FEBRUARY 2015
EUROPEAN COMMISSION

STUDY ON PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION

OVERVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CAPACITY BUILDING IN EU CANDIDATE COUNTRIES AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES

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Disclaimer

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ACRONYMS

BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
CARDS	Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilisation program
CEI	Committee on European Integration
CiO	Chairperson in Office
COSAC	Conference of Community and European Affairs Committees of Parliaments of the EU
COSAP	Western Balkans Conference of Committees on European Integration/Affairs of States participating in Stabilisation and Association Process
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DCAF	Democratic Control of Armed Forces
ECPRD	European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation
FBiH	Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
FES	Friedrich Ebert Stiftung
FNSt	Friedrich Naumann Stiftung
GCEIE	General Committee on Economy, Infrastructure and Energy
GIZ	German Society for International Cooperation
GNAT	Grand National Assembly of Turkey
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IPA	Instrument for Pre-Accession
IPEX	Inter-Parliamentary EU information eXchange
KAS	Konrad Adenauer Stiftung
LHP	Legal Harmonization Plan
MEP	Member of European Parliament
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs

NDI	National Democratic Institution for international affairs
NPAA	National Programme for the Adoption of the *Acquis*
NPC	Network of Parliamentary Committees on Economy, Finance and European Integration of the Western Balkans
NPISAA	National Plan for the Implementation of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement
ODIHR	OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PAAC	Pre-Accession Action Unit
PHARE	Poland and Hungary: Assistance for Restructuring their Economies program
PSPs	Parliamentary Support Projects
RACVIAC	Regional Centre for Security Cooperation
RoP	Rules of Procedure
RSPC	Regional Secretariat for Parliamentary Cooperation
SAA	Stabilisation and Association Agreement
SAPC	Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SEE	South East Europe
SEECP PA	Parliamentary Assembly of the SEE Cooperation Process
TAIEX	Technical Assistance and Information Exchange
UAL	Unit for Approximation of Legislation
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WB	Western Balkans
WFD	Westminster Foundation for Democracy

1 Introduction

Over the last 15 years, the parliaments of the Western Balkans have received extensive technical advice and capacity building support, from various institutions, organizations, multi-lateral projects and bilateral donors. The advice and support were very instrumental in strengthening the institution of parliament as the countries continue on their path towards European integration.

This document provides an overview of parliamentary capacity building in EU Candidate Countries and potential candidates over the last three to four years.

Considering the variety of initiatives and projects, and the different institutional context in each of the countries, this document has been structured around three main chapters: (1) profile of the national parliaments in terms of European integration and regional cooperation; (2) overview of single-beneficiary parliamentary capacity building projects, which means the projects through which one parliament receives assistance; (3) overview of regional parliamentary capacity building projects, which means the projects through which the parliaments of the region jointly benefit from a common program.

The single-beneficiary parliamentary capacity building projects have been analyzed in terms of target groups and parliamentary functions which they cover. The regional parliamentary capacity building projects have been analyzed in terms of thematic priorities and the overview of countries which participate in the project.

The objective of this overview is to enable the EC / DG Enlargement to take well-informed decisions on IPA support to parliamentary capacity building in the years ahead. Therefore, the last chapter of this document includes recommendations on which regional projects to support. However, rather than providing one "golden bullet" recommendation, this report offers four options of possible IPA support for regional parliamentary cooperation.

The overview of the various capacity building initiatives is based upon information received from parliaments, organizations, institutions and projects. However, the information received was uneven. Therefore, while this document is as comprehensive as possible, it is not necessarily entirely exhaustive; and no guarantees can be given that a project or project segment will not have been overlooked.

This document is the second part of the Study on regional parliamentary cooperation, commissioned by the EC - DG Enlargement. The first part of the Study contains the mapping of the existing Parliamentary Assemblies and parliamentary initiatives for regional cooperation in the Western Balkans and South East Europe at large.

Franklin De Vrieze

2 Profile of national parliaments of EU Candidate Countries and potential candidates

This chapter describes the institutional framework of the Candidate Countries and potential candidates required for a functional role of parliament in regional cooperation and European integration. The information in this chapter is not necessarily comprehensive; but it is provided as considered relevant background information for the review of parliamentary capacity building initiatives in the next chapters.

To analyze the institutional framework, we have identified six functional areas relevant to the parliaments of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*[1], the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey. The six areas are:

1. Legal and policy framework on international relations of parliament, parliamentary diplomacy;
2. Legal framework on European integration and approximation of legislation with the *acquis*;
3. Capacity of the EU Integration Committee;
4. Knowledge and capacity of other standing committees and MPs in terms of European integration;
5. Capacity and functioning of the parliamentary service on international relations;
6. Parliamentary capacity and practice on parliaments' communication on European integration.

The information in this chapter is based upon interviews with senior MPs and parliament staff in each of the countries as well as a review of relevant documents, including final reports and assessment papers of the EC-funded twinning projects with the respective parliaments.

An overview of the current state of negotiations with the EU for Candidate Countries and potential candidates is included in annex 1. It provides information on the dates of the Association Agreement, membership application, candidate status, start of negotiations, screening completed and opening/ closing of *acquis* chapters.

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

2.1. The Assembly of Albania

The Albanian Parliament is composed of a single chamber with 140 Members. There are eight parliamentary committees and two parliamentary councils.[2]

1. The Albanian Parliament holds a number of international competencies as provided by the Constitution, legal acts and the RoP. It adopts ratification laws, oversees Government action in matters of foreign policy (including the Foreign Ministry budget and nomination of ambassadors) and participates in international organizations and assemblies. Albania is an active player in regional parliamentary cooperation platforms and Parliamentary Assemblies.

The Albanian Parliament conducts regular bilateral and multilateral relations. The Speaker has a prominent role in carrying out parliamentary diplomacy. As EU Candidate status has been achieved in June 2014, the Albanian Parliament will be invited as an observer to all EU-related inter-parliamentary meetings and its Committee on European Integration (CEI) will be invited to participate in COSAC.

2. The Albanian Parliament RoP contain some provisions concerning the approximation of legislation during the legislative process. The RoP foresee that every draft law submitted to the Albanian Parliament shall be accompanied by an explanatory report describing the degree of compatibility with the EU *acquis*. If the compatibility is not or insufficiently guaranteed, the Speaker can return the draft law to the initiator. This gives substantial powers to the Albanian Parliament in its relations with the Government, in line with European standards.

The RoP describe the procedures and the division of responsibilities among the relevant political and administrative bodies in parliament which are tasked with the verification of the compatibility of the draft laws with the EU *acquis*. In May 2013, the Albanian parliament revised its RoP in view of the extensive future workload of the transposition of the EU *acquis*, as acknowledged by the European Parliament.[3] The amended Rules fortified the role of the CEI by making it mandatory to take into account the reports of the CEI when reviewing the draft law. The EU's Twinning project drafted guidelines on the role of MPs and parliament staff in legal approximation and EU affairs management. The same Twinning project also suggested amendments to the 2004 Law on the Parliament's role in Albania's EU Integration Process.

While the Albanian parliament currently has the basic legal instruments for carrying out the parliamentary task of democratic control over the Government, a lot will depend on the actual application of these instruments during the further course of the EU integration process.

3. The CEI plays a central role in the legal approximation process. It monitored the revised Action Plan addressing the key priorities of the 2010 Commission's Opinion on Albania's application for membership of EU. It exercised its oversight role through hearings with the Minister of European Integration, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of the Interior. The CEI works in a transparent manner and invites CSOs to their meetings and hearings.

The cooperation between the CEI and other parliamentary committees appears to be almost exclusively focused on the legislative process, i.e., the issuing of opinions by the CEI on the compatibility of draft laws with the EU *acquis*. The Unit for Approximation of Legislation (UAL) verifies the compatibility of the amendments proposed by MPs with the EU *acquis*.

The CEI has a role in monitoring the legislative and work programs related to legal harmonization. It oversaw the 2008-2013 National Plan for the Implementation of

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[2] http://www.parlament.al/web/Albanian_Parliament_1_2.php
[3] European Parliament, Resolution on Albania, 12-12-2013.

the EU-Albania Stabilisation and Association Agreement (NPISAA). As Albania was granted Candidate status, the CEI has a task ahead in overseeing the National Programme for the Adoption of the *Acquis* (NPAA) and, with the support of the UAL, will have a key role in preparing the debate on the first NPAA with a Legal Harmonization Plan (LHP).

4. The standing committees of the Albanian Parliament face several key challenges in the EU integration process, as identified by the Twinning project. There is a limited time period available to adequately analyse and assess the draft legislation prior to the standing committee meetings. There is a limited availability of experts for the review and assessment of the draft legislation prior to the standing committee meetings. The work of the standing committees focuses on the legislative process, which leaves little time for oversight of the Government ministries and state institutions with their spheres of competence. There is a limited amount of tailor-made professional information about EU issues available to the standing committees.

Despite the fact that each committee has one or two advisors and additionally one or two legal advisors, these staff can assist only in a limited way *all* the MPs of the committees, and mainly serve the chairpersons and vice-chairpersons. Due to a lack of finances and legal provisions, the MPs do not have personal assistants, neither in the capital nor in their "constituencies" or place of residence. The various parliamentary groups have two to four advisors and secretaries at their disposal.

5. The Service for Foreign Relations provides technical and professional assistance to the Speaker, to committees and individual MPs regarding their international and inter-parliamentary activities. To enable the various units of the Service for Foreign Relations to fulfil their tasks, the continuous education and training of the staff in foreign languages, diplomacy and foreign affairs, international law, EU law, and political science are of vital importance. In order to highlight the priority placed by the Albanian Parliament on ties with other European national parliaments, the Twinning project recommended establishing a Unit on European Affairs within the Department, by reallocating human resources.

6. Considering that Albania is at an early stage of its European integration process, the Parliament's communication activities related to the integration process remain limited. Currently, the Albanian Parliament representatives participate in events of the EU Delegation. There are annual Open Days dedicated to EU affairs and there are occasional public debates on European issues in the plenary session and the CEI. However, the Albanian Parliament does not yet have an EU-related communication action plan or comprehensive awareness raising programmes. In the years to come, the Albanian Parliament will have an increasingly important role in the communication of EU related activities and political processes.

2.2. Parliaments in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina consists of two Chambers: the House of Peoples and the House of Representatives. The House of Peoples has 15 members and three standing committees; the House of Representatives has 42 members and seven standing committees; and both Houses have six common standing committees. All legislative decisions enter into force upon adoption by both Houses.

The Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the EU and BiH was signed in 2008 and ratified by all EU Member States and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The SAA has not come into force yet because the implementation of the verdict is lacking, done by the European Court on Human Rights in the case of Sejdic/Finci

vs. BiH (22.12.2009). The courts declared in this verdict that the constitution of BiH is violating the European Human Rights Convention. In addition, for the SAA to come into force, the implementation of the Road Map of the High Level Dialogue has yet to start.

According to the EC 2012 Progress Report, *"Cooperation between the Entity Parliaments, the State-level Parliamentary Assembly and the State-level Council of Ministers regarding EU-related matters needs to improve in order to ensure coordinated and harmonised alignment with EU legislation throughout the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina."*

Lack of mutual information and cooperation on the legislative programs of the parliaments (adopted on the basis of the respective Rules of Procedure of each parliamentary assembly) mirrors the situation at government level. The production of legislation at different governance levels, according to the complex distribution of competences, along with overlapping, results in difficulties for citizens and businesses in accessing adopted legislation.

In its latest resolution on Bosnia and Herzegovina in January 2014, the European Parliament urged the Governments and competent authorities to strengthen the efficiency and functionality of their institutions and to establish an effective EU coordination mechanism to ensure the harmonised transposition and enforcement of the EU *acquis* throughout the country, stressing that, without such a mechanism, the EU accession process will remain deadlocked.[4]

The Parliaments of Bosnia and Herzegovina play a limited role in the EU accession process of the country and strongly rely on the respective Governments in deliberating and making decisions on EU-related issues. Parliaments in BiH have established practices for oversight of compliance with EU law, but exclusively rely on the assessment of the respective Governments on the level of compliance. The Directorate for European Integration at state level provides opinions on the level of alignment of laws to the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH (PA BiH). Opinions on compliance to the National Assembly of Republika Srpska (NARS) are provided by the entity's Ministry for European Integration and Regional Cooperation. However, the BiH Parliamentary Assembly lacks the capacity to review compliance of the amendments that are submitted during the legislative procedure with the EU law.

Uniform rules for law drafting in the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina have been adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH in 2005 and are largely seen by parliamentary officials as an important factor for improving quality of law drafting. Uniform rules in line with the above-mentioned ones have also been issued by the National Assembly of Republika Srpska in 2006 and the Brcko District Assembly.

The creation and operation of specific committees for EU integration in the PA BiH, the PFBiH and the NARS are assessed as positive steps towards an enhanced role of parliaments in the EU accession process. Moreover, their initiative to create a forum for cooperation of the committees in charge of EU issues is seen as good common ground for improved cooperation and coordination of activities of the Parliaments in BiH.

The capacity of the other working committees regarding the EU accession process is limited and there is a need for more active involvement of the competent committees in deliberation on EU-related issues within their remit. There is the need to include knowledge of independent and party-related experts on European law and other areas into the work of the committees in order to strengthen its

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[4] European Parliament, Resolution on Bosnia and Herzegovina, 28-01-2014.

capacity for initiating legislative drafts. However, even if there is the capacity and knowledge by the committee members, legislation process often comes to an halt because controversial issues within a legislation draft cannot be addressed within the committee sessions. Due to the existing informal power rules in this country, party leaders take up such decision.

Constitutional and legislative committees also have an important role to play in the EU integration process as, according to their ToRs, these committees are in charge of the consistency of laws with the Constitution and the legal system.

A structured and regular monitoring mechanism of the EU integration process is lacking in all parliaments, despite the commendable efforts of the specialized EU-committees. One of the reasons is that the capacity of parliamentary administrations is underdeveloped in terms of providing adequate support to MPs, parliamentary committees and the chambers on EU-related issues. Nevertheless, capacities differ in the different parliaments.

The EC 2013 Progress Report concluded that "*the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina has made only very limited progress in adopting EU-related legislation. Political disagreements have continued to have a negative impact on the functioning of the Assembly.*" However, "*the Joint Committee for European Integration has held regular sessions focusing on IPA programming and the implications of Croatia's EU accession.*"

The EC 2014 Progress Report notes that "*In June, both Houses of the Parliamentary Assembly adopted new rules of procedure to increase efficiency and improve legislative procedures. The new rules of procedure introduce a fast-track mechanism for EU-related legislation. Due to political turmoil and inter-ethnic divergences, the legislative work of the Parliamentary Assembly and its committees was slow and ineffective. At Entity level, the absence of a clear parliamentary majority in the Federation has made the decision-making process very difficult. The work of parliamentary committees continued to be affected by a frequent lack of quorum and weak advisory services. In the Republika Srpska National Assembly, the EU Integration Committee continued to cooperate closely with the government in assessing the level of compliance of proposed legislation with the acquis. Cooperation between the State and Entity parliaments and Brcko Assembly continued at staff and committees level but lacked support from the parliamentary leadership. The State and Entity-level parliamentary committees for European integration have last met in June 2014 to discuss use of the IPA funds in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The State and Entity-level parliamentary committees for European integration have not met since September 2013.*"

2.3. The Assembly of Kosovo

The Assembly of Kosovo is composed of 120 MPs, among them 20 seats are reserved for the non-majority communities, and was made up of 13 committees (in the 2010-2014 parliamentary mandate).[5]

1. The Assembly of Kosovo conducts a number of inter-parliamentary and international activities, in line with the competencies as provided by the Kosovo Constitution, legal acts and the RoP. It participates in a limited number of parliamentary assemblies. The participation by the Assembly of Kosovo in the newly created SEECP PA will be the first parliamentary spin-off from the 2012 Prishtina-Belgrade agreement on Kosovo inclusion in regional fora (ref. chapter on SEECP in the Study). The European Parliament has its "Delegation for Relations

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[5] http://www.kuvendikosoves.org/?cid=2,1

with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo" (the two potential Candidates). Since Kosovo is not yet a Candidate Country, it cannot join yet (as observer) the EU inter-parliamentary meetings and COSAC, which the Candidate Countries can.

In the field of international relations, the Assembly Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on European Integration are the Assembly's main political bodies. The international activities of the Assembly are based upon decisions of the Assembly Presidency, responding to requests and invitations as received. The Twinning Light Project of the EC has supported the Assembly of Kosovo in drafting the regulation and strategy on International Relations and Inter-parliamentary Cooperation.

2. Kosovo's framework on European integration is defined by a number of key documents and policy decisions. The most recent ones are the 2012 Feasibility Study for a Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Union and Kosovo, the June 2013 European Council Conclusions authorising the opening of negotiations on a Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the EU and Kosovo; and the 2014 initialled Agreement.[6] The SAA represents the first comprehensive contractual relationship between the EU and Kosovo and is an important milestone in Kosovo's European integration process.

In 2009, the Assembly of Kosovo adopted a Resolution on Kosovo's priorities and strategies for EU integration. Since then the Assembly has been adopting annual European Integration Action Plans, reflecting the challenges identified and recommendations made by the European Commission's annual Progress Reports on Kosovo. In March 2013, the Assembly adopted the Action Plan on Negotiation of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement.

3. The EU Integration Committee has focussed primarily on the legislative task in overseeing the legal approximation. Draft laws, prepared by the Government, are mostly accompanied by a general statement on the legal compatibility; however, on many occasions, neither tables of correspondence nor other supporting documents are prepared. The Assembly has to rely only on the brief and general statement of the Government on the legal compatibility of draft bills. For its own review and evaluation of compliance of draft legislation, the CEI and the Assembly refer to the input by the 'Directorate for Legal Standardisation and Harmonisation, Legal Advice' and the 'Directorate for Research, Library and Archive'. According to the EU Twinning project, the capacity of the CEI staff and staff of the 'Directorate for Legal Standardisation and Harmonisation' needs to be developed further both in quantity (number of staff), and in quality (language and EU-related knowledge). The CEI has yet to play its central role within the Assembly in terms of legislative, monitoring, diplomatic and information aspects of EU related affairs.

As a result of the Twinning project, guidelines and recommendations were prepared for improving the procedures and instruments of law approximation and checks on compliance of national legislation with the EU *acquis,* and for improving the Assembly activity in transposition of EU *aquis* in quantitative and qualitative terms. The proposed structures and mechanisms for law approximation and a detailed roadmap for their implementation are much related to the Progress Reports (2011, 2013) and the Feasibility Study (2012) published by the European Commission. With NDI support, the Assembly has done an evaluation of the Legal Directorate with regard to preliminary reports, number of staff, and capacity evaluation.

4. So far, the functional standing committees haven't been involved directly in legal approximation. In order to perform the tasks of the Assembly successfully,

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[6] European Parliament, Resolution on Kosovo, 16-01-2014.

both MPs and the staff need to possess of a solid and extensive background on the EU, its institutional functioning, decision-making and legal system and policy areas and also on the role of the national parliaments in relation to the EU. Therefore, it is advised that the consultations, workshops for various functional committees and (MP and staff) working visits to the EU institutions, as conducted during the past years, continue in the future.

5. The parliamentary service on international relations functions under the direct authority of the Secretary General of the Assembly of Kosovo. Its tasks have mainly consisted of technical preparation of visits and providing expert background materials for delegations. To enable the service on international relations to fulfil its tasks, the continuous education of the staff in foreign languages, diplomacy and foreign affairs, international law, EU law, and political science is of vital importance.

2.4. The Sobranie

The Assembly, which is composed of 123 MPs, is made up of 21 permanent committees and 4 other parliamentary bodies.[7]

1. The Parliament of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia conducts a wide range of inter-parliamentary and international activities, in line with the competencies as provided by the country's Constitution, legal acts and the RoP. It participates in various parliamentary assemblies. As the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is a Candidate Country, the Parliament participates (as an observer) in the EU inter-parliamentary meetings and COSAC.

The country and its Parliament have developed a constructive role and positive contribution to regional cooperation, for instance in COSAP and the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP) as chaired from June 2012 to June 2013. The country will be holding the CEI's chairmanship in 2015. It has promoted all-inclusiveness for regional cooperation in the Western Balkans (including Kosovo). Due to the unresolved name-issue, the country hasn't yet been able to join a number of regional initiatives such as the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) and its Parliamentary Assembly (PABSEC) and the Adriatic Ionian Initiative and its Parliamentary Dimension. In this context, the European Parliament has recommended including the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the new EU macro-regional strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian region and the related transnational programme.[8]

2. The European Council decided in December 2005 to grant candidate status to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Due to the unresolved name-issue, the European Council could not yet come to a consensus to open accession negotiations with the country in spite of the six positive recommendations of the Commission since 2009-2014. In March 2012, the European Commission and the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia launched the High Level Accession Dialogue to provide valuable support to the EU accession process by focusing on the key reform priorities and to serve as a bridge to EU accession negotiation, but not as a substitute for negotiations. On 16 September 2013, the political parties in the country signed a Memorandum for Accomplishment of the Strategic Goal for Membership in the EU.

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[7] http://www.sobranie.mk/en/default-en.asp?ItemID=BFC6F5ABABBF3449B5630A45BF23AAE1

[8] European Parliament, Resolution on the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 28-01-2014.

Once the SAA entered into force in 2004, the Parliament of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia established the Joint Parliamentary Committee with the European Parliament. In November 2007, the Parliament of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia passed a Decision for setting up a National European Integration Council which is the sole body in the country bringing together parliamentary, governmental and non-governmental officials. Its main goal is keeping up a high-level political support and dialogue for the country's European integration process.

The Assembly has its European Affairs Committee, which is authorised for examining all issues relevant for the process of the country's European integration process and giving opinions on the draft acts harmonising legislation with the *acquis*. The Committee on European Affairs and the National European Integration Council have a crucial role regarding EU issues, alongside the JPC and the Foreign Affairs Committee. Among the Parliament Administration departments, the most relevant for the EU affairs are the Working Bodies Department (Unit for the meetings of the Committees on European issues and foreign policy), the Department for Support of the National European Integration Council, the International Cooperation Department and the Legislative Department. Also the Parliamentary Institute directly supports the EU integration process, based upon the experience of how Parliamentary Institutes in Czech and Slovak Republics played an important role in the EU pre-accession of these countries.

3. The European Affairs Committee (EAC) plays a crucial role in the legal approximation work of the Parliament. According to its competences, the EAC has the obligation to exercise oversight of the EU draft laws prepared by the Government. Its reviews of legislation are accompanied by a statement on compatibility with the EU *acquis* and with tables of correspondence. The staff of the Committee have to check whether EU law is implemented in domestic legislation. The RoP of the Assembly (article 79) stipulate that no draft law can be put in the Agenda of the plenary session unless the EAC discusses and gives a positive opinion about the draft law. This working body is the only one which could give opinions and recommendations about the revision of the NPAA and other activities of the Government aimed at gaining full membership of the EU. The Parliament has taken measures to strengthen its institutional capacity through the establishment of the 'Parliamentary Institute' (PI), as foreseen in the 2009 Law on the Parliament. In 2010, the Parliament adopted revisions to its internal organization and systematization which further regulates the work and organization of the Parliamentary Institute, which has finally become operational. The aim of this Institute is to support MPs with information, comparative analysis related to European integration, including by collection of data, literature and other documents concerning the EU. The Parliamentary Institute has strong multilingual capacities as the PI team produces products in English, French, македонски and Albanian.

The Chairperson of the National European Integration Council comes from among the MPs who are in opposition and the Deputy Chairperson from the ruling parliamentary parties. After overcoming the political crisis and the return of the opposition to the Parliament, the Chairperson of the National European Integration Council will be appointed from among the opposition. On a provisional basis, the Council at this moment is chaired by the Deputy Chairperson from the parties belonging to the ruling majority.

4. So far, the functional standing committees haven't been involved extensively in legal approximation, though they review from a policy perspective some laws which are important for the European integration process. 5. The parliamentary service on international cooperation provides support to the MPs' participation in

Parliamentary Assemblies, parliamentary delegations and friendship groups and generates expert background materials for delegations. Its staff have substantial knowledge of foreign languages, diplomacy and foreign affairs, international law, EU law, and political science. As the workload in parliamentary diplomacy is increasing, a further enlargement of the number of qualified staff in this Department would be welcome. The Parliamentary Institute produces various research and analytical documents, especially comparative analyses of laws in EU countries. Also, the PI is maintaining and using the EuroVoc (a multilingual thesaurus for EU member countries) in indexing Parliament materials.

6. Since the country has gained Candidate status many years ago, it has established some instruments of parliamentary communication on European integration matters. The Joint Parliamentary Committee distributes a monthly bulletin on the work of the JPC and the current developments in the parliament of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The JPC Bulletin has an international audience: MEPs and parliaments of EU Member States. The EU Centre within the Department for Support of the National European Integration Council, which is established under the IPA Project, produces a monthly EU newsletter, in македонски and Albanian languages. The EU newsletter's purpose is to inform the MPs for the most current news and developments in the EU, parliamentary service and the domestic audience on developments in the EU relevant to the country and the related work of the Assembly. However, the Assembly does not yet have an EU-related communication action plan or comprehensive awareness raising program.

2.5. Parliament of Montenegro

The Parliament has 81 members. There are fourteen functional committees, an administrative committee, one working group and one sub-committee.[9]

1. The Montenegrin Parliament conducts a wide range of inter-parliamentary and international activities, in line with the competencies as provided by the country's Constitution, legal acts and the RoP. The Parliament developed a constructive role and positive contribution to regional cooperation, for instance through the sixteen meetings organized by the Cetinje Parliamentary Forum or its chairmanship of the Central European Initiative, SEECP and AII in 2010-2011. Despite the proposals developed under the 2013 COSAP chairmanship of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Montenegrin COSAP chairmanship in the first half of 2014 did not take an initiative to respond to the pending membership requests of Kosovo and Turkey (as sent earlier to the chairmanships by Sarajevo and Skopje). The Speaker of the Montenegrin Parliament conducted an active one-year term as President of the OSCE PA from summer 2013 to summer 2014. As Montenegro is a Candidate Country, the Parliament participates (as observer) in the EU inter-parliamentary meetings and COSAC.

In 2012, the Montenegrin Parliament RoP was revised. The Foreign Affairs Committee became a separate committee, different from the Committee on EU integration, which is headed by the opposition. The Collegium of the President of Parliament has the overall oversight on foreign affairs and parliamentary diplomacy. The Parliament has standing delegations to regional initiatives and parliamentary assemblies.

2. In July 2001, Montenegro became part of the Stabilization and Association Process (SAP) in the framework of the then State Union of Serbia and Montenegro.

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[9] http://www.skupstina.me/index.php/me/

Following the referendum on independence of Montenegro in 2006 and the declaration of independence by the Montenegrin Parliament, the Council of EU declared that it would further develop relations with Montenegro as an independent and sovereign state. Montenegro applied for EU Membership in December 2008, and signed the SAA in March 2010. Since then, twice a year meetings have been held of the EU-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC). Montenegro was granted Candidate status in December 2010. The accession negotiations between Montenegro and the EU started in Brussels on June 29, 2012. By October 2014, twelve chapters, including chapters 23 and 24, had been opened, two of which, i.e. science and research, and education and culture, have been provisionally closed. The European Parliament has acknowledged the inclusion of civil society representatives in the negotiation structures.[10]

3. Within the Parliament of Montenegro, the European Integration Committee monitors accession negotiations between Montenegro and the EU, oversees and assesses the course of negotiations and, on behalf of the Parliament, issues opinion and guidelines on the negotiation positions prepared by the Government, deliberates information on the negotiation process and deliberates and provides opinion on the issues arising in the negotiations, and considers and assesses the performance of the negotiation team. In terms of EU approximation; each draft law has an explanatory note and a table of correspondence, coming from the Government.

In March 2013, the Montenegrin Parliament adopted an action plan for strengthening its legislative and oversight role, also in response to the recommendations of the 2012 Commissions Progress Report.

In December 2013, Parliament adopted a resolution on European integration, defining more closely the role of the Parliament and the Committee on European Integration in the accession process, as well as the relationship between the Committee and other stakeholders, including the Government. The resolution specifies, amongst others, that the Committee for European Integration adopts the opinion on the negotiating positions by a majority of the total number of members. Government will rule on a negative opinion on the draft of negotiation position of the Committee for European Integration within eight days. No later than five working days after the Government's decision, the Committee for European Integration will give a final opinion on the draft negotiation positions. As foreseen in the same resolution, the Parliament of Montenegro adopted in 2014 a new Action Plan for strengthening the legislative and oversight role of the Parliament of Montenegro.

4. Within the scope of their competences, the Parliament's committees monitor and assess harmonization of the laws of Montenegro with the *acquis* and, based on the Government reports, monitor and assess the implementation of the adopted laws, especially those which establish the obligations to comply with the *acquis*. The Parliamentary committees responsible for the various areas of the negotiation chapters, in cooperation with the Committee for European Integration, discuss with the chief negotiators or negotiators for individual chapters the prepared negotiating positions on individual chapters.

5. The Parliament has several staff members working on inter-parliamentary relations, regional cooperation and parliamentary diplomacy. The staff do not work from a separate department of inter-parliamentary or foreign relations, but from the Office of the Secretary General of Parliament. The Secretariat's adviser to the

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[10] European Parliament, Resolution on Montenegro, 28-01-2014.

Committee on International Relations and Emigrants is responsible for most of the regional initiatives.

2.6. National Assembly of Serbia

The National Assembly of Republic of Serbia consists of 250 members and counts 20 permanent parliamentary committees.[11] Temporary working bodies are inquiry committees and commissions. Currently there are Commission for the Control of the Execution of Criminal Sanctions and Commission Monitoring the Execution of the National Action Plan for the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 - Women, Peace and Security in the Republic of Serbia (2010-2015).

1. The National Assembly of Serbia conducts a wide range of inter-parliamentary and international activities, in line with the competencies as provided by the country's Constitution, legal acts and the RoP. The international cooperation of the National Assembly is realized through the participation of delegations of the National Assembly in the work and activities of international parliamentary institutions; through the cooperation with representative bodies of other countries realized by way of visits of delegations, MPs, and study groups of the National Assembly and its committees to representative bodies of other countries, and by way of visits of delegations, study groups, or members of representative bodies of other countries to the National Assembly; through the forwarding or exchange of individual acts or messages; as well as through other forms of cooperation.

The Foreign Affairs Committee decides on initiatives relating to visits and determines the composition of delegations. The Committee decides on the composition of delegations which are not standing, as well as the objectives and tasks of the delegations of the National Assembly. Where the Committee is not able to decide on the composition of the delegation or approve the decisions on exchanges of visits with parliamentary groups of friendship of other countries' representative bodies, the relevant decision shall be made by the Speaker of the National Assembly, or a deputy Speaker of the National Assembly and the chairperson of the competent committee of the National Assembly.

Within a period of fifteen days from the conclusion of a foreign visit, the delegation of the National Assembly must submit a report about the visit to the Foreign Affairs Committee. At the end of each year, the Foreign Affairs Committee submits to the National Assembly a report on the international cooperation realized during the previous year. The most intense form of multilateral parliamentary cooperation of the National Assembly is realized through the participation in activities in multilateral institutions and standing delegations represent the National Assembly in these institutions. Belgrade hosted the 10th Conference of Parliament Speakers of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative members in 2012. The National Assembly of Serbia chaired the SEECP Parliamentary Dimension in the period June 2011 - June 2012. The National Assembly hosted the Annual session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Parliamentary Dimension of the Central European Initiative and 20th Annual OSCE PA Session in 2011. By its decision of 10 February 2012, the OSCE Ministerial Council decided that the Republic of Serbia would hold the OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office (CiO) in 2015. Currently, the European Integration Committee of the National Assembly of Serbia holds the rotating chairmanship of COSAP. Following proposals developed under the 2013 COSAP chairmanship of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and as the issue was passed on by the

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[11] http://www.parlament.gov.rs/national-assembly.467.html

Montenegrin COSAP chairmanship in the first half of 2014, the COSAP membership requests by Kosovo and Turkey are currently pending at the Serbian COSAP chairmanship.

2. The National Assembly of Serbia adopted its first Resolution on the Accession to the EU in 2004. The Resolution contains guidelines for the functioning of the legislative and executive authorities in Serbia with a view to meeting the Copenhagen criteria. After signing the SAA in 2008, Serbia has adopted the National Program for Integration in the EU (NPI). In February 2013, the Government adopted a new multiannual strategic document, the National Programme for the Adoption of the *acquis* (NPAA), covering the period 2013-2016. The NPAA includes a legislative part, which is of great importance to the work plan of the National Assembly.

After the SAA came into force in September 2013, the EU-Serbia Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee conducted its first meeting in November 2013 in Belgrade, with the intention to meet twice a year from then on. The next meeting will take place on 26 and 27 November, in Strasbourg. In December 2013, and upon the proposal of the European Integration Committee, the National Assembly adopted the Resolution on the Role of the National Assembly and Principles in the Negotiations on the Accession of the Republic of Serbia to the EU. This Resolution aims at close involvement in the accession negotiations process, together with other stakeholders, including civil society, and a decision in August further regulating the internal consultation procedure on Government draft negotiating positions. The Resolution stresses that the National Assembly committees in charge of issues from the relevant negotiating positions join the process following the negotiations, while the European Integration Committee will play a central role in coordinating all the activities. Prior to determining a negotiating position for each chapter, the Government submits its proposed negotiating position to the European Integration Committee which passes an opinion and/or adopts recommendations which are then taken into consideration by the Government when adopting the negotiating position, about which the relevant National Assembly Committee is informed. The Resolution states that the Government shall submit to the National Assembly a report on the process of negotiations on the accession of the Republic of Serbia to the European Union twice a year, i.e. every six months when the Presidency of the Council of the European Union rotates, and the report shall be considered at the session of the National Assembly. The Resolution also stipulates that the Head of the Negotiating Team shall submit a report to the European Integration Committee every three months or more frequently. The Government shall also report to the European Integration Committee the results of the bilateral screening for each negotiating chapter.

3. The European Integration Committee reviews bills and other general acts from the standpoint of their harmonization with the regulations of the EU, reviews plans, programs, reports, and information about the proceedings relating to the stabilization and accession to the EU, monitors the realization of the accession strategy, proposes measures and initiatives for the acceleration of realization of the accession strategy within the scope of competences of the National Assembly; proposes measures for reaching a general national agreement about Serbia's membership of European institutions, and works on developing cooperation with parliamentary committees of other countries and parliamentary institutions of the EU.

2.7. Grand National Assembly of Turkey

The Grand National Assembly of Turkey (GNAT) is composed of five hundred and fifty (550) deputies. The Grand National Assembly has seventeen committees and two ad-hoc committees.[12]

1. The Grand National Assembly of Turkey conducts a wide range of inter-parliamentary and international activities, in line with the competencies as provided by the country's Constitution, legal acts and the RoP. The Grand National Assembly of Turkey exercises its parliamentary diplomacy through its involvements in International Parliamentary Assemblies, Joint Parliamentary Committees, Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Groups, approving the ratification of treaties, the external relations of the committees, primarily the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on EU Harmonization, the Committee on Equal Opportunity for Women and Men, and the Committee on Human Rights Inquiry, Deliberations in the Plenary regarding the foreign policy of our country, and monitoring parliamentary and presidential elections in foreign countries. The Speaker plays an important role in the parliamentary diplomacy of the Grand National Assembly.

Foreign relations activities of the GNAT are carried out as per the Law on Regulation of Foreign Relations of the GNAT (Law No. 3620, dated March 28, 1990). In this manner, the duty of carrying out the business and proceedings pertaining to the international relations and activities of the Grand National Assembly and the Administrative Organization has been granted to the Department of Protocol and Foreign Relations (of the Assembly) pursuant to the Law on Administrative Organization of the Office of the Speaker of the Grand National Assembly (Law No. 6253, dated December 1, 2011).

2. Turkey applied to the European Economic Community (EEC) for membership in 1959. The Ankara Agreement, which would be valid until the full membership conditions were met, was signed in September 1963. Turkey's candidacy for full membership was registered at the Helsinki Summit, held in December 1999. In 2004, it was agreed that membership negotiations would start in October 2005. After the negotiations had started, relations with the EU diversified and intensified. Within this mindset, the Assembly has become one of the prominent actors.

The Turkey-EU Joint Parliamentary Committee has been established with a duty to address issues related to Turkey's EU accession process and to strengthen relations between the GNAT and the EP.

The Committee on European Union Harmonization was established in 2003 in order to harmonize the Turkish legislation with the *acquis*. The Committee has the role of a subsidiary committee in the legislative process. It debates the compliance of the draft bills with the *acquis* and submits its reports to the main committees with its opinion that pertains only to the question of compliance. The Committee has been participating in COSAC meetings since 2003.

Between January 2012 and January 2014, the project "Parliamentary Exchange and Dialogue" was implemented as a joint project of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey and the EU. Its aim was to maximize the role of the GNAT in the process of EU membership negotiations by promoting dialogue among the members of the parliaments in EU Member States and Turkey.

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[12] http://www.tbmm.gov.tr/

3. Single-beneficiary parliamentary capacity building projects

This chapter provides an overview of the single-beneficiary parliamentary capacity building projects and initiatives for the Candidate Countries and potential candidates. They have been implemented or managed by a wide range of international organizations or bilateral partners. The information provided here is the information as made available to the author of the Study, and is not necessarily exhaustive.

Information on multi-beneficiary, regional capacity building programs, in which the above-mentioned parliaments participate, will be provided in the next chapter (Chapter 4).

3.1. Parliamentary capacity building for Albania

The following is information on the parliamentary capacity building projects with the Parliament of Albania. They have been implemented or managed by the OSCE and EC/IPA.

1. The Assembly of the Republic of Albania has been supported by the OSCE Presence in Albania[13] and the Dutch government, from 2001 to 2010, through the project entitled "Albanian Parliamentary Support Project". This project supported the modernisation of the Albanian Assembly. The activities undertaken under this project were related to the improvement of the general working practices and staff skills, equipment, technology and physical infrastructure. The support to the Albanian Assembly through this project was implemented in two phases.

The first phase started in December 2001 and ended in 2007. The objective of the first phase of the Project was to improve the functioning of the Assembly. Some key accomplishments of this phase were the revision of the Assembly Rules of Procedure, timely preparation of verbatim transcripts of plenary settings and the creation of an MP resource/computer room in the Plenary Hall. The project promoted the establishment of working relations at the level of MPs and staff with other parliaments in the region through bilateral and multilateral events. The project worked on the expansion of the Parliament's library with new book titles, as well as

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[13] http://www.osce.org/albania

with new reading and study rooms; the installation of a new IT network and the start of the initial phase of the digitalisation and automation of legislative processes and operational workflow

2. The second phase of the support started on 1 January 2007 and ended on 31 December 2010. The objectives of this second phase were to support the Albanian Assembly to become a more effective, professional and transparent institution. The second phase of the project was composed of six principal components/outputs: (1) supporting modernised leading management and decision-making structures; (2) supporting more effective and professional committees; (3) supporting more active and professional MP (district) offices; (4) supporting improved access to the Assembly and the availability of parliamentary information; (5) modernising the Assembly library; and (6) creating a student internship programme.

3. From the year 2011 onwards, the Albanian Parliament continued to be supported by OSCE with a particular focus on further increase of human resources capacities through a series of workshops for the administrative staff, the development of a multi-year training strategy for staff, the upgrading of infrastructures in order to increase transparency of the Parliament and public inclusion in the legislative processes; strengthening parliamentary support mechanisms, further improving relations between the Parliament and the media, as well as strengthening regional cooperation between MPs and staff. In 2013-2014, the OSCE supported the Albanian Parliament with technical advice and a Feasibility Study on new Constituency Offices.

With the new legislature in place after the 2013 parliamentary elections, the OSCE engaged in further strengthening the efficiency of the Assembly and of the legislative process. Support was provided to the Assembly administration for organising briefings on parliamentary rules and procedures, legislative practices and representative functions of the Assembly to over 50 newly elected MPs. Strengthening capacities of MPs included OSCE support to the establishment of the Alliance of Albanian Women Parliamentarians at the end of October 2013. The survey on the current practices and arrangements for MPs' relations with citizens served as a first stage of providing support to the establishment of constituency offices for MPs at the local level. Discussion forums continued to be organized by the OSCE in close collaboration with the Assembly to strengthen outreach practices of MPs in several regions all over Albania. Avenues of citizens' participation were being promoted in different regions of the country and information was provided to civil society and citizens on the functioning of Parliament and the legislative process. In the light of the stated priorities of the Assembly's Management for an all-inclusive, accountable and transparent legislative process, also stated in the Assembly's Action Plan to fulfil EC Recommendations, the OSCE continued to assist the Assembly to earn public confidence as well as improve the environment and access for civil society organisations and groups of interest to the legislative and Assembly's decision making process. In addition support for parliamentary committees has been planned. In order to further strengthen regional co-operation in the Western Balkans, participation in regional seminars and exchange visits for MPs and administrative staff to the Parliaments of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia and Croatia was also supported by the OSCE. The SG of the Albanian Assembly was given the opportunity to participate in a working visit to the parliamentary research and documentation services of the US Congress. The work for finalizing a Code of Conduct for parliamentarians was carried out through 2013, in close co-operation with the Assembly administration and ODIHR and is pending adoption by the parliamentary groups.

4. The Twinning Project "Strengthening the Assembly of Albania" took place in the framework of the IPA 2010 for Albania. The overall objective was to improve the regulatory and oversight functions of the Parliament in order to strengthen the efficient fulfillment of the Stabilization and Association Agreement obligations during the pre-accession process. The project was implemented by a consortium of the parliaments of Hungary and France (National Assembly and Senate) during a period of 18 months: from January 2012 to June 2013. The project had five components: (1) Improved legislative procedure for a more effective EU approximation; (2) Strengthened legislative, coordinating and awareness raising capacities of the Committee for European Integration and of all the other standing committees on European integration activities; (3) Strengthened oversight capacity for all standing committees; (4) Improved communication and information activities for the Parliament; (5) Improved management of parliamentary budget and human resources, in accordance with EU standards. During the 18 months of the duration of the project were implemented 94 activities according to the 5 components of the project. 108 experts from the Parliaments of Hungary and France and the national parliaments of other 12 member states of the EU and the European Parliament have taken part in the implementation of the project activities with a view to transferring to the Albanian Parliament the expertise, experience and best practices of the national parliaments of member states the EU. The project was financed through IPA.

3.2. Parliamentary capacity building for Bosnia and Herzegovina

The following is the information on the parliamentary capacity building projects for the different Parliaments of Bosnia and Herzegovina. They have been implemented or managed by the OSCE, EU, USAID, KAS and UNDP.

1. The **OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina** implements two parliamentary programs, one in the Human Dimension and the other in Security Co-operation sphere.[14] Since 2001, the Human Dimension parliamentary program focuses on providing institution building support to the BiH PA through working with the respective committees, Secretariat and the MPs. Committee support, including to the Joint Committee on European integration, focuses on orientation and expert seminars for MPs and staff as well as study visits abroad. Achievements include the development of the 2008-2010 and 2011-2014 strategic plans, ICT strategy, communication strategy, intranet and a new web site available in four languages (www.parlament.ba). In 2011-2013, the Human Dimension program, with the support of DFID, expanded into the Entity Parliaments (Republic of Srpska National Assembly, Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Brcko District Assembly by assessing the capacity of their services to engage in the European integration process, to assist Secretariats and to support strategic planning. At the BiH PA level, the program supported the functioning of five committees. The OSCE Human Dimension parliamentary program has focused on further improving the effectiveness, transparency and accountability of all parliaments, as well as inter-parliamentary dialogue and cooperation on critical issues.

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[14] http://www.oscebih.org/Default.aspx?id=0&lang=EN

2. The **OSCE Security Co-operation program** focuses on the functions of the Joint Committee for Defence and Security and the Joint Committee for Oversight of the Intelligence Services. The Security Co-operation program supports the work of the committees through orientation seminars for MPs and staff, facilitating internal field visits and study trips to relevant other countries and assisting in the drafting of oversight legislation. The program concentrates on building capacity in the Secretariats, encouraging enhanced levels of internal communication and the development of a culture of continuity as well as assisting MPs in development of their capacities. The program supports the work of the office of the Parliamentary Military Commissioner for the Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms of Armed Forces Personnel. This office is a fully functioning autonomous institution, supported by the OSCE Mission through sponsorship of events to raise awareness of the functions of the Commissioner and facilitation of field visits to military units.

3. The current **EU-funded twinning project**, implemented under IPA by the Hungarian and French Parliaments, covers a period of two years: February 2014 - January 2016. The project's objective is to enhance the role of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the National Assembly of Republika Srpska and the Brcko District Assembly in the accession process of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the EU and the implementation of the Stabilization and Association Agreement. The project's purpose is to strengthen the capacity of MPs and staff of the Parliaments of BiH for strategic guidance of the EU accession process, improve alignment of legislation with EU law and effective oversight functions and to enhance cooperation and coordination of the Parliaments of BiH in these processes. A detailed training program is being implemented, and guidelines and recommendations are being developed to introduce new or modified structures, procedures and methods in order to establish and strengthen European standards and best practices in the operation of the Parliaments of BiH.

Through its different components, the project will strengthen capacities for strategic guidance of the EU accession process and dialogue with the European Parliament, enhance the mechanisms and capacity for legislative alignment, enhance mechanisms for oversight of Government, of supervisory and regulatory bodies, increase participation of civil society and visibility of role of parliament in the EU accession process, develop regular cooperation and coordination among the different Parliaments of BiH, raise capacity of MPs and parliamentary staff and improve internal resources management.

Within the framework of IPA, the EU is implementing two other projects which are relevant to the functioning of the different Parliaments in BiH. A first project within IPA 2010 aims for a *DMS and eArchive* system, based upon existing ICT infrastructure. The system is implemented with existing applications, including an electronic registry system and Intranet portal, directly contributing to effectiveness and efficiency of parliamentary work. The second project within IPA 2013 aims for an *E-Legislation* System to ensure the streamlining and harmonization of legislative processes at the state level (including the legislative proceedings of PA of BiH and CoM of BiH) and entity level (Parliament of FBiH and Parliament of RS). It will thus strengthen the capacities of the Parliaments and contribute to reformed, efficient, transparent and service oriented public administration.

4. **USAID'**s Parliamentary Strengthening Project (2009-2012) provided technical assistance to make Bosnia and Herzegovina legislatures more effective and representative. It aimed to build capacity amongst officials in parliamentary representation, policy development, legislation formulation and management functions. The PS Project assisted the BiH PA to launch a visitor's centre enabling

it to make its work more open to the general public. Additionally, the project organised a regional conference on intelligence oversight to share best practices and legislation, promoting improved management by the Joint Defence and Security Committee of the armed forces and security services.

The USAID successor project *Strengthening Governing Institutions and Processes* (2013-2017) aims at supporting efforts by BiH toward Euro-Atlantic integration. In addition to working closely with the country's State and Federation Parliaments, this project will work with selected ministries within the Government, along with selected cantonal governments, civil society organizations, and other development partners across the project's four components. These components are: Improving policy development in the lawmaking process; Improving budget preparation, review, adoption and implementation; Strengthening systems of public accountability and transparency; Enhancing the role and capacity of women in governing institutions.

5. **The German Foundation Konrad Adenauer (KAS)** has implemented an extensive parliamentary program over the past four years, with double focus. First, KAS is strengthening the capacities of the state-level Parliament, in particular the House of Representatives, in supporting to set up an ad-hoc commission in order to develop a transparent and inclusive process for the implementation of the Sejdic-Finci verdict. The cooperation was based on an official agreement between the KAS and the constitutional committees of both Houses. KAS supported the commission by offering expertise and by raising awareness about role of the Parliament in the development of a compromise solution in the public.[15] Even though the issue remains unresolved to date, KAS highlighted the responsibility of the Parliament as the most relevant democratic institution in this process, which must not be excluded from the process to find a solution. Second, KAS aims at enhancing cooperation between the entity Parliaments of Republica Srpska and the Federation BiH. During the last three years, KAS organized meetings between parliamentarians of RS and FBiH (of all relevant factions) in cooperation with the Parliament of Saxony in Germany. By doing this, KAS assisted in defining the role of the entity Parliaments as a driving political force and legislative initiator. As a result, KAS helped in paving the way for a trilateral declaration agreement on cooperation concerning economic, cultural and administrative and legislative issues, signed in 2013. Additionally, KAS initiated a scholarship program for young people who want to do an internship in the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH. Last but not least, KAS initiated a joint declaration on European values and common goals for supporting the European integration of BiH between the SDA, both HDZ, PDP and SDS. The declaration has been signed on April 4, 2014 in the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH.

6. **UNDP** is currently implementing a capacity building project on Constitutional Review Processes. UNDP is organizing workshops for members and support staff of the two Constitutional and Legal Committees of the BiH Parliamentary Assembly, Legislative Office and relevant PA Secretariat staff and NGOs to discuss reform processes in EU countries, with a focus on the role of parliamentary committees and similar bodies and on strengthening the role of NGOs in constitutional review processes. The workshops are mainly focussed on *process i*.e. on how other parliamentary committees and other bodies function and are resourced to support constitutional and other major legislative reforms, and not specific constitutional models.

7. **Another UNDP project** "Strengthening Parliamentarian capacities and key Institutions charged with fighting corruption in Bosnia and Herzegovina" is

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[15] http://www.kas.de/wf/doc/kas_29747-1522-1-30.pdf?111228123213

targeting the Committee for Election and Monitoring over the work of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption and Coordination of the Fight against Corruption and will also likely work with the newly established Committee for Conflict of Interest. The project aims to enhance the capacity of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH in performing oversight functions relating to anti-corruption interventions. The project is providing support to the Committee for Election and Monitoring over the work of Agency for Prevention of Corruption and Coordination of the Fight against Corruption through organization of induction training for the newly elected members, including assessing and developing capacities of the Agency. It also looks into a facilitating cooperation between PA BiH and the Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption (GOPAC) in order to strengthen Parliament's internal anti-corruption practices and procedures.

8. **FES and NDI** provided technical and financial support to the Ad Hoc Committee for review of the BiH PA Rules of Procedures, but currently there is no project ongoing.

3.3. Parliamentary capacity building for Kosovo

The following is an overview of the national parliamentary capacity building projects and initiatives for the Assembly of Kosovo. They have been implemented by the OSCE, NDI, GIZ, EU, DCAF, UNDP and KAS.

1. The OSCE Mission in Kosovo[16] has supported the Assembly of Kosovo since its creation in 2001. Currently, the OSCE implements several specific initiatives to assist parliamentary staff in supporting the work of MPs. It is supporting ten (10) committees on oversight of the implementation of legislation and on budget oversight of line ministries. The OSCE organizes different activities such as seminars, round tables, consultations, study visits for MPs and staff of the Parliament. The OSCE has published a report on the Assembly cooperation with CSOs and supported the development of the institutional infrastructure of the Assembly for dealing with CSOs, including the creation of an office for cooperation with civil society and setting-up of a civil society database. Based upon advice provided by the OSCE several years ago, the Committee on European Integration drafts each year the Assembly Action Plan for European Integration, taking into account the challenges mentioned in the European Commission Progress Report for Kosovo. The OSCE is also supporting the Parliamentary Sub-Committee for Mandate, Immunity and Regulation, to draft the new Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of Kosovo. The OSCE is assisting the Secretariat of the Assembly of Kosovo to develop the new Strategic Plan for Parliament. The OSCE publishes regular monitoring reports on the work of the Assembly. In addition, the OSCE continues to work with non-Albanian Parliamentary Groups, mostly on constituency relations. Finally, the OSCE also supports the Assembly Women's Caucus in legislative initiatives and on oversight of the implementation of legislation that specifically affects women.

2. NDI has supported the Assembly of Kosovo since its creation in 2001. NDI's assistance included support for the office of the Speaker, development of Rules of Procedures, development and implementing of strategic plans, committee assistance program, support to women's caucus and youth caucus, support to

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[16] http://www.osce.org/kosovo

individual MPs in opening and running constituency offices, support to the Secretariat in improving capacities for legal drafting, enhancement of parliamentary oversight tools and advancement of transparency and outreach mechanisms. NDI provided training, workshops; seminars and coaching sessions for the newly-elected parliamentarians and for women parliamentarians were organized in the Assembly. The NDI has supported different activities such as seminars, round tables, consultations, study visits for MPs and staff of the Parliament as support to outreach events for the International Day of Democracy. With the support of NDI, the Kosovo Assembly has developed an in-house legislative research facility, increased its legislative and budgetary amendments, opened a visitor centre that receives approximately 400 citizens each month, and overseen Government performance in such sectors as agriculture and education. NDI has partnered with the U.S. Congress House Democracy Partnership to provide parliamentary expertise. NDI's legislative program is, to a large extent, supported by USAID. In addition, as part of its Western Balkans' Legislative Strengthening Initiative, NDI provided MPs and staff with opportunities to exchange best practices with counterparts in parliaments of the region, in a number of areas related to parliamentary work. In its new program funded by the USAID, NDI will shift its focus on: (1) support to parliamentary groups to translate party policy positions and priorities in tangible legislative and oversight actions, (2) assist the Secretariat in improving the quality of legal analysis and policy research to inform decision making, (3) facilitate reforms in the budgeting process, by ensuring greater inclusion of all standing committees in sectoral reviews of proposed budgets, and financial oversight by reviewing periodic reports of line ministries and independent institutions, (4) support efforts of the Assembly to increase transparency and openness, through the e-parliament platform, the legislative tracking system, and creation of Assembly/CSO action plan to adhere to the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness, a set of principles and benchmarks on parliamentary openness recognized internationally.

3. GIZ, Deutsche Gesellschaft fùr Internationale Zusammenarbeit, on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, provides expertise to the Committee on Budget and Finance. The GIZ Project for Reform of Public Finance Systems in Kosovo aims to increase the transparency and efficiency of the budget and tax system. In its 1st phase (2009 - 2012), the main focus of the project was on the Committee for Budget and Finance. During the 2nd phase (2013 – 2015), the main focus is still on the Committee for Budget and Finance but support is extended to the Kosovo Tax Administration and to the Committee for Oversight of Public Finances of the Assembly of Kosovo (as of autumn 2014, after constitution of the new Assembly). In the 3rd phase (2016 – June 2018), the planned focus will be determined after the project evaluation in 2015. The project contributes to the overall functioning of the Budget and Finance Committee (RoP, rapporteur system), the review and approval of the annual budget in Parliament, the legislative and oversight function of Budget and Finance Committee. During the budget deliberations, GIZ supports the Committee for Budget and Finance of the Assembly with expertise and advice aimed at organising a better budget deliberation process focusing on analysing the whole budget proposal and analysing budget requests from independent institutions. GIZ also provides support to the EU Integration process, specifically the Ministry for EU Integration, line ministries, Committee for EU Integration of the Assembly of Kosovo.

4. EU-IPA Twinning program 'Support to Kosovo Assembly' was implemented between 2011 and 2013 by the Hungarian National Assembly. The aim of this Twinning project was to strengthen the position of the Assembly within the

Constitutional framework of Kosovo and its role in the process of approximation to EU legislation, norms and standards through several targeted actions, especially by improving the legislative and management capacities of the Assembly, strengthening its human resource management, improving the capacity for approximation to EU legislation, norms and standards, strengthening the role of the Committee on European Integration and enlarging the knowledge of the staff and MPs of the Assembly on European integration issues and the EU *acquis*. Most of the efforts of the Twinning project were focused on strengthening the administrative capacities of the Secretariat of the Assembly of Kosovo.

5. EU-TAIEX provided support to the Assembly Committee on European Integration to monitor the implementation of the European Partnership Action Plan. The EU Twinning Light project contributes to the objectives mentioned in the Feasibility Study for a Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Union and Kosovo. The project works to support the Assembly in improving scrutiny of legislation and monitoring of implementation of policies and laws. The Assembly's legislative capacity is enhanced, notably those units which participate in the elaboration of laws and preparation of legislation. The legislative procedures are strengthened to ensure the quality of legislation and compliance with the *acquis* through cross-sectoral cooperation within the Assembly and with other authorities. The Action Plan on Negotiation of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement adopted on 12 March 2013 by the Parliament states that the Assembly will approve, among other things, the Assembly's Strategic Plan 2013-2018, the New Rules of Procedure, as well as the strategic plan on managing human resources. The necessity for improvement of coordination between the Assembly and executive, and the enhancement of capacities to approximate the domestic legislation with EU *acquis*, and the monitoring of policy implementation are also objectives set out in the SAA Action Plan.

6. DCAF, since 2005, has been supporting the efforts of national and international stakeholders in Kosovo to strengthen security sector governance and oversight by providing advisory assistance and capacity building to relevant target groups, including the Assembly of Kosovo. A focus has been on providing capacity building and advisory support to the Committee on "Internal Affairs, Security and Supervision of Kosovo Security Force" and the Committee for "Supervision of the Kosovo Intelligence Agency", targeting committee members as well as committee staff. Program funding has been secured by grants from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of the Czech Republic, the MFA of Norway, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and DCAF core funding.

7. In 2011 **UNDP**[17] started the Parliamentary Development for Social Policies (PDSP) Project, aiming to enhance the socially inclusive legal and policy making. This project aims to develop the capacities of the Assembly, MPs, Women's Caucus Group and administrative staff to deliver socially inclusive policies and legislation. As a result, the project facilitates quality political processes based on established institutional mechanisms, as well as increased accessibility to strengthen parliamentary social inclusion strategies, policies and legislation. PDSP aimed to help build a platform for evidence-based development of legislation and policies, through integration of a Social Inclusion framework. These new and revised policies target the under-developed areas of inclusion.

8. The current phase of the project (2014-2015) is composed of the following components: (1) Increase of capacities and effectiveness of the Administration and Parliamentary Committees for EU integration, research and oversight of the government; (2) Inclusion of CSOs in the decision-making processes of legislation

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[17] http://www.ks.undp.org/content/kosovo/en/home.html

and policy making, and stronger accountability; (3) Parliamentary Internship Programme. Component 1 comprises activities which aim to enhance the legal review, amendment and oversight/scrutiny function of AoK's structures with emphasis on the *aquis*, and introduce good practice in organizing and managing parliamentary records and archives. Component 2 will continue to focus on participatory processes which include CSOs and MPs to deliver socially inclusive policies. To the extent possible, the Women's Caucus Group and the Youth Caucus will be included in all processes where they can add value to the work of the project and for the benefit of the citizens. Component 3, implemented jointly with the AoK, will focus on supporting the research capacities of administrative staff, as well as preparing the interns for possible work in the Assembly's administration.

9. Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) has supported the functioning of several parliamentary factions (parliamentary groups) in the Assembly of Kosovo, on issues such as political communication and work organization in the parliamentary groups. The main focus of KAS is on political party development.

3.4. Parliamentary capacity building for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The following is an overview of national parliamentary capacity building initiatives for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. They have been implemented or managed by the OSCE, EC, USAID and various EU member states.

1. PHARE Project, 2001
This project foresaw two experts for a period of six months, resulting in publishing a Manual for Approximation of Laws. The aim of the Manual was to provide guidelines for MPs and parliamentary staff in the process of approximation of EU legislation and how to make the process more effective.

2. CARDS Twinning Project, 2004-2005
This project foresaw expert assistance from Slovenia on the review of the Rules of Procedure and the organization of the parliamentary staff service. The project also envisaged a seminar for parliamentary officials on the experience of Slovenia for EU matters and two study visits for parliamentary staff to the National Assembly of Slovenia.

3. Assistance from the National Assembly of France, 2004/2006
The project envisaged seminars in Skopje for parliamentary officials on EU matters, and a two-week study visit of parliamentary employees in the French National Assembly.

4. OSCE assistance, 2006/2007
Through the OSCE Mission in Skopje a comprehensive assessment of the legislative process was made as well as assessment of the analytical capacities of the Assembly. OSCE organized regional training on EU affairs for parliamentary staff in Tirana. Two employees from Skopje attended.

5. Assistance from the German Bundestag, 2007
A senior official of the German Bundestag made an assessment of the Assembly Rules of Procedure.

6. Cooperation with the EP Unit for Cooperation with National Parliaments (now Pre-Accession Actions Unit), 2007-2014

A very productive cooperation between the Parliament of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the EP has been established for more than a decade. The EP hosted 4 study visits for the officials of the Parliament of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on the role of national parliaments in the EU legislation process (with groups numbering 12-15 officials) in 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2012. The EP together with the Assembly organized a seminar at the Assembly in September 2013 in Skopje on "Open parliaments: transparency of parliamentary activities". A series of seminars, workshops and conferences have been organized by EP, with target participants from the WB Parliaments and Turkey.

7. TAIEX trainings, seminars and study visits, between 2005-2014

Through TAIEX, there were parliamentary staff study visits to Brussels and Helsinki, one seminar in Skopje on the functioning of the EU institutions, one study visit for the International Cooperation Department to Italy, several seminars on parliamentary budget, EU negotiation process, public transparency, the functioning of the EU institutions, the establishment of an Energy Community in SEE, education, on Establishment of an EU Information Centre of the Danish Parliament/January 2013,Copenhagen and on strengthening the capacity of the Parliaments of Candidate Countries in EU Affairs and the harmonization process/February 2014, Ankara.

8. USAID assistance through NDI and IRI

The assistance foresaw in: (1) orientation sessions for the newly-elected parliamentarians in 2002 and 2006, issuing of handbook with practical information for the work of the MPs; (2) selection and training of interns to work in the parliamentary groups in 2003, 2005, and 2007; (3) donation of simultaneous translation equipment for committee halls in 2003; (4) publishing of the first three-language legal dictionary (македонски –Albanian –English) in 2004; (5) donation of TRADOS translation and IT equipment for the Albanian Translation Unit and training; (6) consultations with parliamentary groups about the new Rules of Procedure (from 2003-2007); (7) study visits for MPs and parliamentary staff to the Parliaments of Finland, Belgium, Hungary (2003), United Kingdom (2004), US (2005 and 2007); (8) conferences for cooperation between Assembly and NGOs, in particular with handicapped persons and women's organizations, in 2003, 2006 and 2007; (9) training of MPs and parliamentary staff for the first public debates of parliamentary committees; (10) issuing of "Service and Accountability-Handbook for Aspects of Good Governance", to assist MPs and parliamentary staff in the committees with the organization and the conduct of public debates (2007); (11) workshops with women MPs in the Assembly; (12) support in 2005 and 2006 for "Parliamentary Days"; (13) opening of field offices for MPs in their electoral districts in 2003 and 2007, training of assistants; (14) reconstruction of the Library of the Assembly; (15) USAID scholarship assistance for parliament staff at the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 2005-2006.

9. NORIA Program of Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophone 2003/2010

This project foresaw: (1) enrichment of the Library fund with francophone documents and literature (books in the field of law, political system, magazines, etc); (2) translation of the web page of the Assembly into French; (3) French language courses for MPs and civil servants in the Assembly. A study visit to Paris (one week) was organized for 4 officials and 1 MP. That project also provided some servers and other IT equipment.

10. IPALMO Project, 2008

The project by the Italian institute IPALMO, the Faculty of Political Sciences of "La Sapienza" University and the House of Representatives of Italy aimed towards modernization of the Parliaments of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former

Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro. The project included two seminars: one, in Skopje for civil servants and the interns in the Assembly and one for MPs and civil servants in the Italian Parliament. The topics discussed involved the democratization processes, the role of the Parliament, EU legislation process, the accountability of Government to Parliament, regional cooperation, guarantees for the independence and autonomy of parliaments, the role of Committees on EU Affairs and IT and regional cooperation in South East Europe.

11. Cooperation with the Parliament of the Slovak Republic, since 2008

This project, with support of the NDI, aimed at training of the parliamentary staff working with EU legislation, research and analysis and budgetary issues, as well as MPs. Two study visits for civil servants have been organized so far in the Slovak Parliament, and one expert on Rules of Procedure advised civil servants working in parliamentary committees. With support of the Government of the Swiss Federation and the NDI, as well as other donors, all coordinators of the parliamentary groups in the Parliament visited the Slovak Parliament to see the work of its Parliamentary Institute, and agreed to use this experience in establishing a Parliamentary Institute in Skopje with the aim of strengthening the research and analysis capacities of the Parliament.

12. IPA Project, 2010-2012

The IPA "Technical Assistance to the Parliament" Project (June 2011 – July 2012) focussed on functioning of the technical support to the parliamentary committees; access to relevant information for the committee members and the parliamentary support staff. The project was implemented by the Hungarian and Latvian Parliaments. The project consisted of three components: (1) strengthening the capacity of civil servants working in EU and legislation matters, research and analysis, (2) purchase of software for an electronic archive of audio-video recordings from committee and plenary sessions, and (3) establishment of EU Centre in Parliament.

13. Project with the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, 2008-2011

This project, with the support of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy and the UK Parliament, aimed to improve the committee work, to revise the Rules of Procedure, to improve communication with citizens and the media and to increase the administrative capacity of Parliament. The activities included training for MPs as well as the staff of the Parliament.

14. NDI & Swiss Agency for Development, 2009 - 2014

The project "Support to the Establishment and Development of the Parliamentary Institute" is implemented by the NDI with the financial support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The project focuses on strengthening research and legislative capacities.

SDC supported the Parliamentary Institute's physical creation (provision of equipment and refurbishment) as well as in hiring and training a highly-qualified team of 25 analysts and researchers, including lawyers, economists, adult trainers, historians, librarians, and IT specialists, who provide the services of the Parliamentary Institute. The project has supported and will continue to support the development of procedures and formats for standard analytical and research instruments, training courses and materials for MPs and Parliamentary Service staff; brochures, promotional materials about the work of the Parliament for the general public; setting up of a research library and modernising of the archives with introduction of electronic cataloguing and search services; procurement of new books, publications and subscriptions to the world-renowned databases for legal research and analysis. The services developed with this project are modelled on best practices in Parliaments abroad (especially Parliaments in the EU).

Building on the previously started work by USAID and NDI, SDC started supporting the opening of a total of 75 constituency relations offices for MPs' contact with citizens, aiming to bring Parliament closer to citizens (have no citizens further than 30 km away from a constituency office). The project provided office equipment, hiring and training of the office assistants, support in day-to-day management of the offices, and definition of the working processes. The main implementing partners were NDI and IPD.

15. Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, based upon the experience in Germany, worked with political factions in the Parliament of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, for instance on the organization of the work within the faction. The Rules of Procedure for political factions were not adopted, although models originating from KAS-workshops in the македонски language have been made available.

16. The Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) supported the Parliament by sponsoring two interns in the European Parliament (from the National Council staff); organizing several seminars in the country and abroad. They also supported the SEECP and COSAP chairmanships of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

17. The UNDP project "Strengthening Political Dialogue through the Parliamentary Inter-Community Relations Committee" was conducted between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013, with funding from Switzerland. The project aimed to enhance dialogue between political parties and ethnic communities represented in Parliament by providing capacity building support to the Inter-Community Relations Committee. The project built the capacity of the Committee to fulfil the terms of its mandate through a series of technical training events for Members of Parliament and Secretariat staffers, focussed on minority rights, conflict sensitivity, gender and human rights in lawmaking and legislative oversight. Training also focussed on social accountability and transparency, including enhancing relations with civil society and constituents.

3.5. Parliamentary capacity building for Montenegro

The following is an overview of the national parliamentary capacity building projects and initiatives for the Assembly of Montenegro. They have been implemented or managed by Westminster Foundation for Democracy, FES, NDI, OSCE, DCAF, RACVIAC, UNDP, GIZ, EC-IPA, KAS.

1. **Westminster Foundation for Democracy**.[18] The 2010 project included areas of legislative oversight, financial control and communications and human resources development.
2. The 2011-2012 project, together with the **British Council**, was aimed at strengthening the capacities of the Parliament in four areas: human resources management, internal and external communication, financial and legislative oversight and the rule of law. Training, seminars and study visits were organised on the following topics: presentation skills, meetings of the EU working groups, efficient negotiation techniques, institutional PR and relation with media. Employees from various organisational units participated. Partners

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[18] http://www.wfd.org/where-we-work/europe/montenegro.aspx

were the UK Parliament, Thomson Reuters Foundation, the National Audit Office of Great Britain, the Northern Ireland Overseas Cooperation office (NICO), as well as local partners: Montenegro Media Institute, NGO "Centre for democratic Transition" (CDT) and professors of the University of Montenegro.

3. **Friedrich Ebert Foundation** financially supported organising the two meetings of the CEI Parliamentary Dimension in 2010, in Cetinje and Bečići, as well as SEECP Working group meeting (2011) and two COSAP meetings in Montenegro (2009 and 2014).

4. **National Democratic Institute for International Affairs** (NDI), with financial support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID): advisory support to the management, members and staff of the Parliament of Montenegro for about ten years (2002-2011) in the form of seminars, consultations, study tours and literature.

5. With the financial support of **ERSTE Foundation (Austria)**, the Parliament of Montenegro has been implementing the project "Democracy Workshops", aimed at informing children and youth in Montenegro, aged 8–15, on characteristics of democracy and the parliamentary system. As of July 2014, the Parliament of Montenegro has taken over full implementation of the project.

6. **The OSCE support** project 2007 - 2011 was financed by the Austrian and German Governments and included different activities such as seminars, round tables, consultations, study visits for MPs and staff of the Parliament.[19]

7. **The OSCE currently** provides financial and technical support to (1) the development a Parliamentary Glossary to cover relevant terms frequently used in parliamentary theory and practice, both Montenegrin and international. (2) the Gender Equality Committee organised a two-day seminar on gender equality for Montenegrin MPs in 2013. (3) A delegation of the Security and Defence Committee participated in the Regional Seminar for Parliamentarians, on the topic "OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security", which was held in BiH in 2013. Participants shared experiences in the field of parliamentary oversight of the security and defence sector, with special reference to budget control, building integrity in the defence field and the role of MPs in protecting human rights of armed forces members. The seminar was organised by the OSCE in cooperation with the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH and the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre. (4) Delegations of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms and the Gender Equality Committee participated in the First Regional Meeting of Parliamentary Bodies Competent for Human and Minority Rights and Gender Equality, held in Belgrade in 2013. The aim of the meeting was to exchange views and experiences on the role of the parliamentary bodies in protecting human rights, rights of national minorities and gender equality. (5) Exercising its oversight role and aiming to increase participation of women in politics, the Gender Equality Committee conducted, for the second time, a survey on understanding and application of the Gender Equality Law in Montenegrin institutions. The survey was conducted with the support of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, UNDP Office in Montenegro and Ministry of Human and Minority Rights.

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[19] http://www.osce.org/montenegro

8. **Centre for Security, Development and the Rule of Law (DCAF).** (1) Members and the service of the Defence and Security Committee paid a study visit to Croatia, in March 2013, upon invitation of the Centre for Security, Development and the Rule of Law (DCAF). The study visit, within the three-year DCAF project, aimed at providing tailored support to the Montenegrin Parliament in the process of further alignment of laws, procedures and practices with the European standards, through experience exchange with Croatia. (2) In cooperation with DCAF, the Parliament of Montenegro organised XV Cetinje Parliamentary Forum in December 2013 in Budva. Participants spoke about strengthening the oversight role of the parliaments over the defence and security sector and legal framework for oversight over this sector.

9. **Regional Centre for Security Cooperation (RACVIAC)** held meeting on the topic "Responsibility of Defence under the Common Security and Defence Policy" in February 2013 in Croatia, with participation of the Montenegrin Parliament.

10. **United Nations Development Program (UNDP)**[20] supported (1) a conference on "Cooperation of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in implementation of the UN Resolution 1325" in Podgorica in 2013, (2) the Gender Equality Committee at a meeting on the topic "Post-Millennium consultations, the overview of gender dimensions", (3) a survey on knowledge and implementation of the Law on Gender Equality in the institutions of Montenegro, with the assistance of the OSCE and UNDP Missions to Montenegro and the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights.

11. **German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ)** supported (1) a meeting with the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration aimed at forming a permanent regional network of judicial institutions; (2) participation of Montenegrin MPs at the Danube Parliamentary Conference in 2013.

12. **The IPA project** "*Design, development and implementation of a Parliamentary Information and Legislative System in the Parliament of Montenegro" (2009-2010)* aims to assist the Parliament of Montenegro with the development of a Terms of References document for the Parliamentary Legislative Information System (PLIS) and the drafting of an ICT Strategic Plan for the Parliament of Montenegro. The EU Delegation also supports the project 'Technical Assistance for the Secretariat of the Parliament' (September 2011-June 2012) with expert support in the areas of harmonization of legislation, strengthening of parliamentary oversight and regulatory impact assessment.

13. The **Parliamentary Dialogue Program** of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) in 2007-2013 delivered a number of roundtables, publications and working visits related to European Integration, parliamentary factions functioning, status of MPs and support to the Cetinje Parliamentary Forum (CPF).

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[20] http://www.me.undp.org/content/montenegro/en/home.html

3.6. Parliamentary capacity building for Serbia

The following is an overview of the national parliamentary capacity building projects for the National Assembly of Serbia. They have been implemented or managed by EC-IPA, UNDP, OSCE, GIZ, USAID, NDI, KAS.

1. **IPA 2011 project "Strengthening Capacities of the National Assembly in the EU Integration Process" (January 2013 - November 2014)**. The aim of this Twinning project with the Greek Parliament is to increase efficiency, accountability and transparency of the NARS, particularly in the exercise of its representative role, its legislative function (especially in the harmonization of legislation with the EU *acquis* and the implementation of the adopted legislation) and its oversight function towards the executive.

2. **Project "Strengthening the Oversight Function and Transparency of the Parliament"** (August 2012 - August 2015) by UNDP and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The project addresses the issue of parliamentary oversight, with an emphasis on financial accountability through the introduction of an innovative tool to assist MPs in scrutinizing government spending. The project aims to develop a system for real-time tracking of the State budget expenditure in the Parliament. It builds on results achieved to date, such as the institutionalization of public hearings and the regulation of relations with independent scrutiny bodies, which created momentum for further reform of the Parliament in improving its oversight role. It aims to strengthen Parliament's outreach to citizens, particularly at the local level. Results achieved to date include the institutionalization of public hearings and mobile committee sessions, entailing both scrutiny role on local topic and strong outreach to citizens. Pre and post-legislative scrutiny established through public hearings started gaining momentum with the CSOs on both national and local level.

3. **"The Programme of Parliamentary Support"** was launched in 2010 based upon the MoU between the National Assembly and the OSCE Mission to Serbia. It represents the continuation of a number of projects with the objective of strengthening of the overall role of the Parliament.

4. **Introducing E – Parliament** (November 2010 - June 2014). The OSCE Mission to Serbia[21] launched the Strategy for introduction of e-Parliament with financial support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. The project aims to use the electronic system in the legislative procedure and defines all input criteria needed for e-Parliament. The major part of the project budget was spent on procurement of equipment and software, while the rest was used for training of MPs and parliamentary staff.

5. **Project "Strengthening Democratization in the Security Sector"** (2010-2013) was part of a broader program by the OSCE Mission to Serbia. Supported by Sweden, the project builds on the previous experiences, with the aim of intensifying parliamentary oversight over the executive branch of power, especially regarding the security sector.

6. **Project "Strengthening Democratization in the Security Sector", Phase 2 (2013-2015)** is also funded by Sweden and implemented by OSCE, aimed at

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[21] http://www.osce.org/serbia

oversight of the Parliament in relation to security sector institutions and promoting good governance mechanisms in the security sector.

7. **MoU between Legislative Committee of NARS and OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR)** (2011-2014) resulted in a report on 'Assessment of the Law-making and Regulation Drafting Process in the Republic of Serbia', and numerous follow-up events, the results of which culminated in a draft Regulatory Reform Roadmap, which is currently being finalized.

8. **Cooperation with GIZ on Legal and Judicial Reform** (2011-2016) resulted in 'The Survey on Improvement of the Legislative Process in Serbia', including an analysis of the legal and institutional framework, practical research results, comparative analysis and recommendations for improvement (2012). The survey resulted in thirteen key recommendations for improvement of the legislative process, one of them being the Resolution of the National Assembly on the Legislative Policy, adopted on June 25, 2013.

9. **The MoU with USAID Separation of Powers** (2009) envisages strengthening the capacities of the NARS aimed at improving the development of organizational capacities, achieving transparency and building up financial independence. The project assisted with the introduction of a staff training program, the construction of the National Assembly's internet presentation, adopting the National Assembly Service Communication Strategy, and strengthening the National Assembly's financial independence.

10. **The MoU between the NARS and NDI**[22] (2009) helped to bring Parliament closer to the citizens. The activities aimed at strengthening the representative and legislative roles via parliamentary forums and public hearings, opening of parliamentary constituency offices, an internship project at the National Assembly Service for university students.

11. **The Student Practice Program** at the National Assembly was launched in 2003 and more than 300 students from various faculties have completed the internship program at the Assembly. The program was implemented with the support of the OSCE and NDI. The students work at the Assembly departments, committees and parliamentary groups for a period of eight months.

12. **The project by the British Embassy** (2013-2014) supports changes in procedures for public hearings, forging a stronger and sustainable partnership with CSOs, and allows for greater openness and transparency. The UK and Serbian experts jointly reviewed the Rules of Procedure. UK experts delivered seminars to Serbian MPs and senior parliamentary staff on approaches, options and technical details regarding oversight procedures, contracting CSOs or individual experts to conduct research, including on piece(s) of legislative development or an impact assessment for oversight of an enacted law. The project also foresaw four study visits of Serbian MPs and Parliamentary staff to the UK counterparts.

13. **The USAID-supported "Open Parliament" project** by CRTA, Center for Research, Transparency and Accountability,[23] (May 2013 – July 2014) advocated for the Parliament to join the Declaration on Parliamentary

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[22] https://www.ndi.org/serbia

[23] http://www.crta.rs/wp/sr/

Openness that calls on national parliaments to increase their commitment to openness and citizen engagement. NARS provides CRTA and OP researchers with direct access to its electronic legislative database, which significantly strengthens the role of OP as a key parliamentary monitoring group in Serbia. In December 2013 CRTA held an international conference on Openness and Transparency.

14. **The "Partnership for Integrity in Security Sector" project,** supported by Institute for Sustainable Communities[24] (May 2013 – July 2014), addresses the inadequate implementation of anti-corruption policies in key institutions of the security sector. The Belgrade Centre for Security Policy (BCSP) conducted research on corruption risks and anti-corruption policies in the security institutions, as well as the practice of the parliamentary committees overseeing the security sector.

15. **The project 'Strengthening Capacities of the Women's Parliamentary Network'** (December 2103- December 2014) was funded by Finland and OSCE, implemented by the Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence.[25] It addressed gender equality in legislative decision-making at all levels of government and strengthened the capacities of the new Women's Parliamentary Network.

16. The **Parliamentary Dialogue Program** of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) in 2007-2013 delivered a number of roundtables, publications and working visits related to European Integration, parliamentary factions functioning, status of MPs and lobbying in parliament.

3.7. Parliamentary capacity building for Turkey

The following is an overview of the national parliamentary capacity building projects for the Grand National Assembly of Turkey. They have been implemented or managed by EC-IPA, EC-TAIEX, UNDP.

1. **The EC-project "Strengthening the capacity of the Turkish Grand National Assembly"** (April 2007-November 2008) was implemented as a Twinning project by the Hungarian and Italian Parliaments within the scope of the Pre-Accession Financial Instrument of the EU for Turkey. The overall objective of the project was to improve the quality of Turkish legislation concerning harmonisation with the EU *acquis*. In particular, the project aimed to strengthen the capacity of the Office for the EU Affairs, the EU Harmonisation Committee and the permanent committees by raising the awareness of staff in the area of the *acquis*. The project included evaluation meetings, training seminars for MPs and staff, study visits to the member states and the European Parliament, and developing cooperation with civil society organizations.

2. **The EC-project 'Civil Society Dialogue - Parliamentary Exchange and Dialogue'** (January 2012 - January 2014) was implemented under IPA

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[24] http://www.iscserbia.org/indexENG.html

[25] http://www.bfpe.org/en/

Technical Assistance. The aim of the project was to address existing concerns about Turkey in the European Union by bringing together elected representatives and by providing an opportunity to listen to the opponent to provide comments on decreasing support for Turkey's full membership of the European Union. The project promoted dialogue between parliamentarians as well as political parties represented in the Parliaments of the member states and Turkey. In this way, the project aimed at contributing to a better knowledge and understanding between Turkey and the European Union and to raising awareness of the opportunities and challenges of Turkey's accession to the EU. In order to reach these goals, symposia, dialogue fora, bilateral exchange visits and internships, Inter- Parliamentary Summer Camps Conferences were organised and 'Yeni Yıldız' magazine was published on a quarterly basis.[26]

The study visits supported by the TAIEX instrument for the GNAT were as follows:

3. June, 2008: 'The Role of the Parliament in the Budgetary Process ', visit to the Italian Parliament, for the Directorate of Budget.

4. 22-24, September, 2009: 'The Improvement of the Quality of Legislative Process by means of Regulatory Impact Assessment', visit to the Spanish Parliament, for the Directorate of Budget.

5. 19, February, 2010: 'The Enhancement of Democratic Accountability in Parliaments within the framework of the independence of Central Banks in EU Countries', Visit to the Spanish Parliament and Central Bank, for the Directorate of Budget.

6. 2008, 2009: 'Strengthening NGO Participation in the Legislative Process', Organised in the GNAT, for the Directorate of Acts and Resolutions.

7. 26-28, April, 2009: 'The Standing Committees in the Legislative Process and the Legislative Technique', visit to the German Parliament and Ministry of Justice, for the Directorate of Acts and Resolutions.

8. 18-19, April, 2011: 'The structure and functioning of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic and Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic', visit to the Czech Parliament; the Directorate of Acts and Resolutions.

9. **Inclusive civic engagement in legislation making project**, March 2008 - June 2009, was implemented by UNDP[27] and worked with three key stakeholders: the Prime Ministry and two stakeholders within the Parliament: Yasader (The Association of Legislation) and the PDD (The Parliamentary Advisers Association). The main activities and outputs from this project were: Outline perception analysis of role of civil society in Turkey in policy-making; International Conference on the issue of civic engagement in legislation making; Study visits, manuals, training sessions; Comparative analysis research paper on best practice in selected national and regional legislatures in the EU on systems and structures in place for the engagement of civil society at committee stage in parliaments. This project is seen as a first phase in developing a culture of inclusive civic engagement in legislation making.

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[26] http://www.turkishweekly.net/news/162272/turkey-proceeds-with-eu-harmonisation-process-despite-problems-say-mps.html

[27] http://www.tr.undp.org/content/turkey/en/home.html

4. Regional parliamentary capacity building projects and programs

In addition to the above mentioned national parliamentary assistance projects, directed towards one beneficiary parliament, several international organizations have developed regional parliamentary projects involving multiple beneficiary parliaments. The main initiatives derived from the OSCE, DCAF, NDI, WFD, FES, FNSt, UNDP, EP's PAAC and RACVIAC. The following is an overview of main content of these regional programs. An overview chart has been added as an annex.

4.1. Regional program of OSCE Field Presence in Western Balkans

Since 2002, the Parliamentary Support Projects (PSPs) of the OSCE Missions in the Western Balkans organize joint activities for MPs and staff and encourage co-operation between the parliaments receiving support. The OSCE field presences in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo and Serbia have established a regional network of parliamentary co-operation initiatives. A series of activities facilitated increased communication between the parliaments of the Western Balkans with input from international experts and parliaments of the EU; thus contributing to the European integration process to which all countries aspire. The OSCE Missions have jointly supported the implementation of the following initiatives.

--- Meetings of the Secretaries General of Parliaments in the Western Balkans. The Secretaries General of the Parliaments of the Western Balkans meet periodically to discuss co-operation and exchange experiences on efficient administration. The OSCE Missions started this regional initiative with a meeting in Tirana (2009) to discuss the development of e-Parliaments. The second meeting in Budva (2010) addressed the parliamentary budget. The OSCE Presence in Tirana hosted the third meeting (2012) on the topic of strengthening parliamentary human resources management. The National Assembly of Slovenia (2013) hosted the Secretaries General from the Parliaments of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Vojvodina, Kosovo, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania to discuss the research capacity of parliaments. In 2014, the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH hosted one regional meeting of Secretaries

General in Sarajevo; and the Assembly of Kosovo hosted a regional meeting of Secretaries General in Prishtina.

One of the achievements of the OSCE PSPs is the inclusive nature of the meeting of SGs of parliament. Under OSCE auspices, all SGs meet side-by-side, including the SG of the Parliaments of Serbia and Kosovo.

A regional meeting of administrative committees on ''Achieving Financial Autonomy of Parliament'' took place in July 2014 in Sarajevo, upon the invitation of the BiH PA Joint Committee on Administrative Affairs, in co-operation with OSCE BiH and USAID Governing Institutions project in BiH. A regional conference on parliamentary autonomy is envisaged for March 2015.

--- *Support to Women Parliamentarians*

An annual gathering of women MPs provides the opportunity to raise awareness about the need to strengthen the role of women in public life. The first conference took place in Tirana in 2008. The second conference in Sarajevo in 2009 focused on increasing women's political participation in the region. The third conference in Montenegro in 2010, as part of the Cetinje Parliamentary Forum, discussed the implementation of the UNSC Resolution 1325. In 2011, Belgrade hosted the fourth regional conference of women parliamentarians on the topic of strengthening parliamentary oversight and introducing gender responsible parliamentary budgeting. In 2012, a regional meeting for women MPs was organized by OSCE/ODIHR in co-operation with the Austrian Parliament to discuss different models of parliamentary structures for women MPs. The sixth conference of women MPs took place in the BiH PA in 2014.

ODIHR facilitated an exchange of experiences of women parliamentarians, by co-organizing a study visit to Finland for the Serbian Women's Parliamentary Network¸ in co-operation with the OSCE Mission in Serbia, the Finnish Embassy in Belgrade, the Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence, and the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia. Held from 14 to 17 May 2013, in Helsinki, Finland, the visit provided a delegation of 25 women parliamentarians from Serbia with the opportunity to engage in targeted working sessions with their counterparts in the Finnish parliament, discussing good practices in running parliamentary structures for women. Over the three days, more than 15 discussion sessions were held with the Finnish Parliamentary Women's Network, various parliamentary committees relevant to gender equality and human rights, the Council for Gender Equality, and the Ombudsperson for Equality, among others.

ODIHR continues to support the establishment and effective operation of women's parliamentary bodies in South Eastern Europe, as highlighted in its publication Comparative Study of Structures for Women MPs in the OSCE Region. In particular, ODIHR and the OSCE Mission to Montenegro supported the Gender Equality Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro. On 21 November 2014 in Podgorica, ODIHR facilitated an exchange of good practices between women parliamentarians from Montenegro, Serbia, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, emphasizing the importance of consensus building and joint cross-party efforts towards gender equality and increased women's political participation.

--- *Strengthening Parliamentary Oversight.* In December 2010 in Tirana, an event gathered representatives of relevant committees dealing with parliamentary oversight and ombudsman offices. The meeting focused on strengthening parliamentary oversight and relations with independent institutions. There is much interest in supporting parliaments in increasing their oversight role and discussions on continuing this initiative are ongoing.

--- *Conferences of Constitutional-Legal and Legislative Committees.* In February 2011, the National Assembly of Serbia hosted the first international conference for parliamentary constitutional, legal and legislative committees. The event was co-organized with the Constitutional Committee of the German Bundestag, with assistance from the OSCE Mission. Participating parliamentary delegations came from Serbia, Montenegro, BiH, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Slovakia, Greece and Russia. On 29 and 30 October 2012, the BiH PA Constitutional-Legal Committees hosted the second international conference: "Role of parliaments in constitutional and legislative changes in the European integration processes." Constitutional-legal, legislative and European Integration committees from the parliaments of Slovenia, Croatia, BiH, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Germany, Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary and Slovakia took part, together with representatives from the BiH executive, civil society and experts. The conference addressed the issue of constitutional and legislative changes needed in the EU aspiring countries to meet the requirements of the EU accession process.

--- *Regional Meeting of the Parliamentary Public Relations Staff*. In June 2011, the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH hosted the first regional meeting of parliamentary staff working in public relations. The representatives of parliamentary PR services from Croatia, BiH, Serbia, Vojvodina, Kosovo, Montenegro and Albania debated methods for improving internal and external communication in order to advance the public image of the institution and promote achievements. An annual meeting has been organized since.

--- *Code of Conduct/Ethics for parliamentarians.* In November 2011, the National Assembly of Serbia, in co-operation with the OSCE/ODIHR and the OSCE Mission to Serbia, hosted an international conference on the code of conduct and ethics for parliamentarians. The conference was attended by representatives of relevant committees dealing with the issue of codes of conduct from regional parliaments (BiH, Slovenia, Serbia, Kosovo, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Romania, and Bulgaria) and also by the representatives of the EP and parliaments of the UK, Germany and Caucasus. International experts and the Council of Europe Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), Transparency International, the EU Delegation to Serbia and the Council of Europe Office in Belgrade were also among participants.

ODIHR has consistently worked to enlarge the scope of its activities to strengthen democratic and representative parliaments in OSCE participating States. In co-operation with OSCE field operations, a publication, entitled the *Background Study: Professional and Ethical Standards for Parliamentarians* was published in 2012 by the OSCE/ODIHR. The study provides for a comparative analysis of the practical measures OSCE participating States can take to promote ethical parliamentary behaviour. In 2012-2014, ODIHR presented the aforementioned *Study* and contributed expertise on parliamentary ethics across the OSCE region, including the Western Balkans.

In addition, ODIHR Regional Workshops on Parliamentary Ethics held in Poland in 2013 and 2014 facilitated the exchange of regional experiences and welcomed participants, including many MPs, from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia. In 2014, the OSCE Mission in Serbia together with ODIHR contributed to the drafting process of the Code of Parliamentary Ethics of the Parliament of Serbia.

--- *Regional Meeting of Parliamentary ICT services*. On 28 - 29 May 2012, the BiH PA hosted the first regional meeting of parliamentary ICT services on the topic "Role and importance of E-parliament: ICT Services in EU Accession Process". Representatives of ICT services from the Parliaments of BiH, Serbia, Vojvodina and Albania discussed the modernization of parliamentary ICT systems.

4.2. DCAF-regional program on security oversight in the Western Balkans

The Geneva-based foundation DCAF has an extensive track-record supporting parliaments in enhancing their capacity, to exercise oversight of the executive, and to ensure that security strategies and policies reflect national priorities.

DCAF has provided support in establishing different platforms for exchange between parliamentary defence, security and intelligence oversight committees on issues of security policy and security sector oversight. DCAF sees its role to be primarily that of an expert "back-stopper" for different locally owned initiatives, bringing to the table extensive expertise in the area of security sector governance and reform, and expecting counterparts to actively engage in setting the agenda.

DCAF assistance to parliamentary cooperation rests on the following principles[28]: parliament itself be in the driving seat, deciding themes and formats; regional meetings between parliaments can add value only when convened around well defined and relevant regional issues of common concern; DCAF provides support only when certain that there will be no duplication or overlap; the term "regional" when it comes to parliamentary cooperation support is not interpreted to require the participation of all regional parliaments in all events at all times.

The parliaments DCAF works with on a regular basis are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia[29], Montenegro, Serbia, Croatia and Moldova. In Bosnia and Herzegovina especially, DCAF support has been substantial and of a long-term nature, addressing both elected members and staff advisors of the joint committees for defence and security and for intelligence oversight, and supporting the Office of the Parliamentary Military Commissioner.

One of DCAF's most successful parliamentary capacity building programs targeted parliamentary staff supporting security committees in the whole region. An informal network of parliamentary staff emerged from this program and was able to establish many bilateral and multilateral exchanges, which have been goal oriented and more useful than large conferences focusing on broad themes.

DCAF targets primarily the parliamentary committees holding competency over the security sector (such as defence and security committees and intelligence oversight committees) and engages with elected members and their staff or advisors. Project activities (trainings, seminars, technical assistance) are demand-driven and responsive to local needs.

DCAF contributes to three key processes within partner parliaments: (1) Human resources development: equipping MPs and parliamentary staffers with the understanding, skills, and knowledge which enable them to perform effectively; (2) Organisational development: assisting parliamentary working bodies in the development of organisational structures (like new committees or sub-committees) and procedures: (3) Legal framework development: assisting parliamentary committees in reviewing legislation and identifying legislative priorities to allow for an improvement of security governance and oversight. DCAF parliamentary assistance projects do not provide material or infrastructure support.

The DCAF Parliamentary Staff Advisors Program supports parliaments in strengthening their in-house expertise on security and defence. The program has

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[28] http://www.dcaf.ch/Region/Southeast-Europe/Parliamentary-Support-in-Southeast-Europe

[29] DCAF works with the Assembly of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia under the name: Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia.

been contributing to the development of the legislative and oversight capacity of parliamentary committees holding competency over security sector in SEE.

A first phase of the program was implemented during 2004-2011. DCAF provided funds that allowed parliaments hire local staff advisors, to provide impartial opinion and background research to parliamentary committees. The staffers have been included in a multi-year training program, designed to transfer knowledge, good practice and skills that would enable them to perform as experts in security governance issues and to support professionally the work of their committee.

The second phase of the program was initiated in 2012, with the further development of the training component. This phase focuses on building up a regional network of expert staff advisors who contribute to effective democratic oversight of security sector and foster regional parliamentary cooperation through exchange of information, ideas and provision of mutual practical assistance. Project activities combine a traditional lecture-based approach (ensuring necessary background knowledge) with a co-learning approach (ensuring peer development). The methodology focuses on participants' experience as a key pedagogical input; it is problem-oriented and reality-based.

Current features of DCAF parliamentary staff advisors program are: the local ownership, addressing the causes of poor parliamentary performance, focussing on issues relevant for security governance, coordination and synergy; providing long-term sustainability.

The most recent program activity was a regional seminar on 7-10 October 2014 in Ljubljana, gathering more than 30 committee advisors and experts from parliamentary Research Units who work on security issues.

4.3. Regional program of the National Democratic Institute (NDI) - Western Balkans Legislative Strengthening Initiative (WBLSI)

In 2009, NDI launched a regional initiative to enhance Western Balkans parliaments' legislative, representative and oversight capacities (with funding from the National Endowment for Democracy). In utilizing experience from Central European legislatures, the initiative brings forward important legislative considerations in the EU accession process.[30]

The NDI regional initiative aims to support parliaments in their responsibility to ensure that legislation both complies with EU standards and is responsive to the public interest. Therefore, NDI supports parliaments in the region to strengthen their oversight of Government, improve their legislative research capacity and create opportunities for public input into legislation. The Parliaments of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia[31], Montenegro and Serbia have relevant lessons to share with one another, including approaches to legislative research services and e-parliament legislative tracking systems, and have much to learn from legislatures in Central Europe, particularly with respect to EU integration and association.

The NDI regional initiative has focused on oversight of the state budget process, staff development, committee operations, parliamentary budgeting, and e-parliament technology applications, setting the agenda for improved law-making and increased transparency. NDI has organized several rounds of fellowships in

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[30] https://www.ndi.org/regional-parliamentary-initiative

[31] NDI works with the Assembly of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia under the name: Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia.

Prague, Bratislava and Warsaw for research, legal, and committee staff coming from the six Balkans legislatures, enabling them to shadow their colleagues and observe parliamentary processes.

As a result of the above, the Montenegrin, Kosovo and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Parliaments have recently launched parliamentary research institutes modelled after what staff observed while on an NDI fellowship in Slovakia. The new institutes comprise of research, library/archiving services, and education/training centres. The Assembly of Kosovo has enhanced its staff workflow and internal communication guidelines drawing from practices observed in regional gatherings and Serbia's Parliament is considering recommendations by a Slovak parliamentary assessment team to improve its research and legal services. Moreover, members of parliament from Bosnia and Herzegovina proposed and passed an amendment to require the Parliament's legal services division to draft opinions on each bill entered into procedure in its bicameral parliament. This practice will lead to MPs receiving useful information about each bill's legal implications and projected effectiveness vis-à-vis stated purpose.

NDI has supported bilateral collaboration within the Western Balkans as well. Albanian and Kosovo committee clerks travelled to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in 2012 to observe an oversight hearing, and Kosovo staff travelled to Montenegro to observe committee work and research functions.

NDI's annual meeting of Secretaries General of Parliaments from the region is an additional venue for parliamentary leaders to discuss resource, staffing, and technology reforms.

NDI's regional program also results in specific research studies, such as the 2012 "Study on the Development of Parliamentary Research Services in Central Europe and the Western Balkans" and the 2013 "Survey Summary on Transparency and Cooperation with Civic Societies."

The NDI regional initiative overlays the in-country work by helping parliaments guide themselves on institutional development issues as per emerging standards of democratic parliaments, and by orienting them to the practices of parliaments in the Visegrad and Baltic countries, particularly with respect to EU integration. Through its regional initiative NDI is able to work with parliaments even in counties where it no longer implements in-country legislative programs or has no longer permanent presence. A crucial part in the partnership are the parliaments of Central Europe, in particular the Slovak Parliament has been very instrumental in contributing to the regional NDI program.

4.4. Regional program of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD)

Under its Western Balkans programme, the WFD[32] is primarily supporting the work of the Network of Parliamentary committees on Economy, Finance and European Integration of Western Balkans (NPC).

WFD commenced country-level parliamentary programmes in the Balkans in 2008 beginning in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia[33] (2008-11 & 2011-13), followed by a series of programmes in Albania (2011-12), Montenegro (2010-12 & 2012-13) and Serbia (2011-12 & 2012-13).

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[32] http://www.wfd.org/upload/docs/Western%20Balkans.pdf

[33] WFD works with the Assembly of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia under the name: Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia.

The NPC was an existent regional initiative since 2009, without formal governance and organisational structure. The WFD and the NPC began its work on a regional and more focused programme, while the NPC gained the necessary support for formalization of the Network and its structure. Initially the Network included committees on economy and finance and over time it decided to include committees on European integration. Following several years of regional parliamentary cooperation, in 2013 NPC decided to set up a clear governance and organisational structure.[34]

The Network is governed by a Network board of MPs from the Western Balkans parliaments and it is represented by a rotating chairperson. The NPC board meet every three months. Network membership guidelines, rules of procedures and a work plan for NPC were also developed in 2013.

With the support of WFD the network has focused on four key areas of work, namely: (1) The oversight of the executives utilisation of IPA funds; (2) The legislation, regulations and planning towards an integrated common energy community; (3) Initiative to increase foreign direct investment and reduce state aid in preparation for EU integration; (4) Enhancing budgetary and financial oversight capabilities of NPC parliaments.

The Network's membership consists of 25 committees from eight Western Balkans Parliaments: Parliament of Albania, Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Parliamentary Assembly of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, National Assembly of the Republic of Srpska, Assembly of Macedonia, Parliament of Montenegro, National Assembly of Serbia, and Assembly of Kosovo. With the purpose of accomplishing an all-inclusive regional cooperation and a long term sustainability of the Network the WFD and NPC will strive to include all participating parliaments as equal members of Network. At present the Assembly of Kosovo has observer status in the Network. Several NPC Board members are currently working on a proposal to include the Assembly of Kosovo as a full member in NPC.

4.5. Regional program of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES)

The SEE regional parliamentary cooperation program of FES was to a large extent directed towards the SEECP Parliamentary Dimension and its Regional Secretariat for Parliamentary Cooperation (RSPC) in Sofia. Since its establishment in 2008, FES supported the RSPC through technical and institutional support with the aim of making it an effective Secretariat with clear aims and objectives in the SEECP context.

FES contributed to drafting preparatory documents for the Annual Speakers' Conference of the SEECP and technical input to the debate on the institutionalization of the SEECP Parliamentary Dimension, leading to the creation of the Parliamentary Assembly in 2014. FES supported sharing of working practices of other regional parliamentary assemblies. FES supported the meetings of the regional working group during the Montenegrin SEECP chairmanship (2010-11) and the implementation of the decisions of the Speakers' Conference. The working group prepared the resolutions for the SEECP Speakers' Conference, including a matrix of the alternative models for a regional assembly (in 2013). FES directed its support towards enhancing the working relationships between staff of the various parliaments.

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[34] http://www.npcbalkan.net/

With the support of FES, the Final Declaration of the 6th COSAP meeting in Tirana, March 2012, and the draft resolutions for the Speakers' Conference in 2013 were prepared. FES technical input to the meetings of the European Affairs Committees of Western Balkans through COSAP played an important role in consensus building on the format of the future SEECP Parliamentary Assembly. It strengthened the functioning of the SEECP Parliamentary Dimension regional working group with full regional ownership.

In addition to these activities, FES supported various regional parliamentary gatherings in SEE. Between 2000 and 2014, FES organized an annual Regional Parliamentary Conference with MPs from SEE, the European Parliament and the German Bundestag to discuss required institutional reforms in parliaments of SEE. Between 2003 and 2009, FES organized study visits and conferences for parliamentarians from SEE to Brussels. Between 2009 and 2014, FES provided financial and expert support to the COSAP conferences. Between 2001 and 2014 FES worked together with the RCC to ensure participation of MPs in a set of Conferences on Media Law and Social Inclusion.

4.6. Regional program of Friedrich Naumann Stiftung (FNSt)

Since 2009 Friedrich Naumann Stiftung (FNSt) organises an inter-ethnic dialogue between Bosnian and Serb parties. The focal group are young politicians and new MPs from all democratic parties. Topics range from political culture to accountability in politics.

From 2014 onwards, FNSt restarts its inter-ethnic dialogue project between Serbs and Albanians. This dialogue came to an end after the declaration of Kosovo's independence in 2008. The project has a multi-party approach and involves young politicians and young parliamentarians. Topics of discussion will be the European integration process and the regional cooperation between Kosovo and Serbia.

In 2013, FNSt launched "Freedom Barometer". It compares indices in the fields of rule of law, political and economic freedom. The objective is to measure freedom and to provide with the commented indices a starting point for discussion across country borders. This initiative involves parties, parliamentarians and NGOs from South East Europe.

4.7. Regional program of UNDP

UNDP is about to start the project "Parliament accountability and transparency exchange facility" (PARLATEX Facility). It aims to bring together parliaments of Eastern Europe, South East Europe and CIS countries.

In various countries of this region, the development of a "digital society" revolutionized the way in which parliaments communicate and interact with citizens. An increasing number of parliaments in the region are introducing specialized committees, aimed at ensuring enhanced scrutiny and oversight over the Executive – including financial (e.g. commissions or committees tasked with supervising access to public information, equality in society, use of public funds, public procurement, prevention of corruption etc.). Several parliaments in the region expressed the intention to cooperate in order to exchange experiences in promoting the work of independent oversight bodies and in the development of ICT tools and social media methodologies for citizens' engagement and enhanced transparency. The project aims to promote parliamentary dialogue and to constitute a platform for knowledge and experience exchange, with a view to enhancing the

capacities of parliaments to play their key role as parts of the National Integrity Systems.

Based upon UNDP's partnership with GOPAC (Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption,[35] GOPAC is expected to be one of the main partners in the implementation of the project. The three-year program is expected to start in 2015, administered by the UNDP Regional Centre in Istanbul. So far, there is a interest from Armenia, Kosovo, Moldova, Serbia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan. More parliaments from the region are expected to join in the coming months.

4.8. Support by the European Parliament's Pre-Accession Action Unit (PAAU)

The EP's Pre-Accession Action Unit (PAAU) has provided capacity building for members and staff of parliaments of the Western Balkans and Turkey for several years. Its objective is to contribute to strengthening democracy and facilitating the European integration process of the countries in line with the EP's priorities.

The program takes into consideration the following underlying principles: (1) respecting the EP priorities, as expressed in AFET resolutions, and in particular in line with the positions of the AFET Working Group on the Western Balkans; (2) recommendations of the Democracy Support and Election Observation Group (DEG); (3) proposals / requests from enlargement parliaments relevant to their status and progress in European Integration; (4) balance between the capacity building activities for members (MPs) and staff of the beneficiary parliaments; (5) greater engagement of the EP in the accession process beyond inter-parliamentary delegation meetings, combined with increased visibility in the region; (6) closer cooperation with EP committees / delegations; (7) greater use of available expertise of MEPs / staff; (8) increased cost/benefit ratio for the beneficiary parliaments, given reduced budgetary resources.

Currently, the following initiatives are taking place.

1. Parliamentary Seminars

The seminar "Energy security, energy efficiency and interconnection in the Western Balkans and Turkey" (in cooperation with ITRE and AFET Committees) will take place in the aftermath of recent geopolitical developments which may prove to be of crucial importance for energy supply in Europe, including the Western Balkans and Turkey. The EP's ITRE is planning a hearing on "The EU energy security strategy under the conditions of the internal energy market" on 4-5 February 2015 and an initiative report on the Commission Communication "European Energy Security Strategy". AFET is also considering the organisation of a hearing. The seminar with MPs from the Western Balkans and Turkey would either take place in Brussels in connection with the ITRE and/or AFET hearings or in Ankara, as the Grand National Assembly of Turkey has offered to host it.

2. Conferences

Conferences gather MEPs and MPs but they are also public events open to the civil society and the media. To make this participation possible and foster media coverage while keeping costs at a minimum, it is essential that they take place in the region. The proposed 3 conferences could focus on different aspects of Fundamental Rights.

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[35] The partnership led to the development of a joint *Anti Corruption Assessment Tool for Parliamentarians*. Available at
http://gopacnetwork.org/Docs/AntiCorruptionAssessmentTool_EN.pdf

- Civic representation and political participation of national and ethnic minorities and other vulnerable groups; *Belgrade, 20-21 November 2014.*
- Political participation of women in the Western Balkans and Turkey and their contribution to the reform process (in cooperation with FEMM Committee), *Podgorica, 4-5 March 2015.*
- Fundamental rights, non-discrimination and protection of minorities, including LGBTI (in cooperation with LIBE committee, Commission and the Italian Presidency of the Council), *Tirana, 21 November 2014.*

3. Country specific seminar for MPs from Bosnia and Herzegovina, following the parliamentary elections in October 2014, in cooperation with the Council of Europe and the Venice Commission, and the EP delegation; *Strasbourg, November - December 2014.*

4. Study Visit to Brussels, by officials from Parliaments of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in cooperation with the Hungarian Parliament in the framework of the Twinning project, *12 - 13 November 2014.*

5. Pre-Accession Fellowship Program.

Four fellows of the enlargement parliaments will be received in the second semester 2014, from the Parliament of Montenegro, Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Assembly of Kosovo, Assembly of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

4.9. Regional parliamentary conference of RACVIAC[36]

RACVIAC, the Croatia-based Regional Center for Security, has developed annual parliamentary conferences under the auspices of its project "Democratic Oversight and Accountability". They have been traditionally organised by RACVIAC in cooperation with DCAF Geneva and parliaments in SEE, more specifically, their defence and security committees. The main objective and purpose of these conferences are to stress the importance of the standards of parliamentary oversight, democratic control over the security sector and, in particular, the democratic control of the armed forces in the SEE Countries. The target audience are: parliamentarians, members of Defence and Security Committees, civilians and military personnel from the Ministries of Defence and Interior in SEE countries. In 2014, the Conference on Parliamentary Oversight, "Annual Meeting of Regional Parliamentary Defence and Security Committees" was coorganised in cooperation between RACVIAC and the Joint Committee on Defence and Security of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herezegovina with the support of the Parliament of the Republic of Croatia.

Regarding the inclusion of Kosovo in RACVIAC, the Multinational Advisory Group (MAG) met on 9-10 October 2014 and decided to invite Kosovo to participate on a permanent basis, at all levels and on equal terms in all activities and meetings of RACVIAC/ MAG. The delegation of the Republic of Serbia left the Conference room during the explicative discussion on the modalities of participation of Kosovo in RACVIAC.[37]

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[36] http://www.racviac.org/

[37] The Republic of Serbia stated that the participation of Kosovo should be in accordance with the Agreement on principles governing the normalization of relations and arrangements regarding regional representation and cooperation and in compliance with Gymnich formula and UNSCR 1244. The participation will not apply to security forces.

5 Options for regionally-oriented support by EC/IPA

In order to be effective and sustainable, the EC support to regional parliamentary cooperation, through IPA, needs to adhere to a number of criteria, in our opinion. Firstly, the support should count on the ownership and agreement of the parliaments in the region. Secondly, the support should be relevant to the European integration agenda of the Candidate Countries and potential candidates. Thirdly, the support should ensure a complementary approach towards other existing structures and initiatives and avoid duplication. Fourthly, the support should be directed to initiatives which are fully inclusive to the whole territory of the Western Balkans, which means that the Assembly of Kosovo should be fully and equally part of the initiative.

Taking into account these four criteria, there are different possibilities in terms of program, approach and implementing partner for the future IPA program. Therefore, we will present four options. For each option, we will provide a summary description of the proposal.

5.1. First option: Institutional and expert support to the SEECP PA Secretariat

Following the establishment of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly in May 2014, the SEECP PA needs to become a fully operational body and the central parliamentary platform for the region. The rationale for this is fourfold: (1) the SEECP PA is fully owned by the region; (2) its objectives include both regional cooperation and European integration; (3) its geography covers EU member states, candidate countries and potential candidates - which enhances chances for fruitful parliamentary cooperation on EU integration; (4) the SEECP PA is one of the few initiatives which is fully inclusive for the whole of SEE, meaning that it includes the Assembly of Kosovo on a permanent and equal basis.

While the decision on the location of the Secretariat, the size of the budget and parliaments' contributions, and the selection of staff are the responsibility of the SEECP PA, the EC-IPA can provide substantial support to make the SEECP PA a fully operational body.

Under this first option for EC-IPA support, we foresee three potential activity areas, with a timeframe for the entire current financial cycle 2014-2020. The following description of the project is the result of the consultations with parliaments from the region and the Regional Secretariat for Parliamentary Cooperation in SEE (RSPC-SEE) in Sofia.

1. Secondment on a rotating basis of thematic and parliamentary experts from parliaments from candidate countries and potential candidates to a SEECP PA Secretariat. The seconded parliamentary experts will provide support to the work of the SEECP PA and its three General Committees by:

- preparing research papers for consideration by the Chairperson and members of the General Committees;
- conducting consultations with relevant stakeholders, academics and civil society on behalf of the Chairperson of the General Committees in preparation for the committee meetings and the research reports;
- conducting follow-up activities, meetings, consultations, research and correspondence between the meetings of the General Committee;
- organizing capacity building and knowledge sharing events for MPs and parliamentary staff, in particular on EU integration matters, in close cooperation with the EP's Pre-Accession Action Unit (PAAC);
- liaising with other inter-parliamentary institutions and national and international organizations related to the area of responsibility of the General Committee, including the European Parliament and its Committees.

The seconded parliamentary experts will, on a part-time basis, be present at the SEECP PA Secretariat and, on a part-time basis, be working for the SEECP PA from their home parliament. These staff members will not only work for the Chairpersons but with all members of the General Committee, while ensuring interaction with civil society and other stakeholders outside the PA.

EC-IPA support will cover travel, accommodation, per diems and (part of) the salary for the time spent outside of the national parliament. It is expected that, on a permanent basis, three seconded parliamentary staff will be covered by the program (one for each General Committee).

Indicators:

- Number of Meetings of the General Committees of SEECP PA conducted
- Number of research reports prepared for consideration by the General Committees
- Quantity and quality of capacity building and knowledge sharing events with MPs and staff
- Regular reports (quarterly and annual) of the Secretariat approved by the SEECP PA President.

2. Institutionalized communication and visibility of the SEECP PA.

The SEECP PA needs to develop a comprehensive outreach and visibility strategy, in cooperation with the SEECP PA participating parliaments. The EC-IPA support will foresee a part-time communications specialist who will be responsible for maintaining and updating the SEECP PA web-site, development of publications and social media activities; maintaining a database of experts and CSO stakeholders; organization of international / regional press events around plenary and committee meetings, etc.

Indicators:

- Communication and visibility strategy drafted and approved
- SEECP PA web page in place and regularly updated
- Number of regional and international press coverage of SEECP PA events.

3. Pending compatibility of IPA-rules with the location of the SEECP PA Secretariat, the project can include an additional component for infrastructure support to the new Secretariat (renovation building, ICT, etc).

Indicators:

- Well equipped Secretariat premises
- Availability of ICT resources

Management arrangements: grant to the SEECP PA Secretariat (alternatively: to the Parliament of the country hosting the Secretariat)

5.2. Second option: Multi-country knowledge building program on content and procedures of EU *acquis*

Under this option, a multi-country project will be launched, aimed at strengthening the knowledge and skills of staff in parliaments of Candidate Countries and potential candidates. Knowledge and skills building will be directed towards the content of the different chapters of the EU *acquis*, including the relevant rulings by the European Court of Justice on the thematic areas covered by the EU *acquis*. This so-called 'vertical' capacity building will be complementary to general or 'horizontal' capacity building on EU decision making institutions and procedures already received by the Parliaments in the Western Balkans in recent years. The following description of the project was endorsed at the consultations during our visit to the Parliaments of the Western Balkans.

The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the Parliaments' legislative and oversight functions in relation to the parliamentary role in the EU approximation process, to enhance the practice of sharing lessons learned and best practices among the Candidate Countries, potential candidates and the newest EU member states, and to start making maximum use of the available EU-tools such as IPEX, ECPRD and TAIEX databases.[38]

The program aims at a more efficient approximation of legislation and a more pro-active professional development process for parliamentary staff involved in the European integration work.

The beneficiaries of this program will be the parliamentary staff of Candidate Countries and potential candidates, in particular staff of the legislative department, staff working with thematic committees, staff of the European integration and legal committees, and political advisors to MPs.

Contributors to the program will be experts and staff of various DGs of the Commission in Brussels, staff of the Committees in the European Parliament, staff of parliaments of recent accession countries such as Croatia or other Central European member states. Preferably, a core-group of staff of each parliament from Candidate Countries and potential candidates will commit to participate in the entire multi-year program.

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[38] There are four TAIEX databases, which give access to EU legislation and case law that has been translated into the various languages of the countries benefiting from TAIEX assistance: 1) The *CCVista database* contains EU legislation in the languages of the beneficiary countries; 2) The *JurisVista Database* contains the key judgments of the Court of Justice of the European Communities and the Court of First Instance in the languages of the beneficiary countries; 3) The *Law approximation database (LAD)* contains a list of EU legislation arranged by policy area and references to the corresponding legislation of Candidate Countries, if available; 4) *EUR-Lex* provides direct free access to European Union law. The system makes it possible to consult the Official Journal of the European Union and it includes inter alia the treaties, legislation, case-law and legislative proposals.

The program can be developed with general modules for staff of all parliaments of Candidate and potential candidate countries and more targeted modules directed towards a limited number of parliaments depending upon which chapters of negotiations have been opened or closed. While modules can be adjusted as negotiations by countries progress, the objective of this learning trajectory is also to build knowledge and skills with parliamentary staff of countries which are not yet at a specific stage in negotiations but which wish to better prepare staff from a mid-term perspective.

While knowledge building and sharing information on EU-related matters has been organized in short-term events through TAIEX, IPEX and ECPRD, the program proposed under this option will aim for a longer, multi-year capacity and knowledge building program, preferably with a core group of participants which follow through the whole program. The time-period of this program would be 3 to 5 years, within the 2014-2020 financing cycle.

Through Twinning projects, the Parliaments of the western Balkans gained know-how and experiences in terms of the role of parliament in the accession negotiations, role of committees in accession negotiations, defining legal modalities for cooperation of Parliament with the Government during accession negotiations, information provided to the public by Parliament for EU affairs, visibility of Parliament in the EU context, etc.

The proposed future program will be required to look, additionally, into the questions of changes to the national Constitution, legislation transposition techniques from recent member states, checking the content of EU directives and the common EU related legal wording, strategic planning for the adoption of EU legislation, and possibly also the institutional and organizational changes of Parliament, committees and staff deriving from EU membership, especially the role of the Foreign Affairs Committee and the European Affairs Committee, and the status and role of the National Euro-Integration Council.

The program on "vertical capacity building" on EU integration matters will take into account Parliament's role as part of the multi-stakeholder chain in policy making and legislative drafting involving Parliament and Government.

In an annex to this report, we have included an overview chart of the different chapters of the EU *acquis* for the Candidate Countries and the status of each of the chapters for each Candidate Country: screening of the chapter, finished screening, frozen chapter, open chapter, closed chapter. This is the framework in which the proposed program on "vertical capacity building" on EU integration matters can be developed.

Management arrangements: Service contract

5.3. Third option: Institutional and expert support to the Network of Parliamentary Committees of Finance, Economy and European Integration of the Western Balkans

Under this option, the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) will propose a project which will enhance the effectiveness of regional parliamentary initiatives through collaboration between the Network of Parliamentary Committees for Finance, Economy and European Integration of Western Balkans (NPC), COSAP and the SEECP PA, in particular its General Committee on Economy, Infrastructure and Energy (GCEIE). The following description of this option is based upon the 'Concept Note' as received from the WFD.

The project concept builds upon the NPC's track-record of working with the parliaments of Candidate Countries and potential candidates (as described in the Study) and the WFD earlier work with national parliamentary capacity building projects in the Western Balkans. In terms of inclusiveness, it is noted that the Assembly of Kosovo is currently an observer to the NPC and that WFD has the intention to include Kosovo as an equal member to the network. In view of the evaluation criteria mentioned above, the second option would thus be conditional to the Assembly of Kosovo being fully and equally included in the final proposal.

The project aims to establish links between the NPC, COSAP and the SEECP PA, and envisages cooperation with the EP's Pre-Accession Action Unit (PAAC). It brings together the objectives of regional cooperation and European integration. The proposed project would have the following specific objectives: (1) To increase the research and analysis capacity of staff in parliamentary committees by providing know-how and expertise to functionally improve the work of EU committees in NPC, COSAP and the General Committee on Economy, Infrastructure and Energy of the SEECP PA; (2) To increase the effectiveness in the functioning of regional parliamentary initiatives, and support the establishment of effective Secretariats that would provide tailor made support for regionally owned topics and issues raised by the NPC, COSAP and SEECP; (3) To transfer and implement best practices on oversight from the work of NPC to COSAP and SEECP GA GCEIE with the aim of improving their oversight role; (4) To build organizational capacities of COSAP and SEECP GA GCEIE in order to be able to organize well prepared meetings with concrete long term, issue focused topics and agendas; (5) Open channels of communication between parliamentary committees involved in NPC, COSAP and SEECP, GCEIE, CSOs and other stakeholders as a way to streamline existing activities; (6) Increase visibility, recognition and outreach of the work and activities of NPC, COSAP and SEECP GCEIE.

The indicative activities are as follows: (1) Conduct an assessment of the current work of NPC, COSAP and SEECP GCEIE, identify ways to improve work and streamline and complement their activities; (2) Establish working groups within COSAP and SEECP GCEIE that will develop an focused action plans for their work with specific timeframes for implementation of activities; (3) Improve the existing rules of procedure for the work of COSAP and SEECP GCEIE (if the assessment shows that it is needed); (4) Develop communication and outreach strategies for COSAP and SEECP GCEIE , develop a web site; discussion forum; internal data sharing platform; produce video tutorials, newsletters and other communication tools for the promotion of the work of NPC COSAP and SEECP GCEIE; (5) Support the organisation of oversight hearings on IPA 2 funds and support the establishment of IPA 2" oversight practice in parliaments in the Western Balkans; (6) Establish a regional parliamentary initiatives coordination mechanism (joint meetings between NPC, COSAP and SEECP GCEIE, joint conferences and board meetings.); (7) Organize bilateral and multilateral cross-initiative parliamentary committee meetings on common regional issues.

The expected results from the collaboration is a regional platform/network established to support parliamentary committees in Western Balkan parliaments with research and policy support; COSAP meetings well prepared, with a concrete long term agenda; focused issues for discussion identified along with briefs on specific COSAP issues; the General Committee on Economy, Infrastructure and Energy (GCEIE) develops an issue-based agenda and develops briefs on specific SEECP issues; Parliamentary staff capacitated with skills that would allow parliamentary committees on EU affairs to be prepared for main issues discussed at COSAP and GCEIE; Constructive dialogue and deliberations established between CSOs and national Parliaments on issues related to European integration of

individual Western Balkan countries; Improving the oversight capacity of parliamentary committees on EU integration through support for oversight of IPA 2 funds.

Management arrangements: grant to Westminster Foundation for Democracy.

5.4. Fourth Option: Regional Program on Social and Inter-Generational Sustainability of Policies In Western Balkans Candidate Countries and Potential Candidates, with the OSCE Missions

Under this option, the OSCE Missions in the Western Balkans will work towards social and inter-generational sustainability of development in the EU Candidate Countries and potential candidates in the Western Balkans. The intended project seeks to mobilize youth from the Western Balkans countries and bring them together with Members of Parliament and experts to develop policy frameworks that ensure social inter-generational equity. Experiences will be exchanged regional and targets will be aligned with the EU's 2020 strategy. Policy proposals will be discussed with the European Parliament's relevant committees and the European Commission.

The intended project builds upon the track record of regional cooperation between the parliamentary programs of the OSCE Missions in the Western Balkans (as described in this document). If supported through IPA, the intended project will also contribute to enhanced cooperation between the EU and the OSCE in the region of the Western Balkans.

The intended project is based upon a 'Concept Note' prepared by the OSCE Mission in Kosovo. The overall concept and the details of the project are currently being discussed between the OSCE Mission in Kosovo and the other OSCE Missions in the region.

The intended project aims to achieve the following results:

1. Policy forums on socially sustainable development are set up in 6 countries of the Western Balkans.

In each of the six Western Balkans Candidate Countries and potential candidates, the OSCE Missions will bring together representatives of top-level youth structures with leaders from academia and civil society as well as Members of Parliament in policy forums. These forums will be installed as permanent advisory bodies to parliamentary committees in charge of social affairs, employment, youth and economics, and European integration. Their purpose will be to advise Members of Parliament on policies and laws that impact the social and inter-generational sustainability of the country's development. In those parliaments where youth caucuses are available, the policy forums will also be linked to these bodies.

2. Policy proposals for socially sustainable development are produced by policy forums of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia

Once policy forums are convened in six Western Balkans countries, they will engage in a participatory process of drafting policy frameworks for social and inter-generational sustainability. Policy forums will consult youth and civil society representatives extensively. Targeted awareness campaigns in six countries will mobilize youth and civil society for this purpose, covering the respective country's challenges in terms socially sustainable development, the EU 2020 policy, and youth engagement options. In developing their proposals, the policy forums will review government programmes and national economic and social strategies for

social and inter-generational sustainability. They will also review European Commission Progress Reports as well as the EU's Europe 2020 Strategy, with which these proposals will be aligned. The objective is to develop a policy framework setting Western Balkans countries on a development and EU integration path that is both viable and sustainable and addresses common challenges associated with demography, youth unemployment, gender, education and migration.

3. A regional dialogue on socially sustainable development with representatives of six countries - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro, and Serbia - is initiated.

Upon formulation of draft national policy frameworks, representatives of six countries' policy forums will meet with each other to present their proposals, compare the different local challenges, exchange ideas and identify common objectives and opportunities. As a result policy proposals will be enhanced by a common regional chapter. Members of the policy forums will meet with representatives of the European Parliament's relevant committees for Employment and Social Affairs, Culture and Education, as well as Industry, Research and Energy and the European Commission to present their proposals and receive feedback in terms of their alignment with current EU policy and the EU 2020 strategy.

Following consultations with national governments, policy proposals will be adopted by policy forums and discussed publicly in national validation conferences in the six Western Balkan countries, where they will be endorsed and put before parliament for adoption. Policy forums will remain in place to advise parliaments throughout the implementation of the social and inter-generational sustainability policy frameworks.

It is proposed that the project establishes a connection with the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly. The SEECP PA has created three General Committees: (1) Economy, Infrastructure and Energy, (2) Justice, Home Affairs and Security Cooperation, and (3) Social Development, Education, Research and Science. They are composed of members of the national delegations to the SEECP PA, thus including MPs from each of the six parliaments participating in this project. The project envisages (1) a stock-taking meeting with one or two of the Committees as the project gains momentum, since Western Balkans MPs in the SEECP PA Committees might be interested to provide their views and inputs to the consultation process; and (2) a final briefing and presentation of the agreed policy findings and recommendations to one or two of the Committees. The project also envisages regular liaison with the SEECP PA Secretariat, once established.

Background information:

Social sustainability encompasses human rights, labour rights, and corporate governance [and] refers to a state of society where "future generations have the same access to social resources as the current generation ("inter-generational equity")..."[39] Within the EU, inter-generational and social sustainability of economic development has been a particular concern since the economic and financial crisis of the early 2000s. Youth unemployment is stubbornly high in many EU countries, and experts warn about a new "lost generation" among the young paired with demographic strains on Europe's social security systems. EU 2020, the EU's long-term development strategy emphasizes "inclusive growth"

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[39] Integrated Network for Social Sustainability, *What is Social Sustainability?*, http://clas-pages.uncc.edu/inss/what-is-social-sustainability/, 22 September 2014

based on high employment and productive old age, life-long education and high social cohesion.[40]

The EU Candidate Countries and potential candidates of the Western Balkans struggle with analogous but overall more complex problems of low labour market participation, high youth unemployment and (with the exception of Albania and Kosovo) rapidly ageing societies. This mix is made more severe by a "brain drain", whereby highly-educated individuals migrate to Western European countries, diminishing human capital[41] This puts a strain on social protection systems in the Western Balkans which are fledging but struggle with low contributions and are in need of reform.[42]

The conclusion from these observations is that in the Western Balkans, the question of inter-generational equity of development arises perhaps more strongly than in most of the EU 28 countries. However, public debate on inter-generational equity is absent. In addition, Western Balkans youth are politically relatively passive. Only a small minority engages in civil society, in political parties and votes in elections.[43] This results in a disconnect, where youth who are most strongly affected by the current crisis are not being consulted on policies affecting the distribution of resources that determine their current and future welfare. This situation is both fundamentally unfair and potentially dangerous to social peace. This project seeks to remedy this, by involving youth in devising a policy framework that makes sure policies are tested for their inter-generational and social sustainability, while being aligned with emerging EU policies and the EU 2020 vision.

Management arrangements: grant to the OSCE.

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[40] European Commission, *Europe 2020, A European strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth*, COM (2010).

[41] Dmitriy Kovtun, Alexis Meyer Cirkel, Zuzana Murgasova, Dustin Smith, and Suchanan Tambunlertchai, *Boosting Job Growth in the Western Balkans*, IMF Working Paper 12/16, January 2014, p.19

[42] See European Commission, *Social Protection and Social Inclusion in the Western Balkans,* Zagreb 2009.

[43] For country data view Western Balkans Country Profiles at http://www.youthpolicy.org/nationalyouthpolicies/

6 Conclusions

The parliaments of Candidate Countries and potential candidates in the Western Balkans have enjoyed a substantial amount of technical advice and capacity building initiatives. As the EC is considering, in view of the EU Enlargement Strategy[44], which IPA support is most appropriate while avoiding duplication with other initiatives, a comprehensive overview of the technical advice and capacity building initiatives was required.

Following a review of the national parliaments in terms of their capacity and structures related to European integration and regional cooperation, this document brought together a comprehensive set of information on single-beneficiary parliamentary capacity building projects (projects through which one parliament receives assistance) and regional parliamentary capacity building projects (projects through which the parliaments of the region jointly benefit from a common program). This overview has enabled us to make recommendations for future IPA support to regional parliamentary cooperation.

We recommend that future IPA support takes into account four criteria. Firstly, the support should count on the ownership and agreement of the parliaments in the region. Secondly, the support should be relevant to the European integration agenda of the Candidate Countries and potential candidates. Thirdly, the support should ensure a complementary approach towards other existing structures and initiatives and avoid duplication. Fourthly, the support should be directed to initiatives which are fully inclusive to the whole territory of the Western Balkans: the Assembly of Kosovo should be fully and equally part of the initiative.

Screening them against these criteria, we put forward four options for IPA support. We do not recommend "one golden bullet" recommendation, because that would not sufficiently take into consideration the possibilities which are currently available in the region. In addition, by proposing four options, there is more space for the EC to consult with the EP and with national parliaments of the region on the most appropriate way forward.

--- The first option foresees in institutional and expert support to the SEECP PA Secretariat. It builds upon the recommendations in the first part of the Study, the "Mapping and analysis of International Parliamentary Institutions and parliamentary networks in the Western Balkans and South East Europe". It foresees in a mechanism to bring expertise to the General Committees of the SEECP PA

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[44] EC enlargement strategy 2014/15:
http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/key_documents/2014/20141008-strategy-paper_en.pdf

and the SEECP PA Secretariat, with a view to make the SEECP PA a fully functional and central parliamentary platform for the region.

--- The second option proposes a multi-country knowledge building program on content and procedures of the EU *acquis* for parliamentary staff of Candidate Countries and potential candidates. Over a period of several years, the 'vertical capacity building program' strengthens legal and policy knowledge in the parliaments and supports parliament staff to make maximum use of tools such as IPEX, ECPRD and TAIEX databases.

--- The third option proposes to support a project of institutional and expert support to the Network of Parliamentary Committees of Finance, Economy and European Integration of the Western Balkans, as supported so far by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy.

--- The fourth option proposes to support a regional program on social and inter-generational sustainability of policies in Western Balkans Candidate Countries and potential candidates. This option would build upon existing OSCE parliamentary projects and strengthen the EU-OSCE cooperation.

We hope that the two documents, "Mapping and analysis of International Parliamentary Institutions and parliamentary networks in the Western Balkans and SEE" and "Overview of parliamentary capacity building in EU Candidate Countries and potential candidates", will be of value to the EC - DG Enlargement; and we hope the information will be useful to the European Parliament and the parliaments of the region as well.

ANNEX 1 Current state of negotiations with EU for Candidate Countries and potential candidates

State	Status	Association Agreement	Membership Application	Candidate status	Negotiations start	Screening completed	Acquis Chapters open/ closed [45]
Albania	**Candidate**	2009-04-01 (SAA)	2009-04-28	2014-06-24	–	–	–
Bosnia and Herzegovina	**Potential candidate**	Signed (SAA)	–	–	–	–	–
Iceland	**Negotiations suspended**	1994-01-01 (EEA)	2009-07-16	2010-06-17	2010-07-27	2011-06-21	27/11 of 33
Kosovo	**Potential candidate**	Initialled (SAA)	–	–	–	–	–
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	**Candidate**	2004-04-01 (SAA)	2004-03-22	2005-12-17	–	–	–
Montenegro	**Negotiating**	2010-05-01 (SAA)	2008-12-15	2010-12-17	2012-06-29	2013-06-27	12/2 of 33
Serbia	**Negotiating**	2013-09-01 (SAA)	2009-12-22	2012-03-01	2014-01-21	*(Started)*	–
Turkey	**Negotiating**	1964-12-01 (AA)	1987-04-14	1999-12-12	2005-10-03	2006-10-13	14/1 of 33

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[45] Excluding Chapters 34 (Institutions) and 35 (Other Issues) since these are not legislation chapters.

ANNEX 2 Single-beneficiary parliamentary capacity building projects

Parliament of Albania														
	Project info			Parliamentary functions						Beneficiaries				Review RoP
	Implementer / Agency	Title	Period	Legislation	Oversight	Budget	Outreach	Internat. & reg. C.	EU Integ.	Leadership	MPs	Committees	Staff / Secr.	
1	OSCE, Dutch Gov.	Parliamentary Support Project	2001-2007	X	X			X			X		X	X
2	OSCE, Dutch Gov.	Parliamentary Support Project	2007-2010		X	X	X	X		X		X	X	
3	OSCE, Austrian and German Gov	Further support	2011-2014		X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X
4	EC-Twinning Parliament Hungary	Strengthening the Assembly of Albania	2012-2013	X	x		X		X	X	X	X	X	X

Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina													
	Project info			Parliamentary functions						Beneficiaries				Review RoP
	Implementer / Agency	Title	Period	Legislation	Oversight	Budget	Outreach	Internat. & reg. C.	EU Integ.	Leadership	MPs	Committees	Staff/Secr.	RoP
1	OSCE	Human Dim.	2001-2014		x		x		x		x	x	x	
2	OSCE	Security Coop.	2001-2014		x			x			x	x	x	
3	IPA, Parliaments of Hungary, France	EU twinning project	2014-2016	x	x		x		x	x	x	x	x	x
4	USAID	Parl. Strength.	2009-2012	x	x			x		x	x	x	x	
5	USAID	Governing Institutions	2013-2017	x		x			x		x		x	
6	Germany, KAS	Support	2010-2014	x	x				x	x	x		x	
7	UNDP	Constit.	2013-2015	x			x	x				x	x	
8	UNDP	Anti-corruption	2013-2015		x		x	x				x		
9	FES and NDI	Review RoP	2012-2013								x	x	x	x

Parliament of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina														Review
	Project info			Parliamentary functions						Beneficiaries				RoP
	Implementer / Agency	Title	Period	Legislation	Oversight	Budget	Outreach	Internat. & reg. C.	EU Integ.	Leadership	MPs	Committees	Staff/Secr.	
1	OSCE, DFID	Human Dim.	2011-2014		x		x		x	x			x	
2	Parliaments of Hungary & France	EU twinning project	2014-2016	x	x		x		x	x	x	x	x	x
3	USAID	Governing Institutions	2013-2017	x		x			x		x		x	
4	Germany, KAS	Support	2010-2014	x	x				x	x	x		x	

National Assembly of Republika Srpska

	Project info			Parliamentary functions						Beneficiaries				Review
	Implementer / Agency	Title	Period	Legislation	Oversight	Budget	Outreach	Internat. & reg. C.	EU Integ.	Leadership	MPs	Committees	Staff/Secr.	RoP
1	OSCE, DFID	Human Dim.	2011-2014		x		x		x	x			x	
2	Parliaments of Hungary & France	EU twinning project	2014-2016	x	x		x		x	x	x	x	x	x
3	Germany, KAS	Support	2010-2014	x	x				x	x	x		x	

Brcko District Assembly

	Project info			Parliamentary functions						Beneficiaries				Review
	Implementer / Agency	Title	Period	Legislation	Oversight	Budget	Outreach	Internat. & reg. C.	EU Integ.	Leadership	MPs	Committees	Staff/Secr.	RoP
1	OSCE, DFID	Human Dim.	2011-2014		x		x		x	x			x	
2	Parliaments of Hungary & France	EU twinning project	2014-2016	x	x		x		x	x	x	x	x	x

Assembly of Kosovo															
	Project info			Parliamentary functions						Beneficiaries				Review RoP	Investments
	Implementer / Agency	Title	Period	Legislation	Oversight	Budget	Outreach	Internat. & reg. C.	EU Integ.	Leadership	MPs	Committees	Staff/Secr.		
1	OSCE	Support	2001-2014	X	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
2	NDI	Support	2001-2014	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
3	GIZ, Germany	Support	2009-2014	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X		
4	EU-IPA	Twinning	2011-2013	X	X				X	X	X	X	X		
5	EU-TAIEX	Support	2013-2014	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
6	DCAF	Support	2005-2014	X	X			X			X	X	X		
7	UNDP	Support	2011-2013	X	X	X				X	X	X	X		
8	UNDP	Support	2014-2015				X	X	X		X	X	X		
9	KAS, Germany	Support	2012-2014				X	X		X	X				

Support to the Assembly of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (Sobranie)															
	Project info			Parliamentary functions						Beneficiaries				Review RoP	Investments
	Implementer / Agency	Title	Period	Legislation	Oversight	Budget	Outreach	Internat. & reg. C.	EU Integ.	Leadership	MPs	Committees	Staff/Secr.		
1	EC	Phare	2001	x					x		x		x		
2	Slovenia	CARDS	2004-2005						X				x	x	
3	France	Support	2004-2006						x		x		x		
4	OSCE	Support	2006-2007	x	x					x	x		x		
5	Germany	Support	2007							x				x	
6	EP	Support	2007-2014	x	x				x		x		x		
7	EC	TAIEX	2005-2014			x	x	x	x		x		x		
8	USAID, NDI, IRI	Support	2002-2012	x	x	x	x				x	x	x	x	x
9	Francophone	NORIA	2003-2010				x				x		x		x
10	Italy	IPALMO	2008		x			x	x	x	x	x	x		
11	Slovakia	Support	2008-2014	x		x		x		x	x	x	x	x	
12	EC	IPA	2010-2012	x			x		x			X	x		x
13	UK / WFD	Support	2008-2011				x				x		x		
14	Switzerland	Parl. Inst.	2009-2014	X	X						X	X	X		
15.	Germany, KAS	Factions	2011-2014	X	X					X	X			X	
16	Germany,	Support	2011-					x	x	x		x	x		

	FES		2014												
17	UNDP, Switzerland	Political Dialogue	2012-2013	x	x		x					x	x		

Assembly of Montenegro															
	Project info			Parliamentary functions						Beneficiaries				Review RoP	Invest ments
	Implementer / Agency	Title	Period	Legislation	Oversight	Budget	Outreach	Internat. & reg. C.	EU Integ.	Leadership	MPs	Committees	Staff/Secr.		
1	WFD	Support	2010	x		x	x						x		
2	WFD, British Council	Support	2011-2012	x	x	x	x				x		x		
3	Germany, FES	Financial support	2010					x			x				
4	USAID / NDI	Support	2002-2011	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	
5	Austria, Erste	Financial support	2013-2014				x						x		
6	OSCE, Austria, Germany	Support	2007-2011		X		X	X		X	x	X	X		
7	OSCE	Support	2013-2014	X				X			X	X	X		
8	DCAF	Support	2010-2013	X				X	X		X		X		
9	RACVIAC	Meeting	2013		X				X		X				
10	UNDP	Support	2012-2014		x						x	x			
11	Germany GIZ	Support	2013		x			x			x	x			
12	EU/ IPA	Support	2009-2012	X	X				X		X	X	X		
13	Germany,	Dialogue	2007-	x	x			x	x	x	x		x		

| | | | | KAS | | 2013 | | | | | | | | | | | | |

National Assembly of Republic of Serbia												

	Project info			Parliamentary functions						Beneficiaries				Review RoP	Invest ments
	Implementer / Agency	Title	Period	Legislation	Oversight	Budget	Outreach	Internat. & reg. C.	EU Integ.	Leadership	MPs	Committees	Staff/Secr.		
1	EC / IPA	Twinning	2013-2014	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X		
2	UNDP	Oversight	2012-2015		X	X	X				X	X	X		
3	OSCE	Support	2010-2014	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X		
4	OSCE	E-parl.	2010-2014	X			X				X		X		X
5	OSCE	Security	2010-2013		X			X		X	X	X	X		
6	OSCE	Security	2013-2015		X					X	X	X	X		
7	ODIHR	Assessm.	2011-2014	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
8	GIZ	Legal	2011-2016	X						X	X			X	
9	USAID	Support	2009			X	X			X			X		
10	NDI	Support	2009-2014	X			X					X	X		
11	OSCE: NDI	Interns	2003-2012		X		X					X	X		
12	UK	support	2013-2014	X	X		X		X		X		X	X	
13	USAID/CRTA	Support	2013-2014	X			X	X		X	X		X		
14	Inst. Sustain. Communities	Security sector	2013-2014	X	X					X		X			

#	Implementer / Agency	Title	Period	Legislation	Oversight	Budget	Outreach	Internat. & reg. C.	EU Integ.	Leadership	MPs	Committees	Staff/Secr.	Review RoP	Investments
15	Finland, OSCE	Gender	2013-2014	X						X	X				
16	Germany, KAS	Dialogue	2007-2013		x		x	x	x		x		x		

Grand National Assembly of Turkey															
	Project info			Parliamentary functions					Beneficiaries					Review RoP	Investments
	Implementer / Agency	Title	Period	Legislation	Oversight	Budget	Outreach	Internat. & reg. C.	EU Integ.	Leadership	MPs	Committees	Staff/Secr.		
1	EC, Hungary, Italy	Support	2007-2008	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
2	EC	Support	2012-2014	x	x		x		x	x	x	x	x		
3	TAIEX	Visit	2008			X		X			X		X		
4	TAIEX	Visit	2009	X		X		X			X		X		
5	TAIEX	Visit	2010		X	X		X			X		X		
6	TAIEX	Conferen	2008-2009	X			X				X		X		
7	TAIEX	Visit	2009	X				X				X	X		
8	TAIEX	Visit	2011	X				X		X		X	X		
9	UNDP	Support	2008-2009	X			X				X		X		

ANNEX 3 Regional parliamentary capacity building projects and programs

Regional parliamentary capacity building projects and programs			Participation in the regional projects and programs							
	Lead-organization	Time-period	Albania	BiH	Croatia	Kosovo	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Montenegro	Serbia	Other countries
1.	OSCE Field Presence	2002-2014	x	x		x	x	x	x	
2.	DCAF	2004-2014	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Moldova
3.	National Democratic Institute (NDI)	2009-2014	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Central Europe
4.	Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD)	2013-2014	x	x		x	x	x	x	
5.	Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES)	2008-2014	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
6.	Friedrich Naumann Stiftung (FNSt)	2009-2014		x		x			x	
7.	UNDP	As of 2015				x		x	x	
8.	EP's PAAC	2010-2014	x	x		X	x	x	x	Turkey
9.	RACVIAC	2000-2014	x	x	x	X	x	x	x	SEE

ANNEX 4 Current state of affairs of chapters of the *acquis* for each Candidate Country

Acquis Chapters per Candidate Country	Turkey	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Montenegrohttps://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Template:Progress_in_future_enlargement_of_the_European_Union_-cite_note-5	Serbia	Albania
1. Free Movement of Goods	f	–	fs	fs	–
2. Freedom of Movement for Workers	f	–	fs	fs	–
3. Right of Establishment & Freedom to Provide Services	f	–	fs	fs	–
4. Free Movement of Capital	o	–	o	–	–
5. Public Procurement	fs	–	o	s	–
6. Company Law	o	–	o	–	–
7. Intellectual Property Law	o	–	o	–	–
8. Competition Policy	fs	–	fs	fs	–
9. Financial Services	f	–	fs	–	–

10. Information Society & Media	o	–	o	fs	–
11. Agriculture & Rural Development	f	–	fs	fs	–
12. Food Safety, Veterinary & Phytosanitary Policy	o	–	fs	fs	–
13. Fisheries	f	–	fs	–	–
14. Transport Policy	f	–	fs	–	–
15. Energy	f	–	fs	fs	–
16. Taxation	o	–	fs	–	–
17. Economic & Monetary Policy	f	–	fs	–	–
18. Statistics	o	–	fs	fs	–
19. Social Policy & Employment	fs	–	fs	fs	–
20. Enterprise & Industrial Policy	o	–	o	fs	–
21. Trans-European Networks	o	–	fs	fs	–
22. Regional Policy & Coordination of Structural Instruments	o	–	fs	–	–
23. Judiciary & Fundamental Rights	f	–	o	fs	–
24. Justice, Freedom & Security	f	–	o	fs	–
25. Science & Research	x	–	x	fs	–

26. Education & Culture	f	–	x	fs	–
27. Environment	o	–	fs	–	–
28. Consumer & Health Protection	o	–	fs	–	–
29. Customs Union	f	–	fs	fs	–
30. External Relations	f	–	fs	s	–
31. Foreign, Security & Defence Policy	f	–	o	s	–
32. Financial Control	o	–	o	fs	–
33. Financial & Budgetary Provisions	f	–	fs	–	–
34. Institutions	f	–	–	–	–
35. Other Issues	–	–	–	fs	–

Codes and colours:

s – screening of the chapter **fs** – finished screening **f** – frozen chapter **o** – open chapter **x** – closed chapter	generally already applies the *acquis* no major difficulties expected further efforts needed non-*acquis* chapter - nothing to adopt considerable efforts needed very hard to adopt situation totally incompatible with EU *acquis*

Source: Wikipedia, accessed 20 October 2014:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Future_enlargement_of_the_European_Union