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About the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)

Pre-accession assistance is an investment in the future of the EU, making Europe safer and more prosperous by supporting the stability and prosperity of our closest neighbours. IPA creates incentives for EU future members to work on the transformation of their societies, legal systems and economies.

IPA 2007–2013

With over EUR 11 billion of funding committed from 2007 to 2013, IPA has already contributed significantly to reforms in the enlargement countries. At the same time, the funds help the EU reach its own objectives for a sus-

tainable economic recovery, the environment and climate change, transport, and energy supply etc.

IPA II 2014–2020

IPA continues the process in order to:

- Increase good governance and capacity building to align with EU laws and standards;
- Support socio-economic development in line with the EU 2020 targets for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

EU Enlargement

EU pre-accession funds support concrete democratic and economic reforms in the Western Balkans and Turkey: from modernisation of the judiciary and public administration, to investments in infrastructure and connectivity between the enlargement countries and with the EU Member States. This will further strengthen the region's stability, its economy and its investment potential, to the benefit of the citizens.



Johannes Hahn
Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations

Where do we stand?

Croatia is the most recent Member State, having joined the European Union in 2013.

The EU enlargement agenda currently covers the Western Balkans and Turkey.

The countries are at different stages of the process. Before joining, they must meet all political and economic conditions and align their legislation with EU law.

For more information:
ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement

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European Commission

An investment in Europe

An investment in rule of law



Instrument for
Pre-accession Assistance

Enlargement
Negotiations





The Iliria ship is one of eight new vessels providing peace and security in the Adriatic

Rule of law

Supporting the rule of law is key for citizens, businesses, state institutions and the economy as a whole. This is relevant not only in the enlargement countries but also in EU Member States. Establishing robust and professional law enforcement and judicial bodies, independent and free from external influence, is instrumental in effectively fighting any form of organised crime and dealing with border management, security threats, and increasing irregular migration flows.

An investment in rule of law

In view of EU membership, the enlargement countries will need to establish a convincing track record of fighting organised crime and corruption. They will need a justice system punishing wrongdoers, independently of their professional background, and avoiding impunity. Additionally, effective cooperation mechanisms for border management and coordination of asylum and migration policies are becoming

more and more important given the increasing security challenges the enlargement countries are facing.

In this respect, the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) supports these countries in taking action, enhancing operational cooperation on a wide range of topics related to justice and home affairs, as well as the establishment of proper control systems to enhance security in the region.

Albania – Safer borders

Security along the Adriatic Sea contributes to freedom and safety in Europe and the enlargement region. Funded under IPA, the project “Support to Blue Border Management” provided training and supplied eight vessels to the Border Police and the Coast Guard responsible for border checks and border surveillance at maritime borders.



Safer Europe

New technological devices such as video monitoring systems at the main border crossing points and inland customs offices, and new monitoring technology for detection and surveillance across ports of entry have also been supplied. This enables a more effective fight against human trafficking and the smuggling of illicit commodities destined for the Albanian and the EU markets. The neighbouring countries benefit from the improvements in justice, freedom and security, together with Albania.

Western Balkans – Delivering results



The European Union is helping the Western Balkans take action in the fight against organised crime and corruption. The project “Strengthening the Prosecutors’ Network” helps increase cooperation among prosecutors in the region and supports joint investigations in international crime cases. This results in more effective cross-border cooperation. The impact of the project was felt across the region when special police forces from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia carried out the operation “Šetač” (the walker). Hailed as

the best joint operation to date in media reports, it delivered a blow to the structures of drug mafia operating in these countries.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – Secure police communication

The digital radio communication system provided to the Ministry of Interior offers secure and reliable communication between police services. Its similarity to the communication systems already in use in Member States will also facilitate the exchange of information with EU countries.

Through this project, the Ministry of Interior acquired a sophisticated radio digital communication system which offers possibilities for further extension, as well as the prospect for including additional emergency services, such as ambulances and fire brigades.