

ANNEX 1

COUNTRY ACTION PROGRAMME ON BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA FOR THE YEAR 2015

1 IDENTIFICATION

Beneficiary	Bosnia and Herzegovina
CRIS/ABAC Commitment references	2015/037-888
Total cost	EUR 38 001 800
EU Contribution	EUR 37 200 000
Budget lines	22.02 01 01
Management Mode	Direct management by the European Commission
Final date for concluding <u>Financing Agreements</u> with the IPA II beneficiary	31 December 2016
Final date for concluding <u>procurement and grant contracts</u>	3 years following the date of conclusion of the Financing Agreement, with the exception of the cases listed under Article 189(2) Financial Regulation
Final date for operational implementation	6 years following the date of conclusion of the Financing Agreement.
Final date for implementing the Financing Agreement (date by which this programme should be de-committed and closed)	12 years following the conclusion of the Financing Agreement.
Programming Unit	DG NEAR D4
Implementing Unit/ EU Delegation	EU Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina

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:

The IPA II Indicative Strategy Paper for Bosnia and Herzegovina (2014-2017) focuses on sectors where agreed strategies and sufficient sector coordination exist. It also supports the enlargement strategy's focus on the 'fundamentals first'. The strategy paper includes therefore the following sectors:

- Democracy and Governance,
- Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights,
- Competitiveness and Innovation: Local Development Strategies, and
- Education, Employment and Social Policies.

The allocation for 2015 amounts to EUR 39.7 million of which EUR 2.5 million was allocated in a separate financing decision to civil society support (Multi-country Civil Society Facility).

Following the devastating floods of May 2014, IPA 2014 support was directed primarily to flood recovery and the economic development of the country. This IPA 2015 action programme of EUR 37.2 million focuses instead on the first two sectors of the Indicative Strategy Paper (ISP), Democracy and Governance and Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights. Several Actions planned in these sectors in the IPA 2011-2014 programmes had to be postponed to free funds for flood recovery. They remain priorities and are therefore included in this IPA programme.

The proposed Actions in the governance sector will contribute to the ISP objective to improve Bosnia and Herzegovina's public sector management, in particular to strengthen public administration reform, including public service delivery and public financial management. Thereto closely related is the planned support for the statistical system to improve Bosnia and Herzegovina's capacities to produce reliable statistics, crucial for informed policy decisions.

The Actions regarding the rule of law will contribute to the ISP objective to enhance effectiveness, accountability and efficiency in the justice and home affairs sector through the creation of integrity frameworks and through better management of human resources. The Actions will also contribute to the ISP objective to improve the execution of criminal sanctions and to advance the prosecution of criminal cases, including organised crime and corruption cases. Another objective is to support the fight against organised crime and corruption through a better preparation of law-enforcement institutions and through enhancing police-prosecutor cooperation. Finally, this programme will also contribute to the objective to improve border management.

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

The EU has supported the development of Public Internal Financial Control (PIFC) in Bosnia and Herzegovina through two projects: “Support to the introduction of Public Internal Financial Control in Bosnia and Herzegovina” (2010 to 2012) and “Strengthening Public Financial Management in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2012 - 2015)”.

A ROM mission covered the first project and identified two risks in the earliest stages of the project as having a high likelihood of materialisation: “(1) *the ability of the administrations to recruit and retain skilled staff, and (2) the lack of cooperation between the three governments, with the Coordination Board not perceived as an authority*”. These are still relevant.

Both previous projects confirmed that the key success element was the participative and consultative approach they took towards addressing individual and specific needs of each of the different administrative levels in Bosnia and Herzegovina that are at different stages of development of their legal frameworks and capacities. Such approach will also be taken in the design of the activities foreseen under the Actions of this programme.

The EU project "Support to the Public Administration Reform Coordination Office" (PARCO) (2005–2007) provided initial assistance in the institution- and capacity-building of PARCO and showed that the key element of success of such projects is the selection and availability of quality and proactive staff in the beneficiary institution. The institution-building project was followed by the IPA 2007 project “Capacity building of the Office of the Coordinator for Public Administration Reform” that assisted PARCO in strengthening their capacity for coordination and consultation on the revision of the Public Administration Reform Action Plan 1 (AP1). The August 2011 Result Oriented Monitoring (ROM) mission assessed the project in general positively. A key element was the participative and consultative approach the project took together with PARCO in the evaluation of the AP1 implementation thus far and the revision of this plan. Public Administration Reform received further support through the IPA 2011 project "Support to Coordination and Implementation of Public Administration Reform (PAR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina".

IPA has also provided continuous support to the improvement of statistical data in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This includes extensive assistance to the population census carried out in 2013 and an on-going twinning supporting among others the development of national accounts and business statistics. In addition, several multi-beneficiary IPA programmes implemented by Eurostat have covered among others national accounts and business statistics. The Action planned under this programme will build on the results achieved so far.

IPA has provided extensive previous and on-going support in the rule of law sector. It has improved Bosnia and Herzegovina's capacities to fight organised crime and

corruption by strengthening police and justice cooperation within the country, by fostering the cooperation with police services of other countries and by harmonisation of Bosnia and Herzegovina's legislation with the EU Acquis. IPA assistance has helped the country to more effectively assess threats, improve investigation capacities, tackle customs fraud, trafficking and illegal migration, bringing more security to the country's citizens and for the EU. Furthermore, EU assistance has provided more efficient and accessible court services to Bosnia and Herzegovina's citizens and reduced the backlog of war crimes cases. The EU has also been the main donor financing judicial infrastructure, including the renovation and construction of courts and prosecutors' offices.

Experience with previous EU assistance also in this sector has shown that successful projects are based on ownership by the beneficiaries from the development of the Action idea through its implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Ensuring continuous co-operation from the numerous institutions at different levels of Bosnia and Herzegovina has proven paramount. In the programming of this IPA 2015 assistance the Commission tried to involve all relevant institutions but participation could not be ensured from all levels. All relevant stakeholders should be involved in the implementation of the programme.

Furthermore, previous Actions including ICT infrastructure have shown that centralised development of technical specifications is not the best solution due to the different needs of different institutions and their technical and human resources level of development. Therefore, development of the technical documentation for ICT supply should involve active participation of all beneficiaries.

An overview of the Actions supported by other donors is included in each Action Document.

List of Actions foreseen under the selected Sectors/Priorities:

Sector 1 Democracy and Governance

DIRECT MANAGEMENT EUD TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	
1 Improving Public Internal Financial Control (PIFC)	EUR 2 000 000
2 Support to the Public Administration Reform and the Reform of the Statistics system	EUR 3 500 000
3 European Integration Facility	EUR 4 589 800
4 Support to participation in EU Programmes	EUR 4 610 200
TOTAL	EUR 14 700 000

Sector 2 Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights

DIRECT MANAGEMENT EUD TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	
5 Enhanced Justice Sector and cooperation in Rule of Law	EUR 16 500 000
6 Support to law enforcement agencies	EUR 6 000 000

TOTAL	EUR 22 500 000
PROGRAMME TOTAL	EUR 37 200 000

Assumptions and conditions

The implementation of the Actions of this programme requires commitment of all involved beneficiaries to cooperation and coordination between the different levels of governments of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Failure to comply with this requirement may lead to the re-allocation of future funding.

2.2 DESCRIPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTIONS

SECTOR 1	Democracy and Governance		EUR 14 700 000
Action 1	Improving Public Internal Financial Control (PIFC)	Direct management	EUR 2 000 000

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

This Action will build on the achievements of previous EU support to strengthening Public Financial Management and in particular the PIFC framework and institutions at all levels of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The specific objective of the Action is to improve accountability and good governance in public finance and to enhance financial management and control in day-to-day operations at all levels of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The expected results are:

- legal framework, internal control standards, manuals and written procedures for the development, implementation and monitoring of internal control tools and measures further enhanced in line with EU standards and practices all over Bosnia and Herzegovina structure,
- Central Harmonisation Units (CHUs) and Coordination Board fully operational, awareness on financial management controls optimised and external quality control of internal audit (IA) developed,
- capacities to implement PIFC enhanced all over the Bosnia and Herzegovina structure,
- process of reporting and the preparation of the annual consolidated report on internal audit and in the sphere of financial management and control (FMC) updated and improved.

Key performance indicators are:

- number of further improved FMC and internal audit manuals and procedures in line with EU standards and practices,
- number of Capacity building activities of the CHUs and Coordination Body,
- number of staff trained in FMC and IA,
- strategic and annual internal audit plans prepared and implemented,
- software on reporting and preparation of the annual consolidated report on IA and in sphere of FMC fully developed and in use.

(2) Implementation arrangements for the action: direct management by the EUD

(2)(a) Essential elements of the action

Procurement:

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 2 000 000

b) The indicative number and type of contracts: 1 service contract

c) Indicative time frame for launching the procurement procedure: Q1/2016

Action 2	Support to the Public Administration Reform and the Reform of the Statistics system	Direct management	EUR 3 500 000
-----------------	--	--------------------------	----------------------

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

The Action will support the Public Administration Reform Coordinator's Office (PARCO) in strengthening the institutional framework for and in managing the implementation of the Public Administration Reform (PAR) Strategic Framework 2016-2020. It will also support to the Bosnia and Herzegovina statistical institutions in improving and developing the statistics system and implementation of the Strategy for Development of Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2020.

The specific objectives of the Action are:

- to support the implementation of the PAR Strategic Framework,
- to strengthen the statistical system by improving and developing institutional capacities in the areas of National Accounts, Business Statistics, Balance of Payments (BoP) and International Investment Position (IIP) statistics.

The expected results are:

- institutional framework, management and organisational structure to implement the PAR Strategic Framework finalised and improved,

- capacity to manage, coordinate and monitor the implementation of the PAR Strategic Framework developed and strengthened, and increased visibility and promotion of the PAR interventions,
- improved National accounts by introduction of Regional accounts,
- strengthened Business Statistics by improving Statistical Business Register, Structural Business Statistics (SBS), Short Term Statistics (STS) and Tourism Statistics,
- quality criteria and quality reporting on balance of payments statistics, BoP and IIP statistics introduced.

Key performance indicators are:

- organisational framework for the implementation of the PAR Strategic Framework proposed, agreed and accepted by the beneficiaries,
- number of trained beneficiaries from the PAR structures in accordance with the training plan,
- increased number of indicators (Regional accounts, SBS, STS, Tourism statistics) for which data is collected and disseminated to users,
- IIP and BoP statistics produced according to EU standards (Central Bank of BiH).

(2) Assumptions and conditions

The PAR Strategy and the Revised Action Plan1 (RAP1) expired at the end of 2014 and so far three out of the four governments have committed themselves to developing a new strategic framework in the near future. A comprehensive PAR Strategic Framework which is prioritised and aligned with the Government's financial circumstances provides the basis for implementing prioritised and sequenced reform activities and represents the main precondition for the PAR related component of this Action. Failure to approve such a strategic framework may lead to the de-commitment of the funding.

(3) Implementation arrangements for the action: direct management by the EUD

(3)(a) Essential elements of the action

Procurement:

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 2 000 000

b) The indicative number and type of contracts: 1 service contract

c) Indicative time frame for launching the procurement procedure: Q3/2016

Grant – Twinning – Call for proposal: "Reform of the Statistics system":

a) Objectives and foreseen results:

The objective is to strengthen the statistical system by improving and developing institutional capacities in the areas of National Accounts, Business Statistics, Balance of Payments and IIP statistics.

The foreseen results are:

- improved National accounts by introduction of Regional accounts;
- strengthened Business Statistics by improving Statistical Business Register, Structural Business Statistics, Short Term Statistics and Tourism Statistics;
- quality criteria and quality reporting on balance of payments statistics, BoP and IIP statistics introduced

b) The essential eligibility criteria: applicants must be EU Member State administrations or mandated bodies.

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

d) The essential award criteria are technical expertise of the applicant, and 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 192 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 1 500 000

g) Indicative date for launching the selection procedure: Q3/2016

Action 3	European Integration Facility	Direct management	EUR 4 589 800
-----------------	--------------------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------

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

The Action is designed to provide support to institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina at various levels in order to address specific needs identified in the course of the European integration process.

A variety of technical assistance and other types of support will be provided to Bosnia and Herzegovina institutions in order to make them more capable to respond to challenges and requirements of the EU integration processes and to better prepare and implement IPA programmes/Actions.

The expected result is:

- Bosnia and Herzegovina's authorities give more effective and timely responses to emerged EU integration priorities.

Key performance indicators are:

- overall level of administrative capacity of Bosnia and Herzegovina institutions involved in European integration process,
- % of tender procedures launched and finalised,

- % of IPA funds contracted,
- % of IPA funds disbursed.

(2) Implementation arrangements for the action: direct management by the EUD

(2)(a) Essential elements of the action

Procurement:

- a) The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 4 589 800
- b) The indicative number and type of contracts: 15-20 service contracts and 3-5 supply contracts.
- c) Indicative time frame for launching the procurement procedure: Q1-Q4/2017 (8-10 service, 2-3 supply), Q1-Q4/2018 (7-10 service, 1-2 supply).

Action 4	Support to participation in EU Programmes	Direct management	EUR 4 610 200
-----------------	--	--------------------------	----------------------

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

The Action will co-finance the participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in EU programmes.

The objective of this action is to ensure participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in European Union Programmes by co-financing the costs of the entry-tickets/participation fees to be paid in areas such as research and innovation, culture and audio-visual activities, education, customs and fiscal policies, justice, health, competitiveness of enterprises and SMEs. The action will also support participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) in 2018.

Expected results are:

- enhanced participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in European Union Programmes, including increased exchanges with EU Member States,
- strengthened ownership and responsibility of Bosnia and Herzegovina (including in financial terms) for participation in European Union Programmes.

Key performance indicators are:

- number of programmes for which an international agreement has been concluded,
- Bosnia and Herzegovina's participation rates in the respective European Union Programmes, such as Horizon 2020, Creative Europe, Erasmus+, COSME, Justice, Health for Growth, are increasing each year and in terms of co-financing of projects Bosnia and Herzegovina annually receives equal or greater amount than the one paid for the entry ticket.

(2) Assumptions and conditions

- Each institution signatory of an agreement for participation to an Union Programme earmarked sufficient budget allocation to pay annual contributions,
- Signatories of MoU establish necessary support system, intermediary organisation or helpdesk and contact per programme to support applicants and promote EU programmes.

(3) Implementation arrangements for the action: direct management by the EUD

(3)(a) Essential elements of the action

The activity will be implemented as a reimbursement of maximum 90% for the entry tickets for EU Programmes after the entry tickets have been paid, on the basis of an MoU between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Commission. Participation to PISA 2018 will be financed entirely by the EU.

SECTOR 2	Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights		EUR 22 500 000
Action 5	Enhanced Justice Sector and cooperation in Rule of Law	Direct management	EUR 16 500 000

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

The Action will provide adequate physical infrastructure for judicial/prosecutorial institutions such as courts, prosecutor's offices and prison facilities.

In addition, it will enhance the cooperation between prosecution and law enforcement agencies (LEAs) to improve the efficiency of the investigation and prosecution of organised crime and corruption cases.

The Action will also increase capacities regarding human resource and performance management as well as disciplinary frameworks and procedures.

The objective of the Action is to enhance the effectiveness, integrity and professionalism of the institutions in the Rule of Law sector.

The expected results are:

- improved material capacity for execution of criminal sanctions,
- improved material and operational capacity of the judicial institutions,
- enhanced efficiency of the investigation and prosecution of organised crime and corruption cases (OC & C),

- reinforcement of the integrity, human and performance management, and accountability of the justice sector institutions.

Key performance indicators are:

- number of institutes for execution of criminal sanctions refurbished and operational,
- number of courts and prosecutor's offices refurbished and operational,
- number of legal acts/procedures/rules between law enforcement agencies and prosecutor offices established,
- percentage of judicial institutions that have developed and apply an integrity plan.

(2) Implementation arrangements for the action: direct management by the EUD

(2)(a) Essential elements of the action

Procurement:

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 14 300 000

b) The indicative number and type of contracts: approximately 10 works, supply and service contracts

c) Indicative time frame for launching the procurement procedure: Q3-Q4/2016

Grant – Call for proposal "Efficiency, integrity and accountability in the Rule of Law sector":

a) Objectives and foreseen results:

The objective is to reinforce the efficiency, integrity and accountability of the institutions in the Rule of Law sector.

The foreseen results are:

- enhanced efficiency of the investigation and prosecution of organised crime and corruption cases (OC & C),
- reinforcement of the integrity, human and performance management, and accountability of the justice sector institutions.

b) The essential eligibility criteria:

Types of actions eligible for financing are:

- conducting analysis of the current state of play of the cooperation among different stakeholders involved in corruption, organized crime and commercial criminal cases with recommendations for improvements related to mechanisms, legal framework, tools and skills needed to be improved,
- activities related to the improvements to the legal framework allowing enhanced cooperation, communication and exchange of data related to detection, investigation and prosecution of cases related to OC&C,

- preparing and conducting specialised training and peer-to-peer events for judges, prosecutors and LEAs (police) in the area of OC&C,
- conducting analysis of the current state of play regarding accountability, integrity, conflict of interest and other with recommendations for improvements of the disciplinary framework and procedures of the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council, the Office of the Disciplinary Council (ODC) and other representatives of the judicial community,
- developing capacity building activities for the ODC, including models for enhanced participation of representatives of the judicial community in disciplinary panels etc.,
- developing models related to the strengthening of human resource capacities (permanent and temporary staff) and management throughout courts and prosecutor offices in Bosnia and Herzegovina ensuring equal representation of women and men whenever possible,
- activities related to strengthening performance appraisal of judges, prosecutors and other staff of the justice sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina including building the capacities of training centres throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina,
- developing, conducting and/or disseminating printed materials (brochures and similar), different media and visibility events throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The applicant must be a public body of an EU Member State or a consortium of public bodies of EU Member States.

- 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 the one grant under this call is 100 % 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 192 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 2 200 000
- g) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals: Q1- Q2/2018

Action 6	Support to law enforcement agencies	Direct management	EUR 6 000 000
-----------------	--	--------------------------	----------------------

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

The Action will enhance the scope, quality and safety of information exchanged among the law enforcement agencies of Bosnia and Herzegovina (LEAs). In addition, technical capacities of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Border Police to implement their tasks will be strengthened.

The specific objectives of the Action are:

- to enhance the scope, quality and safety of information exchanged among the LEAs, in compliance with the personal data protection requirements,
- to strengthen the technical capacities of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Border Police to implement its tasks.

The expected results are:

- increased level of security of information systems in each LEA through better data security and protection data from unauthorised access and use,
- increased level of reliability and availability of systems and data in the LEAs by designing failover systems, ensuring backup solutions of data storage and data security through additional safe keeping,
- e-business improved in LEAs through the use of IT system(s) for better quality of service, improved e-communication capacities as well improved Document Management System (DMS) and Case Management System (CMS) capacities,
- human resource capacities in LEA IT sector improved through capacity building and specialised trainings of IT professionals,
- enhanced border control achieved via establishment of system for motor vehicles control at border posts and via introduction of a comprehensive system of video surveillance.

Key performance indicators are:

- system for authorization and authentication fully functional for electronic data exchange within the central point and 6 access points that cooperate in respective data exchange,
- established and functional failover system at central point,
- established database backup in institutions involved in data exchange system,
- electronic DMS and CMS and e-communication tools introduced and implemented in at least 3 institutions,
- number of closed police investigations increased due to available and reliable data exchange,
- number of IT professionals that completed e-learning course developed under this Action,
- system for motor vehicles control and video surveillance at border posts established and functional.

(2) Implementation arrangements for the action: direct management by the EUD

(2)(a) Essential elements of the action

Procurement:

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 6 000 000

b) The indicative number and type of contracts: two supply and one service contract

c) Indicative time frame for launching the procurement procedures: Q2-Q3/2016

3 BUDGET

3.1 INDICATIVE BUDGET TABLE - COUNTRY ACTION PROGRAMME FOR BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

		EU Contribution	IPA II beneficiary Co-financing	Total expenditure	MM
Objective 1 Support for political reforms and related progressive alignment with the Union acquis CRIS 37888	1) Democracy and Governance	14 700 000.00	801 800.00	15 501 800.00	
	1 Improving Public Internal Financial Control (PIFC)	2 000 000.00		2 000 000.00	Direct management
	2 Support to the Public Administration Reform and the Reform of the Statistics system	3 500 000.00		3 500 000.00	Direct management
	3 European Integration Facility	4 589 800.00		4 589 800.00	Direct management
	4 Support to participation in EU Programmes	4 610 200.00	801 800.00	5 412 000.00	Direct management
	2) Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights: local development strategies	22 500 000.00		22 500 000.00	
	5 Enhanced Justice Sector and cooperation in Rule of Law	16 500 000.00		16 500 000.00	Direct management
	6 Support to law enforcement agencies	6 000 000.00		6 000 000.00	Direct management
	Total Programme	37 200 000.00	801 800.00	38 001 800.00	

4 IMPLEMENTATION MODALITIES AND GENERAL RULES FOR PROCUREMENT AND GRANT AWARD PROCEDURES

DIRECT MANAGEMENT:

This programme shall be implemented by direct management by the Union Delegations in accordance with article 58(1)(a) of the Financial Regulation and the corresponding provisions of its Rules of Application.

Procurement shall follow the provisions of Part Two, Title IV Chapter 3 of the Financial Regulation No 966/2012 and Part Two, Title II, Chapter 3 of its Rules of Application.

Grant award procedures shall follow the provisions of Part Two Title IV Chapter 4 of the Financial Regulation No 966/2012 and Part Two Title II Chapter 4 of its Rules of Application.

Under the Financial Regulation, Parts One and Three of the Financial Regulation and its Rules of Application shall apply to external actions except as otherwise provided in Part Two, Title IV.

The Commission may also use services and supplies under its Framework Contracts concluded following Part One of the Financial Regulation.

Twinning:

Twinning projects shall be set up in the form of a grant agreement, whereby the selected Member State administrations agree to provide the requested public sector expertise against the reimbursement of the expenses thus incurred.

The contract may in particular provide for the long-term secondment of an official assigned to provide full-time advice to the administration of the IPA II beneficiary as resident twinning advisor.

The twinning grant agreement shall be established in accordance with relevant provisions of Part Two Title IV Chapter 4 of the Financial Regulation and Part Two Title II Chapter 4 of its Rules of Application. Parts One and Three of the Financial Regulation and its Rules of Application shall apply to external actions except as otherwise provided in Part Two, Title IV.

5 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 Country Strategy Paper.

In the specific context of indirect management by IPA II beneficiaries, National IPA Coordinators (NIPACs) will collect information on the performance of the actions and programmes (process, output and outcome indicators) and coordinate the collection and production of indicators coming from national sources.

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 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.