

Project Fiche – IPA National programmes / Component I

1 IDENTIFICATION

Project Title	Participation in Union programmes and Agencies
CRIS Decision number	2012/022-989, 2013/024-109
Project no.	12
MIPD Sector Code	9. Support and other activities
ELARG Statistical code	04-65
DAC Sector code	32182 11110 11182 15140 13081
Total cost	2012: EUR 2,000,000 2013: EUR 8,235,000 TOTAL: EUR 10,235,000
EU contribution	2012: EUR 1,340,000 2013: EUR 6,468,250 TOTAL: EUR 7,808,250
Management mode	Decentralised
Responsible Unit or National Authority/Implementing Agency	The National Fund is responsible for the allowed pre-accession financial assistance share of the contribution to be paid by the country to participate in Union programmes and Agencies.
Implementation management	Secretariat for European affairs, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, and other potential beneficiaries of the new Union Programmes for the period 2014-2020
Implementing modality	Stand alone project
Project implementation type	"Entry tickets"
Zone benefiting from the action(s)	Nationwide

2 RATIONALE

2.1 PROJECT CONTEXT: ISSUES TO BE TACKLED AND NEEDS ADDRESSED

2.2 LINK WITH MIPD AND NATIONAL SECTOR STRATEGIES

The MIPD 2011-2013 identifies the need for support to participate in Union Programmes and Agencies and recalls the need for a selective and gradual approach. As participation in Union programmes can entail sizeable expenditure for a partner country, IPA support may be used to prepare for participation and to co-finance the costs. Conditions for participation in programmes and agencies for the period 2014-2020 will be laid down in future Country Strategy Paper expected to be adopted in 2013.

2.3 LINK WITH ACCESSION PARTNERSHIP (AP)/EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP (EP)/ STABILISATION AND ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT (SAA)/ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

The European Partnership underlines the importance to strengthen the research and technological development capacity in order to ensure successful participation in the EU Research Framework Programme. There is also a strong link to the SAA as there is the Protocol on participation in Union Programmes attached to it. The NPAA outlines as one of its priorities the participation in Union Programmes and Agencies.

2.4 PROBLEM ANALYSIS

On the basis of Association Council decisions or Framework Agreements, candidate countries may participate in certain European Union programmes and agencies. The EU agreed in the Thessaloniki Agenda to open participation in Community Programmes up to the Western Balkan countries, following the approach used in the past for candidate countries. The Commission proposed concrete steps in its Communication of 3 December 2003, underlining the need for a selective and gradual approach. This is expected to remain unchanged and the new Union Programmes 2014-2020 shall be gradually open to the participation of the Western Balkan countries.

Pre-accession financial assistance can be used to help a candidate country to meet part of the costs of participation in those programmes and agencies, on the basis of an increasing contribution from the Candidate Country. The Union's grant assistance is made available each year for the country so as to co-finance the financial contribution to be paid to participate in the Union Programmes and Agencies in the following year, and depending on the availability of funds, in the subsequent years too.

The project fiche entails the Union's support for the country's expected participation in the Union Programmes and Agencies listed for the years 2014 and 2015. Given the current implementation dynamics, it is estimated that the entry tickets for the Union Programmes and Agencies for the period until 2013, including some 2014 ones, will be covered by the previous IPA project fiches (programming years 2010 and 2011). Hence, this project fiche is expected to likewise cover payments for the next IPA programming period.

Depending on the available resources and capacities, as well as the results of the country's participation in current Union Programmes and Agencies, the country may opt at a later stage to participate in other Union Programmes and Agencies for which it is eligible.

The participation of the beneficiary in Union Programmes follows specific terms and conditions set out for each such programme in a so called Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Such MoUs have already been concluded until the year 2013 (between the country and the Commission) with regards to the following programmes: Seventh Framework Programme (FP7); PROGRESS; CIP – EIP; CIP - IEE; Culture programme; Europe for Citizens; Customs 2013; Fiscalis 2013, and Civil Protection Mechanism and Financial instrument. Should the European Union decide to extend the duration without any substantial change within a given Programme, the Memorandum would also be extended automatically as of 2014.

Prior to the participation in the Union Programmes on Lifelong Learning and Youth in Action a National Agency for managing these programmes has been established in the first quarter of 2008, although it was under suspension during 2009 and 2011. There is an ongoing process of preparatory measures supported by the EU directed towards strengthening the capacity of the Agency in order to better comply with the requirements arising from the participation in the

programmes. For the years 2012 and 2013 the country will participate in the centralised actions of Lifelong Learning and Youth in Action.

The country has agreed to gradually participate in all Union Agencies opened to candidate countries. Back in 2007 the beneficiary expressed interest for participation in the European Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and a roadmap was set finalising its participation by the first quarter of 2011. Also, the country has been participating as an observer with the European Environmental Agency (EEA), European Food Protection Authority (EFSA), European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) and European Medicines Agency (EMA).

2.5 LESSONS LEARNED

Experience from the enlargement context, shows that successful participation in Union Programmes and Agencies requires a high degree of ownership and initiative by the beneficiary. Proactive involvement by the beneficiary in gathering the necessary information on programmes, procedures and working methods as well as in establishing networks and structures and informing the public are essential in order to reap the benefits of participation in programmes and agencies.

The lessons generated from the country's participation in the Union Programmes and Agencies and from the use of IPA funds for co-financing of the entry tickets thus far evidence good progress. As a result, all entry funds have been contracted in the framework of the respective project fiches for the 2007 and 2008 programming years. Regarding allocations foreseen under the IPA 2009 National Programme it is also expected all funds to be contracted by the end of 2012.

In terms of more specific lessons learned, it can be observed that the country's participation in 7th Framework Programme for research yielded especially substantial results for the period 2007 – 2012, despite the little national research capacity. Out of 400 applications sent, 70 were successful. The total sum of national projects amounts to approx. 10 million EUR (while entry tickets paid 5.4 million EUR). In this respect, the country has worked seriously on the awareness raising activities, promotion and dissemination of information about the opportunities offered within the FP 7.

The experience so far has also pinpointed the need for coupling the general information, with targeted attention for enhancing the knowledge related to the particular calls, financial and legal issues, project preparation and management and, very important, further enhancement of the participation of small and medium size enterprises.

The overall highly positive results though have at times been shadowed by unfortunate occurrence of off-setting operations by the Commission due to late payments. These situations jeopardise the implementation of the activities within the Programmes and cause delay in their execution. Hence, the experience has shown that tight cooperation between the line ministries is required in order to speed up the process of resolving off setting. Against this background it is thus very important, that the country continuous to develop a good sense and plan of the overall activities to be followed.

3 DESCRIPTION

3.1 OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

The overall objective of the project is to give support to the country to participate in Union Programmes and Agencies.

3.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE(S) OF THE PROJECT

The purpose of the project is to co-finance the costs of the "entry-tickets" which the beneficiary has to pay for the participation in Union Programmes and Agencies, and, by those means, to facilitate the progressive transfer of know-how and the strengthening of capacities of the relevant administrative bodies benefiting from the participation in Programmes and Agencies.

3.3 RESULTS

The project implementation shall generate the following results:

- The beneficiary participates in the Programmes and Agencies as indicatively listed below (see 3.4 Activities) fully in line with the provisions outlined in the respective MoUs.

The measurable indicators include:

- Number of participants in Union Programmes per sector/region/gender relative to the respective costs (and relative to entry ticket);
- Number of projects proposed for financing and;
- Number of projects selected relative to the respective costs (and to the entry ticket);
- Comparison of these indicators with past experience and other beneficiaries.

Qualitative assessment of the beneficiary's participation in Union Programmes and Agencies will be done through the evaluation reports provided by the respective line DGs responsible for the management of a specific programme.

3.4 MAIN ACTIVITIES

The aim is to co-finance the participation of the beneficiary in, inter alia, the following indicative list of Union Programmes and Agencies for the years 2014 and 2015, subject to the adoption of the (new) Programmes by the Commission for the period 2014-2020 and the signature of relevant Memorandums of Understanding:

Union Programmes

- Horizon 2020;
- PROGRESS;
- COSME (Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs);
- Europe for Citizens;
- Creative Europe;
- Fiscalis;
- Customs;
- Public Health;
- Civil Protection Mechanism and Civil Protection Financial Instrument;
- Erasmus for all
- Safer Internet Programme.

Union Agencies:

- European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA);
- European Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA);
- European Environmental Agency (EEA).

The specific conditions and exact total financial allocation to be paid by the beneficiary for participating in Union Programmes and Agencies will be determined in the relevant MoU signed between the beneficiary and the respective line DG, following the adoption by the Commission of the necessary legal acts for each programme for the period 2014-2020.

The EU's contribution to the entry ticket will be negotiated between the beneficiary and DG ELARG, normally before the MoU is signed. An indicative amount is already given in the Indicative Budget Section of this fiche, following estimations made by the beneficiary based on current calculation methods and informal contacts with some DGs.

The contracting arrangements are as follows:

The various Commission services responsible for the different programmes will send to the Mission of the country to the EU a request for the total financial contribution for the participation in a given programme or agency ("call for funds"). The country shall pay its total contribution to each programme ("entry ticket") within the deadline requested in the call for funds. The National Fund should check the total amount to be paid and then transfer it to the Commission, quoting the reference number indicated in the call for funds for the programme concerned, and send simultaneously a copy of the payment proof to the relevant Commission service.

Following the entry into force of the Financial Agreement and completed payment of the financial contribution ("entry-ticket"), the National Fund will request from the Commission the reimbursement of the amount of financial assistance indicated in section 3 above. Under decentralised management, the funds will be channelled by the Commission through the National Fund.

3.5 ASSESSMENT OF PROJECT IMPACT, CATALYTIC EFFECT AND CROSS BORDER IMPACT (WHERE APPLICABLE)

The impact of the project will be manifold, reflecting the diversity of the listed Union Programmes and Agencies in which the country intends to participate. The aim and supported activities of each programme can be found on the European Union's internet homepage.

It can be said that participation in Union Programmes and Agencies is expected to support the country's efforts towards faster integration and cohesion by facilitating transfer of know how and good practices, in particularly in those areas which are key reference points for the reform process. It is expected that the projects implemented will enhance public awareness and information on the EU. It will allow citizens, companies and national administrations of candidate countries to join in co-operation and exchange networks in very different areas covered by Union Programmes and thus benefit from experiences of other partners.

Clearly, the expected impact of participating in Union Programmes and Agencies as outlined above will most likely generate a series of positive catalytic effects. For instance, enlarged personal or institutional networks also enlarge the scope for follow-up activities and offers access to an increased information market. In cases of transfer of know-how and best

practices, especially in more innovative areas, positive spill over effects can be expected (i.e. improved X-efficiency) thus multiplying the value added of the initial output. Knowing that neighbouring countries participate in the same Union Programmes, good practices can be exchanged and joint project-initiatives can be supported.

3.6 SUSTAINABILITY

N/A

3.7 ASSUMPTIONS AND PRE-CONDITIONS¹

Co-financing of entry tickets for participation in Union Programmes will only be processed once new Programmes' legal framework will have been adopted by the Commission in 2013 and a respective MoU between the Commission and the beneficiary signed.

Lifelong Learning and Youth in Action programmes are reopened and the relevant national agency is now fully operational after decision by DG EAC on lifting the suspension in 2012.

With regard to participation in Union Agencies, the following conditionality is to be added: each Agency will assess whether the country is ready to participate as an observer, following the country's involvement in preparatory actions. Prior to its full participation as observer, the country may use the funds to cover its costs for participation in those actions.

4 IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

The various Commission services responsible for the different programmes will send to the Mission of the country to the EU a request for the total financial contribution for the participation in a given programme or agency ("call for funds"). The country shall pay its total contribution to each programme ("entry ticket") within the deadline requested in the call for funds. The National Fund should check the total amount to be paid and then transfer it to the Commission, quoting the reference number indicated in the call for funds for the programme concerned, and send simultaneously a copy of the payment proof to the relevant Commission service.

Following the entry into force of the Financial Agreement and completed payment of the financial contribution ("entry-ticket"), the National Fund will request from the Commission the reimbursement of the amount of financial assistance indicated in section 3 above. These funds must be used to cover the EU share of the financial contribution to be paid by the country to participate in the different programmes and agencies. Under Decentralised management, the funds will be channelled by the Commission through the National Fund.

¹ Assumptions are external factors that have the potential to influence (or even determine) the success of a project but lie outside the control of the implementation managers. Such factors are sometimes referred to as risks or assumptions but the Commission requires that all risks shall be expressed as assumptions. Pre-conditions are requirements that must be met before the sector support can start.

4.1 INDICATIVE BUDGET

Indicative Programme budget 2012 (amounts in EUR)

TITLE					SOURCES OF FUNDING								
			TOTAL EXPENDITURE	TOTAL PUBLIC EXPENDITURE	IPA CONTRIBUTION		NATIONAL PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION			PRIVATE CONTRIBUTION			
	IB (1)	INV (1)	EUR (a)=(b)+(e)	EUR (b)=(c)+(d)	EUR (c)	% (2)	Total EUR (d)=(x)+(y)+(z)	% (2)	Central EUR (x)	Regional/Local EUR (y)	IFIs EUR (z)	EUR (e)	% (3)
UP entry tickets			2.000.000	2.000.000	1.340.000	67	660.000	33					
TOTAL IB			2.000.000	2.000.000	1.340.000	67	660.000	33					
TOTAL INV													
TOTAL PROJECT			2.000.000	2.000.000	1.340.000	67	660.000	33					

Indicative Programme budget 2013 (amounts in EUR)

Subject to the approval of the Budget 2013 by the budgetary authority

TITLE					SOURCES OF FUNDING								
			TOTAL EXPENDITURE	TOTAL PUBLIC EXPENDITURE	IPA CONTRIBUTION		NATIONAL PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION			PRIVATE CONTRIBUTION			
	IB (1)	INV (1)	EUR (a)=(b)+(e)	EUR (b)=(c)+(d)	EUR (c)	% (2)	Total EUR (d)=(x)+(y)+(z)	% (2)	Central EUR (x)	Regional/Local EUR (y)	IFIs EUR (z)	EUR (e)	% (3)
UP entry tickets			7.739.324,32	6.132.550	6.132.500	79	1.606.774,32	21					
Participation in agencies			495.000	495.000	336.600	68	158,400	32					
TOTAL IB			8.235.000	8.235.000	6.468.250	79	1.766.750	21					
TOTAL INV													
TOTAL PROJECT			8.235.000	6.468.250	6.468.250	79	1.766.750	21					

Amounts net of VAT

- (1) In the Activity row, use "X" to identify whether IB or INV
- (2) Expressed in % of the **Public** Expenditure (column (b))
- (3) Expressed in % of the **Total** Expenditure (column (a))

4.2 INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE (PERIODS BROKEN DOWN BY QUARTER)

Contracts	Payment	Reimbursement
1.1 – Horizon 2020	Q2 2014 and Q2 2015	Q4 2014 and Q4 2015
1.2 - Progress	Q2 2015	Q4 ,2015
1.3 – Cosme	Q2 2015	Q4 2015
1.4 - Europe for Citizens;	Q2 2015	Q4 2015
1.5 –Creative Europe	Q2 2015	Q4 2015
1.6 - Fiscalis	Q2 2015	Q4 2015
1.7 - Customs	Q2 2015	Q4 2015
1.8 –Public Health	Q2 2015	Q4 2015
1.9 - Civil Protection Mechanism and Civil Protection Financial Instrument	Q2 2015	Q4 2015
1.10 –Erasmus for all	Q2 2015	Q4 2015
1.11 - Safer Internet Programme	Q2 2015	Q4 2015
Agency 2.1	Q2 2015	Q4 2015
Agency 2.2	Q2 2015	Q4 2015
Agency 2.3	Q2 2015	Q4 2015

4.3 CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

4.3.1 Equal Opportunities and non discrimination

The beneficiary institution has to ensure that selection of and selection criteria for participants to Union Programmes and Agencies are based on the principle of equal treatment and non-discrimination for grounds as outlined in the European Charter of Fundamental Rights.

4.3.2 Environment and climate change

The European Union has a longstanding commitment to address environmental concerns in its assistance programmes (as part of a wider commitment to sustainable development).

4.3.3 Minorities and vulnerable groups

As regards minorities, the beneficiary has to ensure that selection of and selection criteria for participants to Union Programmes and Agencies are based on the principle of non-discrimination of minorities.

4.3.4 Civil Society/Stakeholders involvement

N/A

ANNEXES

Details per EU funded contract(*) where applicable:

The various Commission services responsible for the different programmes will send to the Mission of the country to the EU a request for the total financial contribution for the participation in a given programme or agency (“call for funds”). The country shall pay its total contribution to each programme (“entry ticket”) within the deadline requested in the call for funds. The National Fund should check the total amount to be paid and then transfer it to the Commission, quoting the reference number indicated in the call for funds for the programme concerned, and send simultaneously a copy of the payment proof to the relevant Commission service.

Following the entry into force of the Financial Agreement and completed payment of the financial contribution ("entry-ticket"), the National Fund will request from the Commission the reimbursement of the amount of financial assistance indicated in section 3 above. These funds must be used to cover the EU share of the financial contribution to be paid by the country to participate in the different programmes and agencies. Under Decentralised management, the funds will be channelled by the Commission through the National Fund.

ANNEX 1: Logical framework matrix in standard format

LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR Participate in Union Programmes and Agencies Project Fiche	Programme name and number			
	Contracting period expires two years from the date of the conclusion of the Financing Agreement	Disbursement period expires one year from the final date for execution of contracts		
	Total budget : Year 2012 EUR 2.000.000 Year 2013 EUR 8.235.000	IPA budget: EUR 1.340.000 EUR 6.468.250		
Overall objective	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification		
The overall objective of the project is to give support to the beneficiary to participate in Union Programmes and Agencies.	N/A	Number of MoU's signed.		
Specific objectives	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification		Assumptions
The purpose of the project is to co-finance the costs of the "entry tickets" which the beneficiary has to pay for participating in Union Programmes and Agencies.	Payment to the beneficiary in order to co-finance the various entry tickets	- Number of MoUs signed; - Number of applications submitted.		New programmes are adopted by the Commission and MoUs are signed
Results	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification		Assumptions
- The beneficiary participates in the Union Programmes and Agencies as outlined in the Project Fiche; - To achieve appropriate participation in the Union Programmes and Agencies in line with the provisions outlined in the respective MoUs.	- The ratio of number of UP & A the beneficiary participates in to those mentioned in the indicative list; - Number of persons participating in UP; - Number of persons participating in UP per sector/region/gender relative to the respective costs (and to entry ticket); - Number of projects proposed; - Number of projects selected relative to the respective costs (and to entry ticket); - Comparison of these indicators with past experience and other beneficiaries. -	- Number of MoUs signed; - Number of applications for participation submitted; - Evaluation reports provided by the respective line DGs responsible for the management of a specific programme.		- The respective MoUs are signed in time and the beneficiary is paying the entry ticket; - Government commitment for participation in UP&A.
Activities	Means	Costs		Assumptions
To co-finance the participation of the beneficiary in the following indicative list of Union Programmes:		IPA funds 2012	IPA funds 2013 (estimated amounts)	The respective MoUs are signed in time and the beneficiary is paying the entry ticket.
Horizon 2020 (2014 and 2015 entry tickets)	Grant with the beneficiary	1.340.000	1.584.000	
COSME (2015)	Grant with the beneficiary	-	458.300	

Europe for Citizens (2015)	Grant with the beneficiary	-	12.600
Creative Europe (, 2015)	Grant with the beneficiary	-	23.800
Fiscalis (2015)	Grant with the beneficiary	-	26.400
Customs (2015)	Grant with the beneficiary	-	33.000
Civil Protection Mechanism and Civil Protection Financial Instrument (2015)	Grant with the beneficiary	-	26.250
Erasmus for all (2015)	Grant with the beneficiary	-	3.560.000
Safer Internet Programme (2015)	Grant with the beneficiary	-	90.000
European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (, 2015)	Grant with the beneficiary	-	72.600
European Fundamental Rights Agency (, 2015)	Grant with the beneficiary	-	115.500
European Environment Agency (, 2015)	Grant with the beneficiary	-	25.000