

**Project fiche: Support for participation to Community Programmes**

**1. BASIC INFORMATION**

**1.1 CRIS Number:** 2008/020-116

**1.2 Title:** Support for participation to Community Programmes

**1.3 ELARG Statistical code:** 04.65

**1.4 Location:** Republic of Albania

**Implementing arrangements:**

**1.5 Contracting Authority**

Delegation of the European Commission to Albania

**1.6 Implementing agency**

Delegation of the European Commission to Albania on behalf of the Albanian Government

**1.7 Beneficiary (including details of project manager):**

The beneficiaries are governmental institutions (ministries) which are in charge of the coordination of the selected Community Programmes and the *Ministry of European Integration, which is in charge of the overall coordination of the community programmes.*

Project Manager: Patris Hida – Kraja, Director, Department of Institutional Support to the Integration Process,

Address: Ministry of Integration, Rruga Lek Dukagjini 3, Tirana

Tel: +355 4 2225 399, Fax: +355 4 2256 267, Email: [patris.kraja@mie.gov.al](mailto:patris.kraja@mie.gov.al)

pkraja74@gmail.com, Website: [www.mie.gov.al](http://www.mie.gov.al)

**1.8 Overall costs (VAT excluded)<sup>1</sup>:** EUR 1,430,470.00

**1.9 EU contribution:** EUR 1.300 000

**1.10 Final date for contracting:**

Three years following the date of the conclusion of the Financing Agreement.

**1.11 Final date for execution of contracts:**

---

<sup>1</sup> The total costs of the project should be net of VAT and/or other taxes. Should this not be the case, the amount of VAT and the reasons why it should be considered eligible should be clearly indicated.

Two years following the end date of contracting. These dates apply also to national co-financing.

#### **1.12 Final date for disbursements:**

One year following the end date for the execution of contracts.

## **2. Overall Objective and Project Purpose**

### **2.1 Overall Objective**

The overall objective of Albania's participation in Community programmes is to support Albania's efforts towards European integration by facilitating transfer of know-how and good practices, particularly in those areas of the *acquis* that serve as key reference points for its reform process, and to help Albania and its citizens to familiarise themselves with the Union's policies and working methods.

### **2.2 Project purpose**

The purpose of the project is (1) to co-finance the costs of the "entry-tickets" which the beneficiary country has to pay for the participation in the Community Programmes, and (2) to strengthen the capacity of the relevant administrative bodies to ensure proper participation of the beneficiary in Community Programmes.

### **2.3 Link with NPAA / EP / SAA**

Link with EP

The European Partnership underlines the importance to promote and to strengthen the regional cooperation in the research and technological, in education and training system field, in order to ensure successful participation in the Community Programmes.

Link with SAA

There is also a link to the SAA on participation in Community Programmes. Article 100: Education and training (3) The relevant Community programmes and instruments shall contribute to the upgrading of educational and training structures and activities in Albania.(4).Cooperation shall take due account of priority areas related to the Community *acquis* in this field.

Article109: Cooperation in Research and Technological Development (2) Cooperation shall take due account of the priority areas related to the Community *acquis* in the field of research and technical development.

Link with NPAA

Not applicable.

### **2.4 Link with MIPD**

The MIPD identifies as a priority area of intervention support participation in Community Programmes and recalls the need for a selective and gradual approach. As participation in Community programmes can entail sizeable expenditure for a partner country, IPA support may be used to prepare for participation and to co-finance the costs.

## **2.5 Link with National Development Plan (where applicable)**

Not applicable.

## **2.6 Link with national / sectoral investment plans (where applicable)**

Not applicable.

## **3. Description of project**

### **3.1 Background and justification:**

With the prospect of enlargement of the European Union, in order to better prepare the candidate countries for adoption of *acquis communautaire* and for accession in the Union, the European Commission had proposed in 1997 the progressive opening-up to the candidate countries of a broad range of Community programmes. Encompassing most Community policies, these programmes are a major pre-accession instrument that familiarises the candidate countries and their citizens with the European Union policies and working methods.

The EU agreed in the Thessaloniki Agenda to open participation in Community Programmes 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<sup>2</sup>, underlining the need for a selective and gradual approach.

Further to the Thessaloniki Agenda for the Western Balkans and in line with its Communication “Preparing for the participation of the Western Balkan countries in Community programmes and agencies”<sup>3</sup> the Commission negotiated respective Framework Agreements with the beneficiaries. Consequently, EU funds may be used to prepare for participation and to co-finance the costs.

These agreements were signed on 22 November 2004, on the occasion of the EU Western Balkans Forum, assent was then given by the European Parliament on 10 May 2005 and, finally, Council proceeded with the conclusion of the agreements on 2 June 2005<sup>4</sup>. The Framework Agreement has been ratified by the Parliament of the Republic of Albania by the law No. 9404 on 19 May 2005 and finally entered into force in June 2005.

The beneficiary has expressed its interest to participate, in the following Community Programmes in:

### Community Programmes

---

<sup>2</sup> Communication of the Commission “Preparing for the participation of the Western Balkan countries in Community programmes and agencies” [COM (2003) 748 of 3.12.03] – accessible on the internet at: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/see/docs/com03\\_748\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/see/docs/com03_748_en.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> COM(2003) 748 final of 03/12/2003

<sup>4</sup> The Council decisions and the framework agreements have been published in the Official Journal *OJ L 192 of 22.07.2005*

- 7-th Research Framework Programme
- Competition and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP)
  - CIP- Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (CIP-EIP)
  - CIP- Intelligent Energy- Europe (CIP-IEE)
- Citizens for Europe

Under CARDS funds were made available to co-finance the financial contribution for the participation in Community Programmes. Thus, CARDS 2005 and 2006 funds are being used to pay the entry tickets for the first years of participating in CPs and when possible for the following participating years.

The participation of the beneficiary in Community Programmes follows specific terms and conditions set out for each such programme in a so called Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). *Such a MoU has already been concluded (by the beneficiary and the Commission) with regard to the 7th Research Framework Programme.*

As regards the Community Programmes *Europe for Citizens, CIP- EIP, CIP-IEE, the signature of a MoU is planned to take place in the second and third quarter of 2008.*

### **3.2 Assessment of project impact, catalytic effect, sustainability and cross border impact (where applicable)**

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

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

These programmes can help to spread more "European feeling" among ordinary Albanian citizens; they can be suitable also to bring in Albania's assets and thus improve Albania's image in the EU. Clearly, the expected impact of participating in Community Programmes 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, we may expect positive spill over effects thus multiplying the value added of the initial output.

### **3.3 Results and measurable indicators**

#### ***Expected Results***

The project implementation shall generate the following results:

- The beneficiary participates in the selected Programmes as listed below

- Appropriate participation in the Community Programmes fully in line with the provisions outlined in the respective MoUs.

### ***Measurable Indicators***

The measurable indicators include:

- The ratio of number of Community Programmes the beneficiary participates in to those mentioned in the indicative list;
- Number of persons participating in Community Programmes;
- Number of persons participating in Community Programmes relative to the respective costs (and relative to entry ticket);
- Number of projects;
- Number of projects relative to the respective costs (and relative to entry ticket);
- Comparison of these indicators with past experience and other beneficiaries.

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

### **3.4 Activities:**

The aim is to co-finance the participation of the beneficiary in, inter alia, the selected Community Programmes in 2009 and, depending on the availability of funds, in subsequent years:<sup>5</sup>

For each programme, the Commission will conclude a Memorandum of Understanding with the beneficiary country wishing to take part in the programme. The Memorandum of Understanding lay down the rules governing participation, in particular the administrative capacities required, the planned financial contribution, the mechanism for taking part in the management of the programme and the financial control provisions. The exact financial allocation to be paid by the beneficiary for participating in Community Programmes and Agencies are determined in the relevant MoU signed between the beneficiary and the respective line DG. The EU's contribution to the entry ticket will be negotiated between the beneficiary and respective line DG , normally before the MoU is signed.

The participation of the beneficiary in Community Programmes shall follow the specific terms and conditions set out for each such programme in the MoU.

**The contracting arrangements** are as follows:

Following the signature of the MoU and following a request by the beneficiary, the Commission signs one or more grant contracts with the beneficiary over the co-financing amount. All contracting and payments are expected to be done 2009 and 2010.

Main activities are the following:

---

<sup>5</sup> Where appropriate and depending on the availability of funds the participation in Community Programmes other than those mentioned in the indicative list may be supported.

- Ministry of European Integration and respective ministries to be prepared for Albanian involvement in Community Programmes;
- Participation in Community Programmes advertised to target groups
- Possible contribution made towards Albanian participation in selected Programmes through grant agreements with the beneficiary
- Technical assistance
- Training and study visits

### **3.5 Conditionality and sequencing:**

The main conditionality is signature and ratification of the Memorandum of Understanding on participation in selected Community Programmes between the European Commission and the Government of Albania which is precondition for participation.

The responsible line ministries must ensure co-financing for entry ticket in order to sign the MoU. In addition, potential applicants should provide co-financing of projects within a specific Community Programme

### **3.6 Linked activities**

As already mentioned in point 3.1, CARDS 2005 (EUR 0.5 million) and CARDS 2006 (EUR 0.7 million), funds shall be used to pay the entry tickets for participating in Community Programmes in the first year of participation 2008 and when possible in the following years.. IPA 2007 has not envisaged any financing for covering the entry tickets for participation in CP and financing technical assistance activities.

### **3.7 Lessons learned**

The beneficiary currently has little familiarity with participating in Community Programmes. Experience from the enlargement context, shows that successful participation in Community Programmes requires a high degree of ownership and initiative by the beneficiary. Active 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. Against this background it is thus very important, that the beneficiary continuous to develop a good sense and plan of the overall activities to be followed. As the participation of Albania in Community programmes is also a test for the seriousness of its EU integration efforts / ambitions in general, the Albanian institutions which will manage the programmes should show maximum dedication and determination to implement their activities to the full satisfaction of the EU Commission.

#### 4. Indicative Budget (amounts in €)

			SOURCES OF FUNDING									
			TOTAL EXP.RE	IPA COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION		NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION					PRIVATE CONTRIBUTION	
ACTIVITIES	IB (1)	INV (1)	EUR (a)=(b)+(c)+(d)	EUR (b)	%(2)	Total EUR (c)=(x)+(y)+(z)	% (2)	Central EUR (x)	Regional/Local EUR (y)	IFIs EUR (z)	EUR (d)	%(2)
Activity 1 Selected Community Programmes	1,430,470		1,430,470	1,300,000	90.0 %	130,470.00	10%					
contract 1.1 Entry Ticket for selected community programmes	1,264,685		1,264,685	1,134,215	89.6 %	130,470.00	10.4 %					
FP7 (2009)			774.000	696.600	90.0 %	77.400	10.0 %					
CIP- EIP (2009)			42.124	37.910	90.0 %	4.214	10.0 %					
CIP- EIP (2010)			48.561	43.705	90.0 %	4.856	10.0 %					
CIP- IEE (2009)			190.000	171.000	90.0 %	19.000	10.0 %					
CIP- IEE (2010)			190.000	171.000	90.0 %	19.000	10.0 %					

Europe for Citizens (2009)			20.000	14.000	70.0 %	6.000	30.0 %					
contract 1.2 Technical Assistance	165,785		165,785	165,785	100	0.00	0%					-
												-
TOTAL IB			1,430,470	1,300,000	90.0 %	130,470.00	10%					
TOTAL INV												
TOTAL PROJECT			1,430,470.	1,300,000	90.0 %	130,470.00	10%					

**NOTE: DO NOT MIX IB AND INV IN THE SAME ACTIVITY ROW. USE SEPARATE ROW**

Amounts net of VAT

(1) In the Activity row use "X" to identify whether IB or INV

(2) Expressed in % of the **Total** Expenditure (column (a))



## 5. Indicative Implementation Schedule (periods broken down per quarter)<sup>6</sup>

Not applicable

Contracts	Start of Tendering	Signature of contract	Project Completion
Contract 1.1	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2009	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2010	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2012
Contract 1.2	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2009	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2010	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2012

All projects should in principle be ready for tendering in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2009 following the signature of the FA

Project duration is 2 years for both grant agreements and provision of technical assistance including provision of training and carrying out of study visits.

## 6. Cross cutting issues

### 6.1 Equal opportunity

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

### 6.2 Environment

The European Community has a longstanding commitment to address environmental concerns in its assistance programmes (as part of a wider commitment to sustainable development). Key references include art. 6 of the Treaty and also the Cardiff process, which foresees the systematic consideration of environmental aspects in EC development cooperation and in other policies.

### 5.3 Minorities

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

---

<sup>6</sup> where T=the date of the signature of the FA and xQ equals the number (x) of quarters (Q) following T.

## **ANNEXES**

- 1- Log frame in Standard Format
- 2- Amounts contracted and Disbursed per Quarter over the full duration of Programme
- 3 - Description of the Institutional Framework
- 4- Reference to laws, regulations and strategic documents:
  - a) Reference list of relevant laws and regulations
  - b) Reference to AP /NPAA / EP / SAA
  - c) Reference to MIPD
  - d) Reference to National Development Plan
  - e) Reference to national / sectoral investment plans
- 5- Details per EU funded contract (\*) where applicable.

**ANNEX 1: Logical framework matrix in standard format**

<b>LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR Community Programmes Project Fiche</b>	Programme name and number: Participation in Community Programmes		
	Contracting period expires two years from the date of the conclusion of the Financing Agreement	Execution period expires two years from the final date for contracting	Disbursement period expires one year from the final date for execution of contracts.
		Total budget: <b>EUR 1,430,470.00</b>	IPA budget: <b>EUR 1.300.000</b>
<b>Overall objective</b>	<b>Objectively verifiable indicators</b>	<b>Sources of Verification</b>	
The overall objective of the project is to support the beneficiary country to participate in Community Programmes	Not applicable	Not applicable	
<b>Project purpose</b>	<b>Objectively verifiable indicators</b>	<b>Sources of Verification</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
The purpose of the project is (1) to co-finance the costs of the "entry-tickets" which the beneficiary country has to pay for the participation in Community Programmes, and (2) to strengthen the capacity of the relevant administrative bodies to ensure proper participation of the beneficiary in Community Programmes.	Payments to the beneficiary in order to co-finance the various entry tickets	CRIS	None
<b>Results</b>	<b>Objectively verifiable indicators</b>	<b>Sources of Verification</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The beneficiary participates in the Community Programmes as outlined in the Project Fiche.</li> <li>• To achieve appropriate participation in the Community Programmes in line with the provisions outlined in the respective MoUs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ratio of number of Community Programmes the beneficiary participates in to those mentioned in the indicative list;</li> <li>• Number of persons participating in Community Programmes;</li> <li>• Number of persons participating in Community Programmes relative to the respective costs (and relative to entry ticket);</li> <li>• Number of projects;</li> <li>• Number of projects relative to the respective costs (and relative to entry ticket);</li> <li>• Comparison of these indicators with past experience and other beneficiaries.</li> </ul>	<p>Evaluation reports provided by the respective line DGs responsible for the management of a specific programme.</p>	<p>None</p>
---	--	---	-------------

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Means</b>	<b>Costs (IPA; in EUR)</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
To co-finance the participation of the beneficiary in the selected Community Programmes:	Grant with the beneficiary	<b>1,134,215.00</b>	The respective MoUs are signed and ratified in time and the beneficiary is paying the entry ticket. Beneficiary institutions have identified their needs for technical assistance and training
<b>TOTAL(“entry tickets”)</b>	Grant with the beneficiary	<b>1,134,215.00</b>	
<b>Technical Assistance</b>	Service Contract following tendering procedure	<b>165,785.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	Grant with the beneficiary and service contract/s following tendering procedures	<b>1.300.000</b>	

**Preconditions**

Signature and ratification of the respective MoU.

**ANNEX 2: Indicative planning of the amounts contracted and disbursed by quarter for the project**

**ANNEX II**

Amounts (in €) Contracted and disbursed by quarter for the project

<b>Contracted</b>	<b>Q1 2009</b>	<b>Q2 2009</b>	<b>Q3 2009</b>	<b>Q4 2009</b>	<b>Q1 2010</b>	<b>Q2 2010</b>	<b>Q3 2010</b>	<b>Q4 2010</b>	<b>Q1 2011</b>	<b>Q2 2011</b>	<b>Q3 2011</b>	<b>Q4 2011</b>	<b>Q1 2012</b>	<b>Q2 2012</b>	<b>Q3 2012</b>	<b>Q4 2012</b>
Contract 1.1						<b>1,134,215.00</b>										
Contract 1.2						<b>165,785.00</b>										
<b>Cumulated</b>						<b>1,300,000.00</b>										
<b>Disbursed</b>																
Contract 1.1							680,529.00	226,843.00	226,843.00							
Contract 1.2						99,471.00		66,314.00								
<b>Cumulated</b>						<b>99,471.00</b>	<b>780,000.00</b>	<b>1,073,157.00</b>	<b>1,300,000.00</b>							



### **ANNEX 3: Description of the Institutional Framework:**

A reform of the search system is underway which will closely link the existing research institutes to the universities. Among the priorities of Albania are research in support to SME's, regional co-operation with the other Western Balkan countries, mobility of researchers and the development of reliable sciences and technology indicators. The ministry of education has indicated that by the end of this year a strategy on research and science will be in place for the period 2009-2013. According to a road map for this strategy among priorities will be the adoption of a new law on research and science, establishment of a Centre for Promotion of Research and Development (CPRD) and building capacities in some of the university research centres, which have been recently created by the reform of former scientific institutes of the Academy of Science.

All these will be matched with an increase in the national research funding. Recent visit of Commissioner Potocnik has certainly contributed to raising the Albanian government awareness to this regard. Currently, the research budget is quite low, (not more than 0, 17% of GDP). Government has planed for this budget to be 0, 8% in 2014 and 1% in 2017, (this is the part financed from the public budget).

Given the low level of successful applications to FP7 from Albania last year, the CPRD will assist in the implementation of the programs FP7, COST, Life, Eureka, IPA, Interreg etc., with a limited staff of 9 persons, mainly composed of NCP-s of FP7, which would also increase effectiveness in the use of FP7 funds especially for the projects ERA, ERA PLUS, INCO-NET, etc.

### **ANNEX 4: Reference to laws, regulations and strategic documents:**

#### **4.a) Reference list of relevant laws and regulations**

Not applicable.

#### **4.b) Reference to AP / NPAA / EP / SAA**

Link to AP

Not applicable.

Link with NPAA

Not applicable.

Link with EP

The European Partnership underlines the importance to promote and to strengthen the regional cooperation in the research and technological, in education and training system field, in order to ensure successful participation in the Community Programmes.

Link with SAA

There is also a link to the SAA on participation in Community Programmes. Article 100: Education and training (3) The relevant Community programmes and instruments shall contribute to the upgrading of educational and training structures and activities in Albania.(4) Cooperation shall take due account of priority areas related to the Community acquis in this field. Article109: Cooperation



in Research and Technological Development (2) Cooperation shall take due account of the priority areas related to the Community acquis in the field of research and technical development.

#### **4.c) Reference to MIPD**

The MIPD identifies as a priority area of intervention support for participation in Community Programmes and recalls the need for a selective and gradual approach. As participation in Community programmes can entail sizeable expenditure for a partner country, IPA support may be used to prepare for participation and to co-finance the costs.

#### **4.d) Reference to National Development Plan**

Not applicable

#### **4.e) Reference to national / sectoral investment plan**

Not applicable

### **ANNEX 5**

#### **Details per EU funded contract (\*) where applicable**

For *TA contracts*: account of tasks expected from the contractor:

- Ministry of European Integration and other relevant ministries will be prepared for Albanian involvement in Community Programmes. This includes enhancement of the capacities of MEI to coordinate, prioritise a plan the further involvement in Community Programmes and improvement of capacities of experts of MEI and of other ministries on Community Programmes
- Participation in Community Programmes advertised to target groups including improvement of capacities of MEI and of other relevant ministries for dissemination of information on Community Programme as well enhancement of the capacities of the national potential beneficiaries to apply within Community Programmes.

All these interventions will be accompanied with training and study visits.

N/A

For *twinning covenants*: account of tasks expected from the team leader, resident twinning advisor and short term experts

N/A

For *grants schemes*: account of components of the schemes

N/A

For *investment contracts*: reference list of feasibility study as well as technical specifications and cost price schedule + section to be filled in on investment criteria (\*\*)