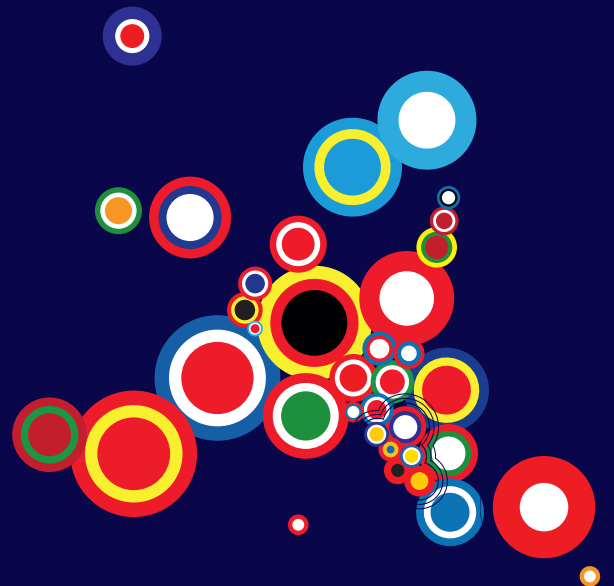




## INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE (IPA II) 2014-2020

### BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Support to participation in  
EU Programmes



#### **Action Summary**

The Action provides support to the participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in EU Programmes, through co-financing the costs of the entry tickets for specific EU programmes.

As a result, Bosnia and Herzegovina will actively participate in various EU programmes, including Horizon 2020, Creative Europe, Erasmus+, Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (COSME), Justice, and Health for Growth.

This Action will allow to support the development of EU cooperation with BiH and preparation for EU integration in the areas covered by the EU programmes.

<b>Action Identification</b>	
<b>Action Programme Title</b>	Country Action Programme on Bosnia and Herzegovina for the year 2015
<b>Action Title</b>	<b>Support to participation in EU Programmes</b>
<b>Action ID</b>	IPA 2015/037-888.4 /Bosnia and Herzegovina/ Support to participation in EU Programmes
<b>Sector Information</b>	
<b>IPA II Sector</b>	Democracy and Governance
<b>DAC Sector</b>	43010 - Multisector aid
<b>Budget</b>	
<b>Total cost</b>	EUR 5 412 000
<b>EU contribution</b>	EUR 4 610 200
<b>Management and Implementation</b>	
<b>Method of implementation</b>	Direct management
	Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina
<b>Location</b>	
<b>Zone benefiting from the action</b>	Bosnia and Herzegovina
<b>Specific implementation area(s)</b>	NA
<b>Timeline</b>	
<b>Deadline for conclusion of the Financing Agreement</b>	at the latest by 31 December 2016
<b>Contracting deadline</b>	3 years following the date of conclusion of the Financing Agreement, with the exception of the cases listed under Article 189(2) Financial Regulation
<b>End of operational implementation period</b>	6 years following the date of conclusion of the Financing Agreement.

# 1. RATIONALE

## PROBLEM AND STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

From January 2007 the EU Programmes became open for Bosnia and Herzegovina to participate in, based on the *Framework Agreement between the European Community and Bosnia and Herzegovina on the general principles for the participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Community programmes*. The country is to pay the financial contribution for participation in specific EU programmes on an annual basis, which is determined by international agreements between the Commission, acting on behalf of the European Union, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In the period 2007-2013, Bosnia and Herzegovina participated in the 7<sup>th</sup> *Framework Programme* (as of 2009), in the *Culture* programme (as of 2011), in the *Europe for Citizens* programme (as of 2012), and in the *MEDIA* programme (as of 2013). Bosnia and Herzegovina also participated in *Tempus* and *Erasmus Mundus* international cooperation programmes in the area of higher education, and was able to participate in some actions of the *Lifelong Learning Programme* and *Youth in Action* programme, as third country. Besides the FP7, Bosnia and Herzegovina has also become a member of COST and has a National Information Point in EUREKA.

In the new cycle of EU programmes for the period 2014-2020, Bosnia and Herzegovina continued to participate in former EU programmes and expanded its participation to other EU programmes.

As of 2014 Bosnia and Herzegovina is participating in the programme *Horizon 2020*. This enables Bosnia and Herzegovina's research institutions, companies and individuals participation in the European Research Area and Innovation Union, and provides opportunity for growth, competitiveness and new jobs creation.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is also participating in the programme *Creative Europe* (as of 2014) which brings together the former Culture and MEDIA programmes. The Programme benefits the cultural and audio-visual sectors in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and also aims to support them in order to increase their contribution to employment and growth.

Furthermore, as of 2014, the country has become a member of the EU programme *Erasmus+* (the programme for education, training, youth and sports) with the right to partial participation. This enables the participation of the country in European education networks and IT platforms; activities have already taken place to join these networks and platforms. In the country there are contact persons appointed for networks Eurydice, Euroguidance, Europass, European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network (ELGPN), European Qualification Framework (EQF), Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe (EPAL), eTwinning platforms, and for the implementation of the European agenda for adult education. In 2014, the country has received a grant for the Eurydice and EQF networks. Planned activities are implemented. Reports are accepted by EACA. Applications for 2015 have been submitted and grants were approved.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has also signed the international agreements for the EU programmes *Fiscals 2020* and *Customs 2020*, for becoming a member as of 2015. Participation in these programmes will strengthen customs and tax authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and will facilitate their cooperation with institutions in the EU and countries in the region.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is in the last phase of joining the *Europe for Citizens* programme. Internal procedures regarding the International agreement are almost completed and it is expected that the country will sign the International agreement by the end of 2015, and thus be considered to have started its participation in the Programme as of 2015.<sup>1</sup> The Programme will benefit civil society and local communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Bosnia and Herzegovina also expressed interest in becoming a member of the *COSME* programme and activities are ongoing regarding the conclusion of the International agreement in view of joining the

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<sup>1</sup> IPA co-financing for the 2016 entry tickets for Europe for Citizens has already been included in the IPA 2014 programme.

Programme as of 2015. Participation in the programme is of great importance for the BiH economy. It will provide support to enterprises in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in particular small and medium enterprises, and entrepreneurs, and it will allow their cooperation with partners in the countries in the EU and in the region.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has also initiated activities for joining the programme *Health for Growth*. It is expected that the country will send a letter of interest in the forthcoming period, with the aim to start participating in the Programme in 2016.

There is also interest among the institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding the participation of the country in the programme *Justice*, in its two areas/headings: *Facilitating access to justice and support judicial training* and *Improving judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters*, as of 2016. Since the Stabilisation and Association Agreement entered into force on 1 June 2015, there is an interest in the country to further develop its capacities and standards in the area of justice and rule of law. By joining the Programme, Bosnia and Herzegovina will also contribute to further development of European justice area via legal cooperation.

PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) is a triennial international survey which aims to evaluate education systems worldwide by testing the skills and knowledge of 15-year-old students. BiH did not participate so far, but activities are undertaken to start participation in the assessment in 2018. Each survey period involves two data collections – the Field Trial and the Main Survey, therefore the activities will start earlier in 2016. Such a survey would assess to what extent students at the end of compulsory education, can apply their knowledge to real-life situations and be equipped for full participation in society. Through participation in successive surveys BiH will be in position to compare students' performance over time and assess the impact of education policy decisions.

Indicative list of programmes to be supported under this Action:

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Description of support</b>
Horizon 2020	Co-financing of entry ticket for 2014, 2015, 2016
Creative Europe	Co-financing of entry ticket for 2016
Erasmus+	Co-financing of entry ticket for 2016
COSME	Co-financing of entry ticket for 2016
Health for Growth	Co-financing of entry ticket 2016
Justice	Co-financing of entry ticket for 2016
PISA	Contribution for participation to PISA

In future, Bosnia and Herzegovina will continue to selectively approach other EU Programmes, taking into account its institutional, human and financial capacities and needs.

#### **RELEVANCE WITH THE IPA II STRATEGY PAPER (OR MULTI-COUNTRY STRATEGY PAPER) AND OTHER KEY REFERENCES**

The Indicative Strategy Paper 2014-2017 for Bosnia and Herzegovina (Strategy Paper) envisages Bosnia and Herzegovina participation in EU programmes in all of the four included sectors, ie Democracy and governance; Rule of law and fundamental rights; Competitiveness and innovation: local development strategies; Education, employment and social policies, and makes specific reference to support co-financing of entry tickets: *‘Bosnia and Herzegovina can benefit from IPA II support to cover partly the costs for participation in these programmes, following the national prioritisation process among all the EU programmes.’* The Strategy Paper makes specific reference to Horizon 2020, Erasmus+, COSME, Customs 2020, Fiscalis 2020, Justice, Health for Growth programmes.

The 2014 Progress Report for Bosnia and Herzegovina (chapter 1.2 Relations between the EU and Bosnia and Herzegovina, page 6) also makes specific reference to EU programmes: '*Bosnia and Herzegovina participates in the following EU programmes: the Seventh research framework programme, Culture and Europe for Citizens. Bosnia and Herzegovina has also recently concluded or is in the process of concluding new agreements for a number of programmes, including: Horizon 2020, Creative Europe, Customs, Fiscalis and Erasmus+*'.

The Report (chapter 4.1. Internal market - 4.1.9 Education and Research) further notes that there was little progress in the area of education and culture and limited progress in the area of research and innovation. However, the recent signing of new agreements for participation in programmes is an important step. Regarding FP7 participation, '*there was no increase in the level of participation to the EU framework programme for research. The first necessary administrative measures for participation in the Programme have been put in place (nomination of national contact points and representatives in the programme committees)*.' Participation in Erasmus+ as well as Horizon 2020 will contribute to addressing the issues outlined in the Progress Report. The same applies to other areas, where participation in EU programmes can contribute to advancement in the specific areas as far as European integration is concerned. Namely, '*the Youth in Action programme involved an increased number of young people from Bosnia and Herzegovina in international youth activities*'.

Overall, participation in EU programmes contributes to improving the knowledge of the EU policies and the fulfilment of the EU standards. In addition, regarding the participation in the programmes specified above, it contributes to the implementation of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, in particular, with respect to the following articles of the Framework Agreement: Article 102: Cooperation in the audio-visual field, Article 101: Cultural cooperation, Article 93: Small and medium-sized enterprises, Article 97: Customs, Article 98: Taxation, Article 100: Education and training, Article 109: Cooperation on research and technological development, Article 77: Working conditions and equal opportunities, Article 128: Participation in Community Programmes.

As regards Europe 2020 Strategy, EU programmes such as Horizon 2020, Erasmus+ and COSME, would contribute to the areas of employment, research and innovation, and education. The participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in these programmes would contribute to the educational improvement, competitiveness, and creation of jobs in the EU Programmes areas by establishing partnerships and participating in the projects of joint interest, together with the partners from the EU and the countries in the region.

Participation in the above mentioned EU programmes directly contributes to implementation of Bosnia and Herzegovina's strategies, including the Bosnia and Herzegovina Cultural Policy Strategy and Science Development Strategy.

## **LESSONS LEARNED AND LINK TO PREVIOUS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

The payment of the entry tickets for FP7 programme was co-financed from IPA 2008, IPA 2009, IPA 2010, IPA 2011 and IPA 2012.

The payment of the entry tickets was also co-financed for the *Culture* programme and for the *Europe for Citizens* programme from IPA 2009, while for the *MEDIA* programme from IPA 2011.

Furthermore IPA 2011 co-financed the entry tickets for 2014 for the *Creative Europe* programme and the *Erasmus+* programme partial participation, and IPA 2012 will co-finance the entry tickets for 2015 for the *Europe for Citizens* programme and for 2015 for the *Customs 2020* programme and for *Fiscalis 2020*.

IPA 2014 Action Programme will co-finance the entry tickets for *Creative Europe*, *Erasmus+* and *COSME* for the year 2015. IPA 2014 Action Programme will also co-finance the entry tickets for *Europe for Citizens* (for the year 2016), as well as for *Customs 2020* and *Fiscalis 2020* (for the year 2016).

In addition, IPA financed several specific projects of support to participation in EU programmes, aimed at enhancing capacity of institutions and potential applicants with respect to EU programmes,

and at a greater participation in the targeted programmes. One of the projects was “*Support to participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the new 2014-2020 cycle of EU programmes*”, aimed at enhancing capacity of institutions regarding the new EU programmes open to the country and possible participation in the programmes of interest. More than 350 representatives of institutions and NGOs were introduced to the new cycle of EU programmes, also resulting in concrete interest to join specific new EU programmes.

By participating in the EU programmes in general, applicants from Bosnia and Herzegovina had the opportunity to establish partnerships with the applicants from other countries in the region and from the EU Member States. They were able to become a part of the networking and exchange ideas, experiences, best practices, know-how and information technologies with the applicants from other countries. Cross-border cooperation and mobility of stakeholders are highly encouraged, as the programmes offer various types of trainings, seminars, workshops, info-days, study visits for the coordinators and the partners within a project.

Since January 2011, when Bosnia and Herzegovina became a member of the *Culture* programme, a substantial number of projects, with participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina’s stakeholders, were approved. Since July 2012, when Bosnia and Herzegovina became a member of *Europe for Citizens* programme, a substantial number of projects with participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina’s stakeholders was approved and funding received (33 applicants participated in projects as partners and 4 applicants participated as project coordinators in the amount of EUR 129.000). In spite of joining the programme in its last year, similar good results were achieved for *MEDIA 2007* programme, which Bosnia and Herzegovina joined in July 2013. This trend continued with Creative Europe programme participation in 2014 (the country participated in 13 projects and applicants received grants in the amount of EUR 520.000). Bosnia and Herzegovina also noted successful participation and substantial funding received in the *Youth in Action* programme actions open to the country. Some participation in individual Lifelong Learning programme projects was also noted.

The first programme that Bosnia and Herzegovina joined was the 7<sup>th</sup> *Framework Programme*. Prior to joining, as non-associated country, Bosnia and Herzegovina succeeded to receive EUR 2.7 million in grants for the projects approved. Some 282 eligible applications were submitted and EUR 3,5 million were received for 35 approved projects under FP7.

There is therefore a well-established research community in Bosnia and Herzegovina that will continue to actively participate in *Horizon 2020* and use funds from the EU RTD Programmes, and thus continue strengthening its research and innovation activities.

As regards other programmes of which Bosnia and Herzegovina is a member or is interested to join in future, the participation of the country in the EU programmes in the previous period 2007-2013 and in 2014 has demonstrated significant potential for good projects’ submission and programmes’ utilisation. Also info days and seminars on specific EU programmes or EU programmes in general were organised for different stakeholders (for potential applicants and for government institutions at different levels), which showed that there is a great interest among stakeholders for respective programmes.

There is still a need to increase awareness of the EU Programmes in Bosnia and Herzegovina among public institutions and to increase capacities for utilisation of EU Programmes and applying for funds.

## **2. INTERVENTION LOGIC**

### **Objective:**

- 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.

### **Result:**

- 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.

**Indicators:**

- 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.

**Note:** 2017 and 2020 are the milestone/target years for performance measurement.

### **3. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS**

#### **IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES**

IPA funds will co-finance entry tickets for Bosnia and Herzegovina's participation for selected EU programmes. Normally, IPA funds of year N will co-finance entry tickets/participation fees for year N+1 or in case of frontloading also for years N+1 and N+2 (e.g. IPA 2015 could co-finance 2016-2017 fees).

The participation of the IPA II beneficiary in EU Programmes, including payment by the country of the entry ticket/participation fees, shall follow the specific terms and conditions set out for each programme in the relevant International Agreement. IPA co-financing rates from previous participation shall be taken into account and, in line with the principle of increasing Bosnia and Herzegovina ownership and responsibility, IPA funding rates shall decrease over the years in real or relative terms.

Bosnia and Herzegovina must not only provide the co-financing but also the funds necessary for the payment of the total entry ticket, prior to receiving the partial reimbursement from IPA II. The reimbursement will be paid as a grant to Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is critical that institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina make timely payment to avoid penalties.

The responsible line Ministries or institutions will monitor Bosnia and Herzegovina's participation in the relevant EU programmes. Bosnia and Herzegovina's participation will be supported through the contact points or programme coordinators established in Bosnia and Herzegovina and their activities.

The risk associated with the successful participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the EU programmes is if sufficient number of good quality project proposals is submitted. Risks would be mitigated through the contact points or programme coordinators established in Bosnia and Herzegovina, who would promote the specific programme through info days, seminars, workshops, programme material across the country and would guide applicants in preparing good quality project proposals. The key precondition is the interest of relevant authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina to initiate the procedures for the participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the respective EU programme.

In case of delayed participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the above listed programmes, the allocated funds can co-finance entry tickets for the following years to those specified. In addition, in the event that certain savings/left-overs from the allocated funds under this Action arise within the contracting deadline of the IPA 2015 Action Programme, this Action might cover the co-financing of entry tickets for participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to other EU Programmes and support to the relevant preparatory and accompanying measures.

#### 4. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

##### INDICATOR MEASUREMENT

Indicator	Description	Baseline (year)	Last available (year)	Milestone 2017	Target 2020	Source of information
Action Outcome Indicator 1 Number of EU Programmes in which BiH participates	• Number of programmes for which an International Agreement has been concluded	Baseline 2010 1	Data 2014 3	8	9	-Progress Report - BiH institutions reports -DG Reports
Action Outcome Indicator 2 Participation rates in EU Programmes : - Horizon 2020 - Creative Europe - Erasmus+ - COSME - Justice - Health for Growth	• Number of approved projects with BiH participation  • Amount of EU programmes' funding compared to the amount paid for the entry tickets	N/A (new cycle of EU programmes 2014-2020)	<i>Horizon 2020:</i> (4 projects approved - 577.507,00 EUR) <i>Creative Europe:</i> 13 projects approved (520.150,00 EUR) <i>Erasmus+:</i> (project proposals submitted, pending approval) Education networks: - <i>Eurydice</i> (1 grant - 20.900 EUR) <i>European Qualification Framework</i> (1 grant – 15.000 EUR) BiH as the only country is participating in EPALE COSME, Justice, Health for Growth: N/A	- Number of approved projects increased by 25% compared to year 1 of participation - Funding received annually equals or exceeds the amount paid for the entry ticket	- Number of approved projects increased by 40% compared to year one of participation - Total funding received equals or exceeds the total amount paid for the entry ticket	DG Reports  DG Reports



## **5. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

Not applicable

## **6. SUSTAINABILITY**

Not applicable

## **7. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY**

Communication and visibility will be given high importance during the implementation of the Action.

Communication and visibility activities shall be implemented in accordance with the rules of each Union programme and in line with the EU visibility and communication rules and requirements. The relevant Ministry or body managing the programme shall be responsible for monitoring the visibility activities.

All necessary measures will be taken to publicise the fact that the Action has received funding from the EU.

Visibility and communication actions shall demonstrate how the intervention contributes to the agreed programme objectives and the accession process. Actions shall be aimed at strengthening general public awareness and support of interventions financed and the objectives pursued.

The national contact points (NCPs) for respective EU programmes will play a key role to ensure the visibility of such programmes. Although the type and level of services of the national contact points will vary from country to country, in general the NCPs will circulate general and specific information on the EU programmes, including information on conditions for participation and information on submission of proposals, as well as to organize information and promotional activities – info days, seminars, conferences, thus raising awareness between all interested stakeholders and potential applicants of the respective EU programmes.

## **LIST OF ANNEXES**

1. **Overview of Bosnia and Herzegovina's public institutions that have signed International Agreements with the European Commission and dates of entry into force or latest amendments to the International Agreements**

## ANNEX 1

### Overview of Bosnia and Herzegovina's public institutions that have signed International Agreements with the European Commission and dates of entry into force or latest amendments to the International Agreements

In the period 2007-2013, Bosnia and Herzegovina has signed the following International Agreements/Memoranda of Understanding for participation in specific EU programmes:

- Agreement/Memorandum of understanding on participation in the *FP7* programme, responsible institution Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Agreement/Memorandum of understanding on participation in the *Culture* programme, responsible institution Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Agreement/Memorandum of understanding on participation in the *Europe for Citizens* programme, responsible institution Ministry of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Agreement/Memorandum of understanding on participation in the *MEDIA* programme, responsible institution Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

With the new cycle of EU programmes for the period 2014-2020, all above mentioned Agreements/Memoranda of understanding ceased to be valid. Bosnia and Herzegovina responsible institutions, in coordination with responsible line institutions from other levels of government, signed International Agreements and as of 2014, joined the following programmes:

- *Horizon 2020*, Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, International Agreement signed on 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2014.
- *Creative Europe*, Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, International Agreement signed on 22<sup>nd</sup> of July 2014.
- *Erasmus+*, partial participation, Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, International Agreement signed on 19<sup>th</sup> of June 2014.

International Agreements have also been signed for joining the following programmes as of 2015:

- *Customs 2020* programme, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, International Agreement signed on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2014.
- *Fiscalis 2020* programme, Ministry of Finance and Treasury of Bosnia and Herzegovina, International Agreement signed on 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2015;

In addition, activities have been initiated by the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relation of Bosnia and Herzegovina towards signing International Agreement and joining the *COSME* programme as of 2015.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is in the last phase of joining the *Europe for Citizens* programme. Internal procedures regarding the International agreement are almost completed and it is expected that the country will sign the Agreement by the end of 2015, and thus be considered to have started its participation in the Programme as of 2015.

Furthermore, Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ministries/Department of Health from other levels of government initiated activities regarding joining the *Health for Growth* programme as of 2016.

The Ministry of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council (HJPC) of Bosnia and Herzegovina and entity Ministries of Justice are interested in joining the *Justice* programme as of 2016, and will be conducting necessary preparatory activities for participation in the Programme in the course of 2015.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is also interested in joining other EU programmes in the future, in line with its interests, needs and capacities.