

**Project Fiche: No. 16****Strengthening European Integration (SEI)****1. Basic information**

- 1.1 CRIS Number:** 2011/022-964
- 1.2 Title:** Strengthening European Integration (SEI)
- 1.3 ELARG Statistical code:** 04 – 40 Supporting Programmes
- 1.4 Location:** Western Balkans: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, as well as Kosovo<sup>1</sup>  
Iceland, Turkey

**Implementing arrangements:**

- 1.5 Contracting Authority (EU):** European Union represented by the European Commission on behalf of the Beneficiaries.
- 1.6 Implementing Agency:** Not applicable
- 1.7 Beneficiary:** Western Balkans: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, as well as Kosovo  
Iceland, Turkey

**Financing:**

- 1.8 Overall cost (VAT excluded)<sup>2</sup>:** EUR 6 816 864.7
- 1.9 EU contribution:** EUR 6 500 000
- 1.10 Final date for contracting:** 30 November 2012
- 1.11 Final date for execution of contracts:** 30 November 2014
- 1.12 Final date for disbursements:** 30 November 2015

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<sup>1</sup> under UNSCR 1244/99

<sup>2</sup> The total cost of the project should be net of VAT and/or other taxes. Should this not be the case, the amount of VAT and the reasons why it should be considered eligible should be clearly indicated.

## **2. Overall Objective and Project Purpose**

### **2.1 Overall Objective**

To ensure effective programming and project development as well as implementation of the Multi-beneficiary Programme under the IPA thus contributing to the overall progress of the accession process and increasing the effectiveness and impact of accession oriented projects financed through IPA.

### **2.2 Project purpose**

To strengthen the ability of the beneficiaries to effectively design and develop programmes and projects to be submitted for financing under IPA Multi-beneficiary Programmes as well as to enable the implementation of a number of accession-related actions of various public/private actors in order to meet specific and urgent needs in the beneficiaries. Furthermore, to support the beneficiaries' participation in activities for the exchange of information, networking, participation in workshops, conferences, study visits and similar activities and to assist in smaller-scale projects supporting European Integration.

### **2.3 Link with AP/NPAA / EP/ SAA<sup>3</sup>**

As for activity 8, maintaining full cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and ensure integrity of domestic war crimes proceedings features prominently as one of the key conditions in the accession process.

### **2.4 Link with MIPD**

This project supports all priority areas of the IPA Multi-beneficiary MIPDs and will facilitate the preparation of various types of projects to be financed under the IPA Multi-beneficiary Programme.

## **3. Description of project**

### **3.1 Background and justification**

#### **3.1.1 Project Preparation Facility (PPF)**

The main objective of the IPA is to help the beneficiaries face the challenges of European integration, implement the reforms needed to fulfil EU requirements and make progress in the Stabilisation and Association Process. The Multi-beneficiary programme is designed to respond to Multi-beneficiary priority needs as indicated in the IPA Multi-beneficiary MIPDs, taking into account activities implemented under the National Programmes, the guidance provided in EU strategic documents, the lessons learned from the programming and implementation of previous EU assistance and the findings from consultations with, inter alia, the Beneficiaries, International Financial Institutions, the Regional Cooperation Council, EU Member States, civil society organisations and European Commission services.

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<sup>3</sup> AP = Accession Partnership; NPAA = National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis (for Candidate Countries), National Action Plan (for Potential Candidates); EP= European Partnership; SAA = Stabilisation and Association Agreement

The European Commission is responsible for the programming, contracting and implementation of the Multi-beneficiary Programme under IPA on behalf of the Beneficiaries, but involves the beneficiaries and other stakeholders at an early stage in the programming to ensure ownership of and involvement in the projects.

In order to improve the quality and speed up the programming and implementation of the Multi-beneficiary Programme it has been decided to create a Project Preparation Facility.

### 3.1.2 Unallocated Institution Building Envelope

Fulfilling EU requirements and making progress in the Stabilisation and Association Process require an increasing number of qualified experts, competent civil servants and necessitate expertise and EU knowledge in the judicial, economic and political matters. Concrete administrative structures and management systems should be established or strengthened which satisfy the requirements of the EU *acquis* in a number of areas.

The approximation of legislation to that of EU require developing the current institutional and legal structures besides some investment. Implementing bodies may lack the necessary expertise, knowledge and experience to carry out these tasks.

It is essential to create an envelope for unspecified institution building needs (e.g. training, technical assistance etc) for priorities identified in the AP, NPAA or Regular Reports. This envelope will cover a series of demand-driven requests such as short-term advisory assistance, study visits to EU Member States, attendance to accession related conferences and meetings/workshops by the administrations of the beneficiaries.

The eligible applicants for this component are the line ministries and public institutions/agencies and staff in the beneficiaries directly involved in the EU accession process.

## **3.2 Assessment of project impact, catalytic effect, sustainability and cross border impact**

The impact of the SEI Project is significant. Effective delivery of the project results in:

- More effective implementation of the relevant programmes and projects – better designed projects produce better results and are also less likely to require subsequent addenda and contractual revision;
- Faster completion of tendering procedures – properly prepared documentation can be approved faster and will require less corrigenda once launched;
- Higher quality responses from organisations and companies submitting bids – tender documentation which is clear, logical and learns from experience elsewhere in the EU will ensure that submitted offers provide what is required by the Contracting Authority;
- Increased disbursement of available funds;
- Improved effectiveness of projects;
- Facilitation of the accession process.

Sustainability is ensured through demonstrating how good project design leads to good project implementation. This will encourage all stakeholders to attach greater priority to the programming and project design phases and should improve the ownership.

### **3.3 Results and measurable indicators**

#### ***Results***

1. Strategic plans are designed in different sector areas;
2. Stakeholder consultations organised, project fiches are drafted well;
3. Tender documents, terms of reference and technical specifications drafted;
4. Project preparatory and start-up actions implemented;
5. Urgent/bridging support to activities which lie at the kernel of the accession process is provided (Cooperation with ICTY, IT interconnectivity, SEED, CEFTA);
6. Increased knowledge to develop, implement and monitor policies to prevent and fight corruption and crime affecting the economy;
7. Strengthened capacities of local data producers to carry out national surveys on corruption and crime;
8. Increased capacities of beneficiaries' institutions to set up a monitoring system in the framework of introducing a Sector Wide Approach (SWAP) for IPA assistance.

#### ***Measurable Indicators***

1. Quality and quantity of strategic plans;
2. Quality of project fiches and quality and quantity of stakeholder consultations;
3. Quality and quantity of tender documents, terms of reference and technical specifications;
4. Number of preparatory and start-up actions implemented;
5. Number of urgent/bridging actions implemented;
6. Comprehensive assessment reports available on a country-by-country and regional basis.

### **3.4 Activities:**

1. Support in designing effective strategic plans in different sector areas (by means of service contracts/specific contracts under framework contracts).
2. Support in planning and programming the IPA-funded projects by for example assisting in stakeholder consultations, advice on drafting Project Fiches and their annexes (by means of service contracts/ specific contracts under framework contracts). Particular support will be provided by the South East Europe Rural Development Standing Working Group (SGW SEE) to the preparation of a region-wide pilot initiative in close collaboration with the Commission services, in particular DG Enlargement and DG Agriculture and Rural Development, the main focus of which will be agreed on the basis of an assessment of SWG's capacities yet to be finalised as part of a specific contract (by means of a grant contract with the SGW SEE).

3. Provide expert assistance in drafting the tender documents and/or terms of reference and technical specifications for the implementation of IPA funded projects (by means of service contracts/specific contracts under framework contracts).
4. Project preparatory and start-up actions (by means of service contracts/specific contracts under framework contracts). Particular support will be provided to selected NGO networks to set up Framework Partnership Agreements with a view to implement the Civil Society Facility (call for proposals).
5. Provide short-term technical assistance including training, study-visits, management, organizational and other expert advice - to support the beneficiaries' institutions in developing/upgrading necessary technical know-how and management skills in project preparation and implementation (by means of service contracts/specific contracts under framework contracts) as well as monitoring for results in the framework of introducing a Sector Wide Approach (SWAP) in IPA assistance (by means of an Administrative Agreement with the World Bank under joint management).
6. Support to regional networks and organisation of regional meetings, workshops, study visits in strategically important areas (by means of grant contracts with the Igman Initiative, the Coalition for RECOM and the Balkan Investigative Regional Reporting Network and a Contribution Agreement with the World Health Organisation under joint management).
7. Training on *acquis* related issues (developing human resources of relevant bodies for the adoption and implementation of the EU *acquis*) to be implemented by a Contribution Agreement with CEFTA under centralised management and service contracts/specific contracts under framework contracts.
8. Follow up on the support to the Joint European Commission - ICTY training to National Prosecutors and Young Professionals from the former Yugoslavia (by means of a Contribution Agreement with ICTY under centralised management).
9. Produce assessments of corruption and crime affecting the business sector based on experienced based comparable sample surveys while simultaneously strengthening national capacities to produce evidence-based assessments of corruption and crime in the business sector. National data producers and anti-corruption agencies to be fully involved (by means of a Contribution Agreement with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime under joint management).

### **3.5 Conditionality and sequencing:**

Not applicable.

### **3.6 Linked activities**

The SEI Project is linked to the IPA Monitoring Programme which is designed to enhance the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of the assistance to the Western Balkans and Turkey and to provide the Commission with regular analytical assessments on implementation of projects and programmes which is used during the implementation phase of projects as well as in the design of new projects.

It is also linked to the IPA Audit and Evaluation Programme where *audits* provide the Commission with assurance as to the legality and regularity of the assistance and *evaluation* provides the

Commission with judgement of interventions according to their results, impacts and needs they aim to satisfy and contributes to the design of interventions, improve the quality and report on the achievements of the interventions, both of which the results are used in future programming.

Activity 4 is linked to the Civil Society Facility Programme under which strategic partnerships between European and regional/local NGOs will be supported. Activity 8 is linked to actions initiated by the ICTY or in support of ICTY's work, regarding its legacy. More in particular, Activity 8 is a follow up to contract 2010/242144 (Joint European Commission and ICTY Training Project for National Prosecutors and Young Professionals from the former Yugoslavia).

### **3.7 Lessons learned**

National programmes have both under the CARDS and IPA programmes included similar projects which have proven to be an excellent tool for supporting the programming process and the implementation of accession-related actions.

**4. Indicative Budget (amounts in EUR)**

			SOURCES OF FUNDING									
			TOTAL EXP.RE	EU CONTRIBUTION		NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION					PRIVATE CONTRIBUTION GRANT BENEFCIARY	
ACTIVITIES	IB	INV	EUR (a)=(b)+(c)+(d)	EUR (b)	%(1)	Total EUR (c)=(x)+(y)+(z)	% (1)	Central EUR (x)	Regional/ Local EUR (y)	IFIs EUR (z)	EUR (d)	% (1)
PPF	x		3 316 864.70	3 000 000	90.45	/	/	/	/	/	316 864.70*	9.55
IBE	x		3 500 000	3 500 000	100							
TOTAL IB			6 816 864.70	6 500 000	95.35	/	/	/	/	/	316 864.70	4.65
TOTAL INV			/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
<b>TOTAL PROJECT</b>			<b>6 816 864.70</b>	<b>6 500 000</b>	<b>95.35</b>						316 864.70	<b>4.65</b>

Amounts net of VAT

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

\* In the case of grants, final grant beneficiaries should contribute with a minimum of 10% of the eligible expenditure of the project. The figure includes co-funding from grants contracts under activities 4 (call for proposals) and 6 (grant contract with Igman, Coalition for RECOM, and BIRN).

### 5. Indicative Implementation Schedule (periods broken down per quarter)

Contracts	Procurement/Call for Proposals	Signature of contracts	Project Completion
1 Direct Grant contract with SWG SEE	N/A	Q3 2011	Q3 2012
Up to 7 Service contracts/Specific contracts under Framework contracts	Q3 2011 - Q3 2012	Q3 2011-Q4 2012	Q4 2013
Up to 10 grants/Framework Partnership Agreements for Activity 4	Q 4 2011	Q1 – Q4 2012	Q4 2014
1 Direct Grant contract with Igman Initiative	N/A	Q4 2011	Q2 2013
1 Direct Grant contract with Coalition for RECOM	N/A	Q1 2012	Q3 2014
1 Direct Grant contract with BIRN	N/A	Q4 2011	Q2 2014
1 Administrative Agreement with World Bank for Activity 5 (EUR 1 200 000)	N/A	Q1 2012	Q4 2014
1 Contribution Agreement with ICTY for Activity 8 (EUR 400 000)	N/A	Q3 2011	Q3 2012
1 Contribution Agreement with UNODC for Activity 9 (EUR 450 000)	N/A	Q1 2012	Q4 2013
1 Contribution Agreement with CEFTA for Activity 7 (EUR 200 000)	N/A	Q1 2012	Q4 2013
1 Contribution Agreement with WHO for Activity 6 (EUR 55 000)	N/A	Q4 2011	Q1 2013

Due to the nature of this project, for the time being it is not possible to foresee the precise timing of procurement or calls for proposals and contracting.

### 6. Cross cutting issues



## 6.1 Equal Opportunity

Equal opportunities and non-discrimination principles will be respected as regarding gender as well as minorities at the programming and implementation stage. Based on the fundamental principles of promoting equality and combating discrimination, participation in the project will be guaranteed on the basis of equal access regardless of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

**ANNEXES**

- I- Logical framework matrix in standard format
- II- Amounts (in EUR) contracted and disbursed per quarter over the full duration of project
- III- Details per EU funded contract

## ANNEX I: Logical framework matrix in standard format

LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR Project Fiche	Programme name and number: Project Preparation Facility	CRIS No.: 2011/022-964
	Contracting period expires: 30 November 2012	Disbursement period expires: 30 November 2015
	Total budget:  EUR 6 816 864.70	IPA budget  EUR 6 500 000

Overall objective	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	
To ensure effective programming and project development as well as implementation of the Multi-beneficiary Programme under the IPA, thus contributing to the overall progress of the accession process and increasing the effectiveness and impact of accession oriented projects.			
Project purpose	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
To strengthen the ability of the beneficiaries to effectively design and develop programmes and projects to be submitted for financing under IPA Multi-beneficiary Programmes as well as to enable the implementation of a number of accession-related actions of various public/private actors in order to meet specific and urgent needs in the beneficiaries. Furthermore, to support the beneficiaries' participation in activities for the exchange of information, networking, participation in workshops, conferences, study visits and similar activities and to assist in smaller-scale projects supporting European Integration			

<b>Results</b>	<b>Objectively verifiable indicators</b>	<b>Sources of Verification</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strategic plans are designed in different sector areas;</li> <li>2. Stakeholder consultations organised, project fiches are drafted well;</li> <li>3. Tender documents, terms of reference and technical specifications drafted;</li> <li>4. Project preparatory and start-up actions implemented.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Quality and quantity of strategic plans;</li> <li>2. Quality of project fiches and quality and quantity of stakeholder consultations;</li> <li>3. Quality and quantity of tender documents, terms of reference and technical specifications;</li> <li>4. Number of preparatory and start-up actions implemented.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strategic plans</li> <li>2. Project fiches, minutes from stakeholder consultations</li> <li>3. Tender documents, terms of reference and technical specifications;</li> <li>4. Results from preparatory and start up actions</li> </ol>	

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Means</b>	<b>Costs</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support in designing effective strategic plans in different sector areas.</li> <li>2. Support in planning and programming the IPA-funded projects by for example assisting in stakeholder consultations, advise on drafting Project Fiches and their annexes. Particular support will be provided by the South East Europe Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG SEE) to the preparation of a region-wide pilot initiative in close collaboration with the Commission services, in particular DG Enlargement and DG Agriculture and Rural Development, the main focus of which will be agreed on the basis of an assessment of SWG's capacities yet to be finalised as part of a specific contract.</li> </ol>	<p>Specific contracts under Framework contracts and/or service contracts. Grant contracts, contribution agreements. In particular:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1: Service contracts/specific contracts under framework contracts).</li> <li>2: Service contracts/specific contracts under framework contracts and direct grant contract with SWG SEE.</li> <li>3: Service contracts/specific contracts under framework contracts</li> <li>4: Service contracts/specific contracts under framework</li> </ol>	EUR 6 500 000	

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Provide expert assistance in drafting the tender documents and/or terms of reference and technical specifications for the implementation of IPA funded projects.</li> <li>4. Project preparatory and start-up actions.</li> <li>5. Provide short-term technical assistance including training, study-visits, management, organizational and other expert advice - to support the beneficiaries' institutions in developing/upgrading necessary technical know-how and management skills in project preparation and implementation.</li> <li>6. Participation in acquis related meetings, workshops, study visits</li> <li>7. Training on acquis related issues (developing human resources of relevant bodies for the adoption and implementation of the EU acquis)</li> <li>8. Follow up on the support to the Joint European Commission-ICTY training to National Prosecutors and Young Professionals from the former Yugoslavia</li> <li>9. Produce assessments of corruption and crime affecting the business sector based on experienced based comparable sample surveys while simultaneously strengthening national capacities to produce evidence-based assessments of corruption and crime in the business sector. National data producers and anti-corruption agencies to be fully involved.</li> </ol>	<p>contracts and one call for proposals</p> <p>5: Service contracts/specific contracts under framework contracts and Administrative Agreement with World Bank (under joint management).</p> <p>6: Grants contracts with Igman Initiative, Coalition for RECOM and BIRN and a Contribution Agreement with WHO (joint management)</p> <p>7: Contribution Agreement with CEFTA (centralised management) and service contracts/specific contracts under framework contracts.</p> <p>8: Contribution Agreement with the ICTY (centralised management).</p> <p>9: Contribution Agreement with UNODC (joint management)</p>		
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**ANNEX II: Amounts (in EUR) contracted and disbursed per quarter over the full duration of project**

<b>Contracted</b>	<b>Q3 2011</b>	<b>Q4 2011</b>	<b>Q1 2012</b>	<b>Q2 2012</b>	<b>Q3 2012</b>	<b>Q4 2012</b>	<b>Q1 2013</b>
Service / Grant Contracts; Contribution Agreement (not specified below)		1 100 000	1 200 000	650 000	400 000	695 000	
Direct Grant Contract SWG SEE	150 000						
Administration Agreement with World Bank			1 200 000				
Contribution Agreement ICTY	400 000						
Contribution Agreement UNODC			450 000				
Contribution Agreement CEFTA			200 000				
Contribution Agreement with WHO		55 000					
<b>Cumulated</b>	<b>550 000</b>	<b>1 705 000</b>	<b>4 755 000</b>	<b>5 405 000</b>	<b>5 805 000</b>	<b>6 500 000</b>	<b>6 500 000</b>

<b>Disbursed</b>	<b>Q3 2011</b>	<b>Q4 2011</b>	<b>Q1 2012</b>	<b>Q2 2012</b>	<b>Q3 2012</b>	<b>Q4 2012</b>	<b>Q1 2013</b>	<b>Q2 2013</b>	<b>Q3 2013</b>	<b>Q4 2013</b>	<b>Q1 2014</b>	<b>Q2 2014</b>	<b>Q3 2014</b>	<b>Q4 2014</b>
Service / Grant Contracts; CAs (not specified below)		150 000	400 000	500 000	450 000	250 000	250 000	250 000	250 000	250 000	250 000	250 000	250 000	545 000
Direct Grant Agreement SWG SEE		120 000			30 000									
Contribution Agreement ICTY	320 000						80 000							
Contribution Agreement UNODC			300 000						150 000					
Administration Agreement World Bank			700 000					250 000						250 000
Contribution Agreement CEFTA				120 000					80 000					
Contribution Agreement WHO		50 000					5 000							
<b>Cumulated</b>	<b>320 000</b>	<b>640 000</b>	<b>2 040 000</b>	<b>2 660 000</b>	<b>3 140 000</b>	<b>3 390 000</b>	<b>3 725 000</b>	<b>3 975 000</b>	<b>4 475 000</b>	<b>4 955 000</b>	<b>5 205 000</b>	<b>5 455 000</b>	<b>5 705 000</b>	<b>6 500 000</b>

Due to the nature of the Facility for Project Preparation and Reinforcement of Administrative Capacity for the time being it is not possible to foresee the precise timing of contracting and disbursements, and the number and value of service contracts.

### **ANNEX III: Details per EU funded contract**

It is expected that part of the project will be implemented through approximately 7 service contracts for a total indicative amount of EUR 1 977 761, procured through calls for tender (2) or under framework contracts (4), depending on the amount, and one negotiated procedure. All service contracts should be signed between Q3 2011 and Q3 2012.

Under activity 5, short term technical assistance will support the Systematic Electronic Exchange of Data (SEED). One service contract for an amount of EUR 500 000 will be signed following a negotiated procedure with Agenzia delle Dogane, which is a public-sector body governed by Italian law. The legal basis is Art. 242(1)(b) of the Implementing Rules (IR) of the Financial Regulation, which states that a 'negotiated procedure with a single tender' is possible where *“the services are entrusted to public-sector bodies or to non-profit institutions or associations and relate to activities of an institutional nature or designed to provide assistance to peoples in the social field”*. The Italian Customs Agency, Agenzia delle Dogane, has the specific expertise necessary to implement the SEED work plan by drawing both upon internal resources and upon resources available in the wider network of European Customs and Tax Administrations in which the Italian Customs Agency participates.

In addition, depending on the nature and scope of the demands and whenever the requirements and conditions for such implementation modalities are fulfilled, part of the project can be implemented also through grant contracts awarded in accordance with the provisions in the Financial Regulation and Implementing Rules (Title VI), following Calls for Proposals or direct award decisions.

A call for proposals for an indicative amount of EUR 1 000 000 is foreseen to be launched in Q4 2011, to sign Framework Partnership Agreements in preparation of future activities under the Civil Society Facility.

One direct grant is foreseen to be awarded in Q4 2011 to the Igman Initiative, on account of its technical competence and high degree of specialisation, Article 168 (1) (f) of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation, for an indicative amount of EUR 143 379. This project aims to resolve the problem of status and property rights of the citizens of the signatory countries to the Dayton Agreement (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia) and the Igman Initiative is best placed to bring this project forward.

One direct grant with an indicative amount of EUR 458 403 is foreseen to be awarded in Q1 2012 to the Coalition for RECOM (Regional Commission Tasked with Establishing the Facts about All Victims of War Crimes and Other Serious Human Rights Violations Committed on the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia in the period from 1991-2001), through its applicant, the Humanitarian Law Centre in Belgrade. The coalition gathers over 1900 members with the aim to have the post-Yugoslav states to establish a regional commission, RECOM, that would seek to uncover the truth about war crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia. A direct award is justified on account of Article 168(1)(c) of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation, as the Coalition for RECOM has de facto monopoly over the process.

One direct grant shall be concluded in Q4 2011 with the Balkan Investigative Regional Reporting Network (BIRN Hub) based on Article 168(1)(c) of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation, to bodies with a de jure or de facto monopoly. BIRN was established in



2005, from the programme of the Institute for War & Peace Reporting in London and is playing a unique role within the field of transitional justice reporting with six locally registered non-profit, non-governmental organisations in the region. No other organisation with a similar coverage and professional capacity exists in the region. The EU contribution will amount to EUR 465 457 to a project that will increase and improve the quality of reporting on war crime proceeding and transitional justice issues throughout the region.

One direct grant contract is foreseen with the South East Europe Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG SEE) for an indicative amount of EUR 150 000 to be awarded in Q3 2011, based on Article 168 (1) (f) of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation, since a particular type of body on account of its technical competence is required. Based on their regional presence and wide experience in horizontal actions, reviews and stakeholder coordination in the area of rural development, only SWG SEE combines the required technical capacity, knowledge and above all independence and authority to undertake a fair and consistent assessment, with a view to creating the conditions for effective coordination of a future regional pilot initiative.

It is also foreseen to sign Contribution Agreements and, if appropriate, to enter into joint management with international organisations, following Article 53d of the Financial Regulation and the corresponding provisions of the Implementing Rules.

One Contribution Agreement is foreseen with the ICTY for activity 8 based on Article 168 (1) (f) of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation, on account of its technical competence and high degree of specialisation. Only the ICTY, responsible for the war crime judgements, has the technical capacity and knowledge to conduct this assignment. An indicative amount of EUR 400 000 is foreseen, the agreement should be signed in Q3 2011.

It is foreseen to sign a Contribution Agreement and to enter into joint management with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for activity 9 to carry out a dedicated survey on how corruption affects business and investment in the Beneficiaries. Information will be collected also on selected criminal victimization experiences of businesses to provide a description of hidden crime and its relationship with corruption in the business sector. The Agreement with an indicative amount of EUR 450 000 is to be signed in Q1 2012.

For activity 5 it is foreseen to sign an Administration Agreement and to enter into joint management with the World Bank for an indicative amount of EUR 1 200 000 in Q1 2012. The World Bank has extensive international experience in working with government counterparts to improve capabilities associated with monitoring and evaluation (M&E). Over the last decade, the Bank has worked extensively with Turkey and the Western Balkans to strengthen government functions associated with the monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes (e.g. programme budgeting, audit, statistical capacity) and is therefore well placed to carry this work forward.

For activity 7 it is foreseen to sign a Contribution Agreement with the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA) for an amount of maximum EUR 200 000 in Q1 2012 to support the CEFTA secretariat to organise stakeholders' meetings and train staff of beneficiaries, also linking up with SEED. This agreement is based on Article 168 (1) (f) of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation, on account of its technical competence and high degree of specialisation. The implementation of the CEFTA agreement is seen as essential for

completing the regional free trade area. A functional regional market within CEFTA and continued *acquis* alignment are important to attract investment in South East Europe.

Under activity 6, one Contribution Agreement is foreseen to be signed with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and to enter into joint management for an amount of maximum EUR 55 000 to organise the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ministers' Forum "Health in all policies in South East Europe: A shared goal and responsibility" with a view to strengthen political commitment to continue regional cooperation in the area of public health.