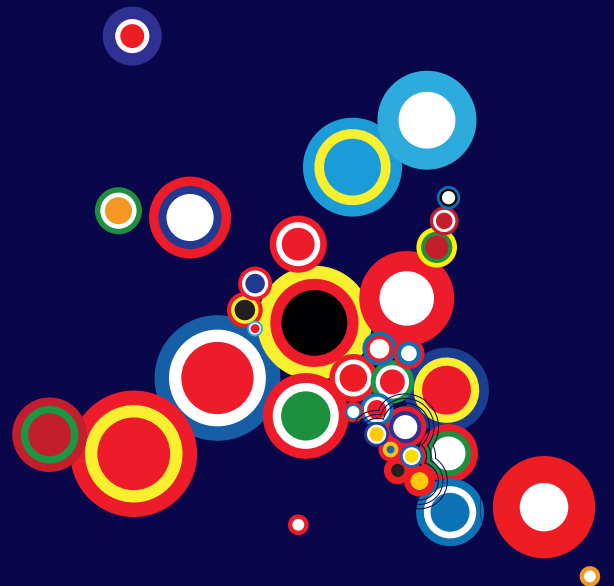




## INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE (IPA II) 2014-2020

### BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Support to participation in  
EU Programmes



#### **Action Summary**

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

As a result, Bosnia and Herzegovina will actively participate in various EU programmes, including Creative Europe, Europe for Citizens, Erasmus+ (partial participation), Customs 2020, Fiscalis 2020 and the EU programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (COSME).

As such, Bosnia and Herzegovina will be better prepared for the EU integration in the areas subject to EU Programmes, and the European Union will develop cooperation with Bosnia and Herzegovina in these areas.

<b>Action Identification</b>	
<b>Action Programme Title</b>	Action Programme for Bosnia and Herzegovina for the year 2014
<b>Action Title</b>	<b>Support to participation in EU Programmes</b>
<b>Action Reference</b>	IPA 2014/ 037-662. 3/Bosnia and Herzegovina/ Support to participation in EU Programmes
<b>Sector Information</b>	
<b>IPA II Sectors</b>	Democracy and Governance
<b>DAC Sector</b>	43010 - Multisector aid
<b>Budget</b>	
<b>Total cost</b>	EUR 736 701
<b>EU contribution</b>	EUR 642 781
<b>Management and Implementation</b>	
<b>Method of implementation</b>	Direct management
	<b>EU Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>
<b>Location</b>	
<b>Zone benefiting from the action</b>	Bosnia and Herzegovina
<b>Specific implementation area(s)</b>	Bosnia and Herzegovina
<b>Timeline</b>	
<b>Deadline for conclusion of the Financing Agreement</b>	at the latest by 31 December 2015
<b>Contracting deadline</b>	3 years following the date of conclusion of the Financing Agreement, with the exception of the cases listed under Article 189(2) Financial Regulation
<b>End of operational implementation period</b>	6 years following the date of conclusion of the Financing Agreement.

## 1. RATIONALE

### PROBLEM AND STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

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

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

In the new cycle of EU programmes for the period 2014-2020 Bosnia and Herzegovina wants to continue participation in the EU programmes it joined in the previous period, as well as further expand its participation into other EU programmes.

As such Bosnia and Herzegovina has expressed interest in participating in the programme Creative Europe which brings together the former Culture and MEDIA programmes. Activities are undertaken to sign the international agreement and join the programme in 2014.

Steps are also undertaken to join the Europe for Citizens programme as of 2014.

These two programmes would benefit cultural and audio-visual sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as civil society and local communities.

The international agreement for partial participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina as of 2014 in the Erasmus+ programme, the EU programme for education, training, youth and sports, was signed in June 2014. Partial participation will, among other, enable the participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in European education networks and IT platforms, and activities are already being undertaken to join these networks and platforms.

Bosnia and Herzegovina expressed interest in May 2014 in becoming a member of *COSME* programme. Participation in the programme will provide support to enterprises in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in particular small and medium enterprises, and entrepreneurs, and to their cooperation with partners in the countries in the EU and in the region.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is further interested in becoming a member of *Customs 2020* and *Fiscalis 2020* programmes as of 2015. Participation in these programmes would strengthen customs and tax authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and would facilitate their cooperation with institutions in the EU and countries in the region.

Furthermore, Bosnia and Herzegovina signed the international agreement on joining the programme Horizon 2020 (former FP7 programme) in July 2014. Participation in the Horizon 2020 programme will enable Bosnia and Herzegovina's research institutions, companies and individuals participation in the European Research Area and Innovation Union.

Indicative list of programmes to be supported under this Action:

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Description of support</b>
Creative Europe	Co-financing of entry ticket for 2015
Europe for Citizens	Co-financing of entry ticket for 2016
Erasmus+	Co-financing of entry ticket for 2015

Customs 2020	Co-financing of entry ticket for 2016
Fiscalis 2020	Co-financing of entry ticket for 2016
COSME	Co-financing of entry ticket for 2015

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

Other programmes of interest for Bosnia and Herzegovina in the future include for example Consumer and Health for Growth.

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

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

The 2014 Progress Report for Bosnia and Herzegovina (chapter 1.3 Relations between the EU and Bosnia and Herzegovina, page 6) also makes specific reference to EU programmes: ‘Bosnia and Herzegovina participates in the following EU programmes: the Seventh research framework programme, Culture and Europe for Citizens. Bosnia and Herzegovina has also recently concluded or is in the process of concluding new agreements for a number of programmes, including: Horizon 2020, Creative Europe, Customs, Fiscalis and Erasmus+.

The Report (chapter 4.1. Internal market - 4.1.9 Education and Research) further notes that there was little progress in the area of education and culture and limited progress in the area of research and innovation. However, the recent signing of new agreements for participation in programmes is an important step. Regarding FP7 participation, ‘there was no increase in the level of participation to the EU framework programme for research.’ Participation in Erasmus+ as well as Horizon 2020 will contribute to addressing the issue outlined in the Progress Report. The same is for other areas, where participation in EU programmes can contribute to advancement in the specific areas as far as European integration is concerned.

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

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

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

## SECTOR APPROACH ASSESSMENT

Not applicable.

## LESSONS LEARNED AND LINK TO PREVIOUS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

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

Furthermore IPA 2011 will co-finance the entry tickets for 2014 for Creative Europe programme and Erasmus+ programme partial participation, and it is expected that IPA 2012 will co-finance the entry tickets for 2014 and 2015 for Europe for Citizens programme and for 2015 for Customs 2020 programme, as well as for Fiscalis 2020.

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

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

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

From January 2011, when Bosnia and Herzegovina became a member of *Culture* programme, substantial number of projects with the participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina's stakeholders was approved. From July 2012, when Bosnia and Herzegovina became a member of *Europe for Citizens* programme, substantial number of projects with the participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina's stakeholders was approved and funding received. In spite of joining the programme in its last year, similar results were achieved for the *MEDIA 2007* programme which Bosnia and Herzegovina joined in July 2013. Bosnia and Herzegovina also noted successful participation and substantial funding received in the Youth in Action programme actions open to the country. Some participation in individual Lifelong Learning programme projects was also noted.

The first programme that Bosnia and Herzegovina joined was the 7<sup>th</sup> *Framework Programme*. Prior to joining, as the non-associated country, Bosnia and Herzegovina succeeded to get EUR 2.7 million in grants for the projects approved. Some 280 applications were submitted and further EUR 3.06 million received for 34 approved projects under FP7 until May 2014. There is therefore a "critical mass" research community in Bosnia and Herzegovina that will continue actively participating in Horizon 2020 and using funds from the EU RTD Programmes and thus continue strengthening its research and innovation activities.

As regards other programmes Bosnia and Herzegovina is interested in joining and has yet to become their member, Bosnia and Herzegovina has no experience in projects submission or programme utilisation. However, there have been info days and seminars on specific and EU programmes in general for different stakeholders (for potential applicants and for government institutions at different levels) organised, which showed that there is a great interest among stakeholders for respective programmes.

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

## **2. INTERVENTION LOGIC**

### **Objective:**

- To ensure participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in European Union Programmes by co-financing the costs of the entry-tickets/participation fees to be paid in areas such as Culture and audio-visual activities, Education, Citizenship and civil society, Customs and fiscal policies, as well as Competitiveness of enterprises and SMEs.

### **Result:**

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

### **Indicators:**

- Number of programmes for which an International Agreement has been concluded
- Bosnia and Herzegovina's participation rates in the respective European Union Programmes, such as Creative Europe, Europe for Citizens, Erasmus+, Customs 2020, Fiscalis 2020, COSME are increasing each year and in terms of co-financing of projects Bosnia and Herzegovina annually receives equal or greater amount than the one paid for the entry ticket.

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

## **3. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS**

### **IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES**

IPA funds will co-finance entry tickets for Bosnia and Herzegovina's participation for selected EU programmes. Normally, IPA funds of year N will co-finance entry tickets/participation fees for year N+1 or also for years N+1 and N+2 (e.g. IPA 2014 could co-finance 2015-2016 fees).

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

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

Responsible line Ministries/institutions for individual programmes will monitor Bosnia and Herzegovina's participation in the concerned EU programmes. Bosnia and Herzegovina's participation will be supported through the contact points or programme coordinators established in Bosnia and Herzegovina and their activities.

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

In case of delayed participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the above listed programmes, the allocated funds can co-finance entry tickets for the following years to those specified. In addition, in the event that certain savings/left-overs from the allocated funds under this Action arise within the contracting deadline of the IPA 2014, the co-financing of entry tickets of other EU Programmes Bosnia and Herzegovina is ready to participate in, and/or support to preparatory/accompanying measures, might be covered by this Action.

#### 4. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

##### INDICATOR MEASUREMENT

Indicator	Description	Baseline (year)	Last available (year)	Milestone 2017	Target 2020	Source of information
Action Outcome Indicator 1 Number of EU Programmes	• Number of programmes for which an International Agreement has been concluded	Baseline 2010 1	Data 2013 4	7	9	-Progress Report - Bosnia and Herzegovina institutions reports -DG Reports
Action Outcome Indicator 2 Participation Rates in EU Programmes : - Creative Europe - Europe for Citizens - Erasmus+ - Customs 2020 - Fiscalis 2020 - COSME	• Bosnia and Herzegovina's participation rates in the respective European Union Programmes are increasing each year	N/A	N/A	- Number of applications and approved projects/people trained/activities performed increased by 25% compared to year one of participation - Funding received annually equals or exceeds the entry ticket	- Number of applications and approved projects/people trained/activities performed increased by 40% compared to year one of participation  - Funding received annually equals or exceeds the entry ticket	DG Reports  DG Reports



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

Not applicable

## **6. SUSTAINABILITY**

Not applicable

## **7. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY**

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

The Project visibility activities will be undertaken according to the specific project activities implemented, in line with the EU visibility and communication rules and requirements.

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

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

The EU programmes will be made visible through coordinators and contact points for respective EU programmes.