Assembly at the level of Committees and plenary to implement its monitoring role vis-à-vis Independent agencies and Kosovo Institutions.
- Number of YCS graduates employed, age/ sex-disaggregated.
- Number of civil servants trained/mentored/coached by Young Cell Alumni Association.

(2) Assumptions and conditions

The main assumptions identified for the implementation of the action are:

- Coordination and cooperation between the involved parties in the launching and implementation of the action;
- Maintaining and improving the cooperation between the political and technical level;
- Maintaining political support to the action;
- Appointment of counterpart personnel by the Beneficiary;

- Allocation of working space and facilities by the Beneficiaries for Twinning assistance before the launch of the tender process/Work plan process;
- Results from the Evaluation of EU support to the Assembly to be included and addressed in the Guidelines for Applicants for the Call for Proposals.

(3) Implementation arrangement for the action: direct management

3(a) Essential elements of the action for direct management

Procurement:

- a) The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 3 362 800
- b) The indicative number and type of contracts: The indicative number of contracts under this action document will be 1-3 Service Contracts, 2-3 specific contracts under a Framework Contract and 1-2 supply or work contracts.
- c) Indicative time frame for launching the procurement procedure: Q3 2019 – Q3 2021

Grant – Twinning – Call for proposal: Twinning light:

a) Objectives and foreseen results:

The objective is to strengthen technical and administrative capacity of the Kosovo administration in relation to approximation with the EU acquis and to support the effective and efficient implementation of IPA II assistance.

The foreseen result of the twinning is Kosovo's Ministry of European Integration and relevant line ministries capacities is reinforced in preparing and developing programming documents and aligning programmes with relevant processes (National Development Plan, Economic Reform Programme, European Reform Agenda, Medium-Term Expenditure Framework and the Indicative Strategy Paper 2014-2020.

- b) The essential eligibility criteria: applicants must be EU Member State administrations or mandated bodies.
- c) The essential selection criterion is the operational capacity and technical expertise of the applicant.
- d) The essential award criteria are the relevance, methodology and sustainability of the proposed action.
- e) The maximum possible rate of EU financing may be up to 100% of the total cost of the action in accordance with Article 190(3) of Financial Regulation if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out. The necessity for full EU funding will be justified by the responsible authorising officer in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.
- f) Indicative amount of Twinning contract: EUR 250 000
- g) Indicative date for launching the selection procedure: Q2 2020

EU Support to Assembly

Grant –Call for proposal:

a) Objectives and foreseen results:

To enhance the accountability and effectiveness of the Assembly in its legislative functions notably on EU legal approximation process and oversight function towards the executive and independent agencies.

The foreseen results are: 1. The institutional capacities of the Assembly with regard to EU legal approximation are strengthened; 2. Oversight function towards the executive and independent agencies are improved.

b) The essential eligibility criteria: The applicants must be a national or international organisations based in an EU Member State dedicated to supporting multi-party democracy in new and developing democracies.

c) The essential selection criteria is the operational capacity of the applicant.

d) The essential award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

e) The maximum possible rate of EU financing may be up to 100% of the total cost of the action in accordance with Article 190 (3) of Financial Regulation if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out. The necessity for full EU funding will be justified by the responsible authorising officer in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

f) Indicative amount of grant contract: EUR 500 000

g) Indicative date for launching the selection procedure: Q3 2019

Young Cell Scheme, Round III

Grant – Call for proposal:

a) Objectives and foreseen results:

The objective is to improve the professional capacity of the civil service to better serve Kosovo citizens and meet obligations arising from the SAA.

The foreseen results of the action are: 1. Developed and implemented scholarship programme; 2. Supporting system to YCS returnees by YCS alumni is in place.

b) The essential eligibility criteria: Type of actions: development and implementation of scholarship programme

The applicants must be public sector agencies based in EU Member States involved in cultural and educational activities.

c) The essential selection criteria is the operational capacity of the applicant.

d) The essential award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

e) Maximum rate of EU co-financing: The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for grants under this call is 100 % of the eligible cost of the action. Full financing of this grant is essential for the action to be carried out. The grant beneficiary will receive another grant of EUR 500 000 from Kosovo government in parallel to the EU grant. Since this action will be implemented under direct management, award of two parallel grants, each of which is 100% financed by each of the donors is the only option for purely budgetary reasons.

f) Indicative amount of EU grant contract: EUR 1 500 000, to be supplemented via parallel co-financing of EUR 500 000 by Kosovo government.

g) Indicative date for launching the selection procedure: Q1 2020

SECTOR	Democracy and Governance		EUR 5 800 000
Action 2	Support to Participation in Union Programmes	Direct management	EUR 187 200

(1) Description of the action, objective, expected results and key performance indicators

The objective of this action is to ensure access for participation on four selected Union Programmes by co-financing the costs of the entry-tickets.

Expected results of this action include:

- Enhanced participation of Kosovo in Union Programmes, including increased exchanges with EU Member States.

Key indicators are:

- Number of programmes for which an International Agreement has been concluded;
- Kosovo's participation rates in the following Union Programmes: Europe for Citizens (2019), COSME (2019), Erasmus+ (2019) and Creative Europe (2019).

(2) Assumptions and conditions

The following assumptions have been identified for this action to achieve the above results: timely payment by the beneficiaries and timely preparation for all documents required for reimbursement; commitment of all actors for proper coordination and management of Union Programmes.

(3) Implementation arrangement for the action: Direct management by the EU Office in Kosovo

(3)(a) Essential elements of the action for direct management

This action will be implemented as a reimbursement of maximum 80% for the entry tickets for the selected Union Programmes after the entry tickets have been paid, on the basis of a Memorandum of Understanding between Kosovo and the Commission.

SECTOR	Rule of Law Fundamental Rights	EUR 14 000 000
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Action 3	EU Support to Justice and Rule of Law	Direct Management	EUR 7 000 000
		Indirect Management with an International Organisation	EUR 2 000 000

(1) Description of the Action, objective, expected results and key performance indicators

The overall objective of this action is to reform the justice system in line with European and international standards. The specific objectives are: to strengthen the independence and impartiality, accountability, professionalism, quality, efficiency and transparency of the institutions in the justice sector; to improve access to justice, particularly for women and disadvantaged or marginalised groups; and to strengthen institutional capacities to counter corruption, money-laundering and terrorism in Kosovo in accordance with European standards

Expected results of this action include:

- Inter-institutional coordination mechanism established for the justice sector and legal and institutional framework brought more in line with European standards and practices in a coordinated effective process;
- Independence, impartiality, accountability and professionalism and efficiency of justice sector professionals improved;
- Conditions to guarantee better access to justice for all citizens, with particular focus on women, vulnerable, marginalised and unrepresented groups are put in place;
- Better implementation of Anti-Corruption (AC), Anti-Money Laundering / Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) and counterterrorism measures and their compliance with European standard.

Key indicators include:

- Inter-institutional justice sector coordination mechanism is in place;
- Number of court rooms supplied with security, audio recording, video conferencing and simultaneous translation equipment;
- New Strategy on protection from domestic Violence elaborated and under implementation (following the one for the period 2016 to 2020);
- Number of rooms renovated for interviewing juveniles, defendants with special needs, victims and protected witnesses in courts and prosecution offices;
- Level of compliance by Kosovo institutions with international standards in the anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism area;
- Number of reviewed, updated and developed inter-agency Standard Operating procedures (SOPs), manuals and guidelines in the economic crime area.

(2) Assumptions and conditions

The main conditions for the implementation of the action are:

- Coordination and cooperation between the involved parties in the launching and implementation of the action;
- Maintaining and improving the cooperation between the political and technical level;
- Maintaining political support to the action.

Failure to comply with the requirements set out above may lead to a recovery of funds under this programme and/or the re-allocation of future funding.

The main assumptions for the implementation of the action are the following:

- Concrete finalisation of certain ongoing processes and initiatives, in particular, the functional review of the rule of law sector should give a detailed analysis of the shortcomings in the justice system that is fully owned by Kosovo institutions and key sector stakeholders and make it possible to develop a comprehensive and unified strategy for reforming the justice sector.
- A functional inter-institutional coordination mechanism in charge with the design, implementation management and monitoring of these reforms in a coordinated, structured, participatory and transparent process needs to be set up before or immediately at the start of the implementation of the action.
- The further phasing out of EULEX and successful handing over of responsibilities to Kosovo justice system institutions can have an influence in implementation of the action.
- The implementation of some specific activities (especially in view of SAA and ERA requirements) can influence the implementation of the action as they are subject to the adoption and implementation of new or amended legislation covering prevention of conflict of interest, asset declaration, protection of whistle-blowers, implementation of international sanctions and other rule of law initiatives.

(3) Implementation arrangement for the action: Direct management by the EU Office in Kosovo and Indirect Management with Council of Europe

(3)(a) Essential elements of the action for direct management

Grant – Call for proposal: *Further Strengthening the Justice Sector Performance and the Rule of Law*)

a) Objectives and foreseen results:

The objective is to strengthen the independence and impartiality, accountability, professionalism, quality, efficiency and transparency of the institutions in the justice sector.

The foreseen results are: 1. Interinstitutional coordination mechanism established for the justice sector and legal and institutional framework brought more in line with European standards and practices in a coordinated effective process; 2.

Independence, impartiality, accountability and professionalism and efficiency of justice sector professionals improved; 3. Conditions to guarantee better access to justice for all citizens, with particular focus on women, vulnerable, marginalised and unrepresented groups are put in place.

b) Essential eligibility criteria:

Type of actions: Capacity building activities and support in developing a reform strategy / action plan /legislation.

The applicants must be EU Member State administrations, mandated bodies or EU implementing agencies with recognised technical and administrative experience in the field.

c) The essential selection criteria is the operational capacity of the applicant.

d) The essential award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

e) Maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for grants under this call is 95 % of the eligible cost of the action. The maximum possible rate of EU financing may be up to 100% of the total cost of the action in accordance with Article 190(3) of Financial Regulation if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out. The necessity for full EU funding will be justified by the responsible authorising officer in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

f) Indicative amount of the call: EUR 7 000 000

g) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals: Q2 2019

Indirect management: *Component 2: Project Against Economic Crime Phase III (PECK III)*

3)(a) *Entity entrusted with budget implementation tasks*

The Council of Europe. The action aims to embed and implement in the Kosovo legal framework the provisions of evolving international standards in the area of anti-corruption (AC), anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism. The Council of Europe adopted resolutions on these issues, which are reflected in the EU *acquis*. Its expertise in this area together with its experience in advising Kosovo makes it the most suitable organisation to implement the action. Moreover, this action constitutes the third phase of a project successfully implemented by the Council of Europe in Kosovo.

3)(b) Short description of tasks entrusted to the entity

The entrusted entity shall be responsible for carrying out all the tasks relating to the implementation of the action. In particular, the entrusted entity shall be responsible for the contracting, implementation, information and visibility, monitoring and reporting of IPA II activities, and the evaluation thereof whenever relevant, in accordance with the

principle of sound financial management, and for ensuring the legality and regularity of the expenditure incurred in the implementation of the programme.

SECTOR	Rule of Law Fundamental Rights		EUR 14 000 000
Action 4	EU Support to Communities	Indirect Management with an International Organisation	EUR 2 500 000
		Direct Management	EUR 2 500 000

(1) Description of the action, objective, expected results and key performance indicators

The overall objective of this action is to contribute to the stabilisation of the socio-economic situation of non-majority communities in Kosovo. The specific objectives are to create income-generating opportunities for non-majority communities throughout the value chain in key economic sectors in Kosovo and to improve the living conditions, the settling and the fully participation in local community life of the vulnerable displaced families following their exit from collective centers in the Municipalities of Leposavić/Leposaviq, Zvečan/Zveqan/ and Gračanica/Graçanicë.

Expected results of this action include:

- Existing non-majority and inter-ethnic business associations/cooperatives/community initiatives and/or social enterprises are supported and/or new ones created;
- New or operational non-majority entrepreneurs supported to establish/enhance production and processing in economically advanced and high potential sectors, with a special focus on vulnerable groups such as returnees, women, and members of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities;
- Social (re)integration of community members facilitated through community actions of joint interest;
- Housing solutions implemented for the vulnerable displaced families facilitating their exit from collective centres;
- The ability of the members of displaced families to access livelihood opportunities has been improved;
- The municipalities of Leposavić/Leposaviq, Zvečan/Zveqan and Gračanica/Graçanicë have increased technical capacity to support the sustainable integration of displaced and vulnerable families in the local community.

Key indicators include:

- % of small business activity in the target communities increased;
- Number of business associations with new value-added chain in production and processing are established and supported;
- Number of start-up and operational businesses in target areas supported (disaggregated by sex and ethnicity);

- Number of sustainable longer-term employment positions created (disaggregated by sex);
- Number of priority community development interventions funded for the benefit of the wider communities in targeted areas;
- % of vulnerable displaced families provided with durable solutions and enhanced housing living conditions;
- Number of collective centres closed;
- Number of Internally Displaced Person (IDP) families resettled;
- Number of socio-economic assistance packages;
- Number of community and infrastructure interventions.

(2) Assumptions and conditions

The main condition for implementation of this action is the allocation of adequate public land by Leposavić/Leposaviq, Zvečan/Zveqan and Gračanica/Graçanicë municipalities. The other three municipalities have already given their principal agreement for land allocation. Failure to comply with the requirements set out above may lead to a recovery of funds under this programme and/or the re-allocation of future funding.

The main assumptions identified for the successful implementation of the above results are that respective authorities and institutions have sufficient capacities and are willing to cooperate on the issues linked with implementation of the action.

(3) Implementation arrangement for the action: Direct management by the EU Office in Kosovo and Indirect management with entrusted entities

(3)(a) Entity entrusted with budget implementation tasks

Indirect management -International Organisation for Migration (IOM): Component I - Community Stabilisation Programme phase IV (CSP IV)

This action shall be implemented by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), due to their significant experience in the sector. The IOM is a longstanding partner of both the Ministry of Communities and Return (MCR) and the EU in the field of minority community rights. The involvement of the IOM in this case is further justified considering:

(i) IOM presence and experience in Kosovo and the fact that they have implemented both the EU and MCR programme funds in the last several years in the sector [(i) Return and Reintegration of displaced minority communities under IPA 2010, IPA 2012 and IPA 2016; (ii) Community Stabilisation Programme under IPA 2009, IPA 2011 and IPA 2014] and

(ii) IOM's close cooperation with the MCR and concerned municipalities on all issues of return, re-integration and stabilisation of minority communities.

(3)(b) Short description of tasks entrusted to entity:

The entrusted entity shall be responsible for carrying out all the tasks relating to the implementation of the action. In particular, the entrusted entity shall be responsible for the contracting, implementation, information and visibility, monitoring and reporting of IPA II activities, and the evaluation thereof whenever relevant, in accordance with the principle of sound financial management, and for ensuring the legality and regularity of the expenditure incurred in the implementation of the programme.

Direct management: Grant - Direct grant award: Supporting durable solutions for Collective Centre (CC) residents in Kosovo phase II (CC II)

a) Objectives and foreseen results:

The overall objective of the grant is to contribute to the realization of durable solutions for up to 70 displaced and vulnerable families residing in collective centres in municipalities of Leposavić/Leposaviq, Zvečan/Zveqan and Gračanica/Graçanicë.

The foreseen results of the grant are:

- (i) Housing solutions implemented for the vulnerable displaced families facilitating their exit from collective centres
 - (ii) The ability of the members of displaced families to access livelihood opportunities has been improved
 - (iii) The respective municipalities have increased technical capacity to support the sustainable integration of displaced and vulnerable families in their local community
- b) Justification for the use of an exception to calls for proposals: This action is proposed to be implemented, through a direct award procedure based on **Article 195(1)(f)** of the Financial Regulation.

The action is proposed to be implemented by Danish Refugee Council on account of its technical competence and high degree of specialisation in (i) and (ii) above. DRC is a long-lasting partner of the MCR and the EU in the minority rights and return/reintegration sector and more specifically is currently implementing IPA 2014 action facilitating the closure of five collective centres in Štrpce/Shtërpce municipality. Apart from implementing the EU and the MCR funded IPA 2014 project mentioned above, DRC has also implemented several other projects funded by British and Swedish Governments in minority communities rights in Kosovo.

- c) the name of the beneficiary: Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
- d) The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.
The award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.
- e) indicative amount of the grant: EUR 2 500 000
- f) Maximum rate of EU co-financing:

The maximum possible rate of EU financing will be 100% of the total cost of the action. This is a type of action in which the grant beneficiary will implement the action whose end beneficiary is a third party. If co-financing was requested, it would de facto require the grant beneficiary to become a donor, which would significantly reduce the

willingness of any grant beneficiary to implement the action. Full financing is therefore essential for the action to be carried out.

g) Indicative date for signing the grant agreement: Q3 2019

SECTOR	Environment, climate action and energy		EUR 51 000 000
Action 5	EU Support to clean Air for Kosovo	Direct Management	EUR 40 000 000

(1) Description of the Action, objective, expected results and key performance indicators

The overall objective of the action is to support the environmental aspects of the energy sector by reducing the environmental impact of the largest power plant in Kosovo – known as Kosovo B. The specific objective of the action is to replace/rehabilitate environmental components of unit B1 of TPP Kosovo B (dust filters, internal ash transport system and Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) emission reduction equipment) in compliance with Large Combustion Plant (LCP) Directive and Industrial Emission/IE Directive.

Expected results of this action include:

- Dust emissions reduced.
- Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) emissions reduced.

Key indicators include:

Compliance with LCP and IE Directives measurement for:

- Dust emissions: < 20 mg/Nm³, and
- NO_x emissions: < 200 mg/Nm³)

(2) Assumptions and conditions

All relevant specific institutional frameworks exist. Kosovo is a member of the Energy Community, and starting from 1 January 2018 all international regulations are applicable.

The preconditions that have to be fulfilled include:

- Kosovo's commitment stipulating that Kosovo B power plant will remain under the public ownership for a period of at least 10 years;
- The Preliminary Action timeline is prepared, and KEK should develop the overhaul plan for TPP Kosovo B (and other electricity generators) harmonised with the timing of the present action,
- KEK-Kos B TPP coordination team set-up, properly briefed and in charge of the follow-up of the operations.

Failure to comply with the requirements set out above may lead to a recovery of funds under this programme and/or the re-allocation of future funding.

The following assumption is considered: Kosovo Energy Corporation (KEK) and Thermal Power Plant (TPP) Kosovo B should ensure the implementation of other environmental measures in line Energy Community Treaty/ECT requirements.

(3) Implementation arrangements for the action: direct management

(3)(a) Essential elements of the action

Procurement:

- a) The **global** budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 40 000 000
- b) The **indicative number and type of contracts:** The indicative number of contracts under this action document will be 1-2 service contracts, 1-2 works contracts.
- c) Indicative time frame for launching the procurement procedure: Q1 2019 – Q1 2020

SECTOR	Environment, climate action and energy		EUR 51 000 000
Action 6	EU Support to Waste Management in Kosovo	Direct Management	EUR 4 900 000
		Indirect Management with a Member State body	EUR 6 100 000

(1) Description of the action, objective, expected results and key performance indicators

The overall objective of this action is to improve the access to the waste management services by the population in urban and rural areas in Kosovo in line with the EU policies and Kosovo Waste Management Strategy, including and the Master Plan. The specific objectives of the action are to develop the infrastructure for an integrated waste management system, in line with implementation of the waste hierarchy and ‘polluter pays principle’, and to enhance the implementation of reforms under EU acquis for sustainable waste management.

Expected results of this action include:

- Sanitary landfilling services in Pejë/Peć/Pec region are operational;
- The collection and transport of municipal waste in all Kosovo is improved;
- Projects for the development of appropriate waste infrastructure are designed and implemented in accordance with priorities defined in the revised Kosovo Waste Strategy;
- The organisational and institutional capacity of Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP), the municipalities, service providers and other relevant institutions of environment sector is strengthened for the transposition and implementation of the EU *acquis*.

Key indicators include:

- Percent of population having access to sustainable waste management services in urban & rural areas (collection, treatment and disposal);
- Illegal dumpsites and old landfills closed;
- Percentage of transposition/harmonisation and implementation of EU acquis related to waste management;
- Percentage of population from Pejë/Peć region benefiting from EU standard disposal services;
- Percent of population connected to separate collection services;
- % of projects prepared for financing application that are contracted
- Enhanced capacity of MESP inspectorate – number of fines and penalties issued
- Each Municipality has a specialised unit to deal with waste management and at least 1 inspector.

(2) Assumptions and conditions

The preconditions for the implementation of the action are:

- Municipalities provides sufficient resources, including skilled and motivated staff to actively participate in the planned activities;
- There will need to be a tender for the feasibility studies and detailed design – to be concluded before tendering the works;
- A memorandum of understanding is signed with each municipality and the MESP ensuring the commitment to participate actively in the activities of this action;
- Commitment by the all partners involved and sufficient funding ensured to allow continuation of CER phase 2 in order to cover all Kosovo;
- The consensus of the decision makers is essential for an integrated waste management system;
- Kosovo will have to take ownership of results and activities in order to assure sustainability and proper continuation of successful projects.

Failure to comply with the requirements set out above may lead to a recovery of funds under this programme and/or the re-allocation of future funding.

The main assumptions for the above results to be achieved made:

- Full commitment and support of the decision-making apparatus of the sector institutions to continue political reform and perform their obligations in line with the European perspective;
- Continuous commitment by the Kosovo institutions regarding the implementation without delays of the underpinning environmental legislation and the revision/adoption of the Waste Management Plan;
- Effective communication and active involvement among all sector institutions, donors and other stakeholders in order to make a maximum use of funds and avoid any duplication of activities;
- Full engagement of the MESP and other relevant institutions in providing sufficiently human and financial resources necessary to carry out the planned interventions;
- Sufficient ownership, motivation and support from the MESP and the municipalities to address the organisation of waste management at the local/regional level in line with EU requirements.

(3) Implementation arrangement for the action: Direct management by the EU Office in Kosovo and Indirect management with entrusted entities

(3)(a) Entity entrusted with budget implementation tasks

Indirect management with 'Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) for result 2: collection and transport of municipal waste in all Kosovo is improved, result 3: Projects for the development of appropriate waste infrastructure are designed and implemented in accordance with priorities defined in the revised Kosovo Waste Strategy and result 4: The organisational and institutional capacity of MESP, the municipalities, service providers and other relevant institutions of environment sector is strengthened for the transposition and implementation of the EU acquis:

GIZ is a longstanding partner of Kosovo in the waste management sector at central and local level. The involvement of GIZ in this case is further justified considering:

- i. GIZ is a pillar assessed Member State agency with extensive experience working in Kosovo and with the European Commission in implementation of IPA projects.
- ii. GIZ is well positioned to implement the action as they have been providing assistance to MESP and to the municipalities in the improvement of waste management practices in line with the European norms and standards governing this sector. GIZ is currently providing support to MESP in providing support in the development of the revised waste strategy.

(3)(b) Short description of tasks entrusted to entity:

The entrusted entity shall be responsible for carrying out all the tasks relating to the implementation of the action. In particular, the entrusted entity shall be responsible for the contracting, implementation, information and visibility, monitoring and reporting of IPA II activities, and the evaluation thereof whenever relevant, in accordance with the principle of sound financial management, and for ensuring the legality and regularity of the expenditure incurred in the implementation of the programme

(3)(a) Essential elements of the action

Direct management: Sanitary landfilling in Pejë/Peć/Pec region

Procurement:

- a) The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 4 900 000
- b) The indicative number and type of contracts: The indicative number of contracts and type of procurement is as follows: 1-2 works contracts, 1 - 2 supply contracts and 1-2 service contracts.
- c) Indicative time frame for launching the procurement procedure: Q1-3 2019 and Q1 2020

SECTOR	Education, Employment and Social Policies	EUR 19 700 000
Action 7	EU Support to Start- Direct management	EUR 3 000 000

(1) Description of the action, objective, expected results and key performance indicators

The overall objective of the action is to boost the competitiveness of Kosovo's economy and support SME-development. The specific objective is to improve business environment and entrepreneurship capacities through the enhancement of start-ups and innovation

Expected results of this action include:

- Improved incubator services and improved access to finance for innovative start-ups;
- Enhanced infrastructure capacities of incubation centres.

Key indicators include:

- Improved start-up business environment;
- Number of start-ups receiving support services, disaggregated by sex of business owner;
- Number of successful loans/grants/investor matches through alternative financing instruments, disaggregated by sex of business owner;
- Number of incubators built/refurbished;
- Number of new start-ups, incubated, disaggregated by sex of business owner;
- Number of innovative products/services developed;
- Number of start-ups served by incubators, disaggregated by sex of business owner;
- Number of start-ups served by start-up service providers, disaggregated by sex of business owner.

(2) Assumptions and conditions

For the implementation of the action the following main assumption is made: Absorption capacity of the both start-ups and start-up support organisations.

Below are presented the preconditions that will assure a proper implementation of proposed action:

- Coordination and cooperation between the involved parties in the launching and implementation of the action;
- Ensure the coordination of activities between stakeholders involved in the action;
- Full commitment and support of start-ups organisations;
- Commitment by the international and local partners and sufficient funding ensured to allow continuation of similar schemes;
- Development of attractive start-up funding and business support services entirely dedicated to facilitate start-up growth.

Failure to comply with the requirements set out above may lead to a recovery of funds under this programme and/or the re-allocation of future funding.

(3) Implementation arrangements for the action: direct management

(3)(a) Essential elements of the action

Procurement: *Infrastructure capacity building of Incubators (Works and TA for design and supervision)*

- a) The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 2 250 000
- b) The indicative number and type of contracts: The indicative number of contracts under this action document will be 2-3 service contracts and 1-2 work contracts.
- c) Indicative time frame for launching the procurement procedure: Q4 2019

Grant – Call for proposal: *Financing Facility for Incubators and Start-ups*

- a) Objectives and foreseen results:

The objective of the call is to provide financing facility in order to improve incubator services and access to finance to innovative start-ups through financial support to third parties.

The foreseen results are improved incubator services and improved access to finance for innovative start-ups.

- b) The essential eligibility criteria:, local authorities, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) involved in incubator set up, Small and Medium Enterprises and start-ups, profit or non-profit organisations involved in start-up set up or/and support.
- c) The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.
- d) The essential award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.
- e) Maximum rate of EU co-financing:

The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for grants under this call is 60 % of the eligible cost of the action for non-profit organisations and 50% for economic operators/start-ups.

- f) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals: Q4 2019

- g) Indicative amount of the call: EUR 750 000

SECTOR	Education, Employment and Social Policies	EUR 19 700 000
Action 8	EU for All	Direct management
		EUR 3 700 000

(1) Description of the action, objective, expected results and key performance indicators

The overall objective of this action is to support the visibility of, and promote the benefits of, EU assistance. The specific objectives are to improve access to public facilities for persons with disability and reduced mobility as well as, in the area of culture, to contribute to the design of a prestigious concert hall.

Expected results of this action include:

- Access for persons with disability and reduced mobility to public facilities, and for women (since they are more likely to be the primary carers of children and people with a disability) is improved;
- Design of a prestigious new public building in the centre of Pristina;
- Tourism and the creative industries are promoted.

Key indicators include:

- % of the population that is aware of the extent of EU financial support;
- Number of local facilities adapted and reconstructed to become more accessible for persons with disabilities and reduced mobility;
- Concert Hall design fully developed.

(2) Assumptions and conditions

The main conditions for the implementation of the action are:

- Coordination and cooperation between the involved parties in the launching and implementation of the action;
- Maintaining and improving the cooperation between the political and technical level;
- Maintaining political support to the action.

Failure to comply with the requirements set out above may lead to a recovery of funds under this programme and/or the re-allocation of future funding.

The main assumptions for the implementation of the action are the following:

- Ensure the coordination of activities between stakeholders involved in the action;
- Representatives of public facilities subject to adaptation and construction are committed to cooperating concerning all the issues related to construction;
- The working group is established by central institutions and Municipality of Pristina.

(3) Implementation arrangements for the action: direct management

(3)(a) Essential elements of the action

Procurement:

- The **global** budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 3 700 000
- The indicative number and type of contracts: The indicative number of contracts under this action will be 1-2 Works contracts and 1-2 Service contracts
- Indicative time frame for launching the procurement procedure: Q3 2019 – Q3 2021

SECTOR	Education, Employment and Social Policies		EUR 19 700 000
Action 9	EU for Education	Direct management	EUR 9 000 000
		Indirect management with a	EUR 2 000 000

		Member State body	
		Indirect management with an International Organisation	EUR 2 000 000

(1) Description of the action, objective, expected results and key performance indicators

The overall objective of the action is to contribute to development of a quality-based, all-inclusive and accountable education and training system, in line with the best international practices. The specific objective of the action are to increase student achievements in the Programme for International Students Assessment (PISA) tests and to enhance equal access to schools, and to improve the quality and the labour market relevance of education and training programmes to facilitate transition from school to work of Vocational Education and Training (VET) students and to enhance employability of VET graduates.

Expected results of this action include:

- Improved access to education of students from disadvantaged groups in pre-primary, primary and secondary education;
- Strengthened capacity for accountable and effective management and quality assurance at central, municipal and school level including advanced teaching practices and related teaching and learning material;
- Improved physical infrastructure in primary and secondary education;
- Planning and provision of vocational education is responsive to the needs of learners and employers in selected vocational schools;
- Graduate tracking systems are in place in initial and continuous VET to ensure consistent evidence on graduate employability and skills relevance to labour market needs;
- Arrangements and provision of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) are in place and operational in the most needed economic sectors/occupations as a form of employment enhancement and lifelong learning opportunities for adult learners.

Key indicators include:

- Employment rate 15 to 64 years, total % disaggregated by gender;
- The percentage of 15 year olds who do not show a satisfactory performance in reading, mathematics and science;
- Improved quality and relevance of VET system in Kosovo;
- Percentage of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children of primary school age currently attending primary or secondary education;
- The total number of children with special needs attending primary and lower secondary education, regardless of their age, expressed as a percentage of children with special needs aged 6-14 years;
- Percentage school directors recruited by using a new, transparent and criterion-based methodology;
- Number of trained staff members from educational institutions and Municipal Education Departments (MEDs) on quality assurance;

- Number of textbooks aligned to the new curriculum;
- Number of primary and secondary schools refurbished;
- Percentage of vocational teachers and instructors participating in Continuous Professional Development (CPD) addressing sectoral core curriculum and priority Vocational Education and Training (VET) profile frameworks;
- Fit for purpose teaching and learning materials (electronic or paper based) supporting priority profile subjects are in use in selected schools and student assessment informs teaching and learning in selected schools;
- Number of VET staff trained on tracer study/graduate tracking;
- Percentage of initial and continuous VET providers implementing tracer studies;
- Number of candidates enrolled in RPL processes;
- Number of RPL practitioners trained by function (coordinators, mentors, internal and external assessors).

(2) Assumptions and conditions

The pre-conditions for proper implementation of the present action are:

1) For the activity related to the transparent and merit-based teacher and director recruitment: approval of bylaws, prior to the signature of the service contract, related to selection of school teachers and directors that will be based on clear criteria and merit and subsequent implementation.

2) For the activity related to improving physical infrastructure in primary/secondary schools: activity can commence only once Kosovo institutions confirm their co-funding equal to EUR 2 million.

3) For the activity related to VET:

- Accreditation of the targeted VET schools and Centres of Competence by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST), prior to the signature of the Delegation Agreement;
- Both Tracer studies and Recognition of prior learning need to continue being implemented by the schools which piloted these activities with the assistance of ETF; Continuity in implementation will guarantee a smoother transition to implementation at Kosovo level of both activities planned under this action.

4) For the activity related to developing new textbooks: MEST has reviewed the existing textbooks and areas of improvement have been clearly identified, prior to the signature of the service contract.

Assumptions for the proper implementation of the present action are:

Full commitment by MEST to work towards the fulfilment of the present action in line with the priorities identified in the existing strategies (National Development Strategy, and Kosovo Education Strategic Plan 2017-21).

For the activity related to teacher and directors recruitment: the new Law on Education Inspectorate (expected to be adopted soon), will clarify the division of responsibilities on overseeing the education staff employment between the Education Inspectorate and Labour Inspectorate.

(3) Implementation arrangement for the action: Direct management by the EU Office in Kosovo and Indirect management with entrusted entities

(3)(a) Entity entrusted with budget implementation tasks:

Indirect management/Delegation Agreement with Council of Europe: Component 1.1 Improved access to education of students from disadvantaged groups in pre-primary, primary and secondary education

The Council of Europe (CoE) has significant experience in the sector. The CoE is a longstanding partner of both the MEST and the EU in the field of inclusive education.

(i) CoE presence and experience in Kosovo and the fact that they have implemented both the EU and the MEST programme funds in the last several years in the sector inclusive education IPA 2011 'Increasing Access to Education and intercultural understanding: EU/CoE Support in the field of Education to forced returnees and to Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities in Kosovo'.

(ii) CoE close cooperation with the MEST and concerned municipalities on all issues of inclusive education such as: i) teacher training in multiculturalism; ii) education for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian community; iii) history teaching; iv) language policies and; v) higher education reform.

(3)(b) Short description of tasks entrusted to entity:

The entrusted entity shall be responsible for carrying out all the tasks relating to the implementation of the action. In particular, the entrusted entity shall be responsible for the contracting, implementation, information and visibility, monitoring and reporting of IPA II activities, and the evaluation thereof whenever relevant, in accordance with the principle of sound financial management, and for ensuring the legality and regularity of the expenditure incurred in the implementation of the programme.

(3)(a) Entity entrusted with budget implementation tasks:

Indirect management/Delegation Agreement with Luxembourg Development Cooperation Agency: Component 2.1 - Planning and provision of vocational education is responsive to the needs of learners and employers in selected vocational schools.

(i) LuxDev's have broad experience in the sector in Kosovo. They have been cooperating very closely with and providing assistance to all MEST, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and relevant VET agencies under MEST such as Agency for Vocational Education and Training and Adult Education and National Qualifications Authority (NQA) in the last several years in the VET sector;

(ii) LuxDev has initiated cooperation with Kosovo education and employment ministries with the aim to build capacity of Centres of Competence (CoCs) in Prizren and Ferizaj for adapting the VET curricula to the labour market needs.

(3)(b) Short description of tasks entrusted to entity:

The entrusted entity shall be responsible for carrying out all the tasks relating to the implementation of the action. In particular, the entrusted entity shall be responsible for the contracting, implementation, information and visibility, monitoring and reporting of IPA II activities, and the evaluation thereof whenever relevant, in accordance with the principle of sound financial management, and for ensuring the legality and regularity of the expenditure incurred in the implementation of the programme.

(3)(a) Essential elements of the action for direct management:

Procurement:

- a) the **global** budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 9 000 000
- b) the indicative number and type of contracts: The indicative number of contracts under this action document will be 2 -3 Service Contracts, 2-3 Works Contracts
- c) indicative time frame for launching the procurement procedure: Q4 2019 – Q3 2021

3 BUDGET

3.1 INDICATIVE BUDGET TABLE – ANNUAL ACTION PROGRAMME FOR KOSOVO FOR THE YEAR 2018

		EU Contribution	IPA Beneficiary Co-financing ²	II	Total expenditure	MM
Objective 1 2018 / 041 245	01: Democracy and Governance	EUR 5 800 000	EUR 546 800		EUR 6 346 800	direct
	Action 1: EU Acquis Approximation Facility and Young Cell Scheme	EUR 5 612 800	EUR 500 000		EUR 6 112 800	direct
	Action 2: Support to Participation in Union Programmes	EUR 187 200	EUR 46 800		EUR 234 000	direct
	02: Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights	EUR 14 000 000	EUR 650 000		EUR 14 650 000	direct and indirect management
	Action 3: EU support to Justice and the Rule of Law	EUR 9 000 000			EUR 9 000 000	direct management and indirect management
	Action 4: EU support to Communities	EUR 5 000 000	EUR 650 000		EUR 5 650 000	direct management and indirect management
Total Budget for Objective 1- budget line 22.02 01 01		EUR 19 800 000	EUR 1 196 800		EUR 20 996 800	direct management and indirect management
Objective 2 2018 /041 246	05: Energy	EUR 40 000 000			EUR 40 000 000	direct management
	Action 5: EU support to clean Air for Kosovo	EUR 40 000 000			EUR 40 000 000	direct management
	03: Environment and Climate Action	EUR 11 000 000	EUR 1 100 000		EUR 12 100 000	direct management and indirect management

² All co-financing by the beneficiary is parallel co-financing.

	Action 6: EU support to Waste Management in Kosovo	EUR 11 000 000	EUR 1 100 000	EUR 12 100 000	direct management and indirect management
	07: Education, Employment and Social Policies	EUR 19 700 000	EUR 2 000 000	EUR 21 700 000	direct management and indirect management
	Action 7: EU support to start-ups	EUR 3 000 000		EUR 3 000 000	direct management
	Action 8: EU for All	EUR 3 700 000		EUR 3 700 000	direct management
	Action 9: EU for Education	EUR 13 000 000	EUR 2 000 000	EUR 15 000 000	direct management and indirect management
Total Budget for Objective 2 - budget line 22.02 01 02		EUR 70 700 000	EUR 3 100 000	EUR 73 800 000	direct management and indirect management
	TOTALS	EUR 90 500 000	EUR 4 296 800	EUR 94 796 800	direct management and indirect management

4 PERFORMANCE MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

As part of its performance measurement framework, the Commission shall monitor and assess progress towards achievement of the specific objectives set out in the IPA II Regulation on the basis of pre-defined, clear, transparent measurable indicators. The progress reports referred to in Article 4 of the IPA II Regulation shall be taken as a point of reference in the assessment of the results of IPA II assistance.

The Commission will collect performance data (process, output and outcome indicators) from all sources, which will be aggregated and analysed in terms of tracking the progress versus the targets and milestones established for each of the actions of this programme, as well as the Indicative Strategy Paper.

The overall progress will be monitored through the following means: a) Result Orientated Monitoring (ROM) system; b) IPA II Beneficiaries' own monitoring; c) self-monitoring performed by the EU Delegations; d) joint monitoring by the European Commission (DG NEAR) and the IPA II Beneficiaries, whereby the compliance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency and coordination in implementation of financial assistance will be regularly monitored by an IPA II Monitoring committee, supported by Sectoral Monitoring committees, which will ensure a monitoring process at sector level.

5 EVALUATION

Having regard to the importance of the action, a mid-term, a final or an ex-post evaluation may be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants, through a joint mission or via an implementing partner. It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that its findings may inform the preparation of new activities in the same sectors.

In case an evaluation is not foreseen, the Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the IPA II beneficiary and other key stakeholders. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the IPA II beneficiary, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.