

Project Fiche – IPA Multi-beneficiary programmes / Component I

1 IDENTIFICATION

Project Title	IPA 2012 Multi-beneficiary Statistical Cooperation Programme
CRIS Decision number	2012/023-625
Project no.	03
MIPD Sector Code	1. Public Administration Reform
ELARG Statistical code	03.18 - Statistics
DAC Sector code	16062
Total cost (VAT excluded)¹	EUR 10 611 111
EU contribution	EUR 10 000 000
Management mode	Centralised
	European Commission: project manager DG/ESTAT unit A6 (in sub-delegation)
Implementing modality	Stand alone project
Project Implementation Type	Service contract, direct grant
Zone benefiting from the action(s)	Western Balkans: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, as well as Kosovo * Turkey Iceland

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

¹ The total project cost should be net of VAT and/or of other taxes. Should this not be the case, clearly indicate the amount of VAT and the reasons why it is considered eligible.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 PROJECT CONTEXT: ISSUES TO BE TACKLED AND NEEDS ADDRESSED

To prepare the statistical authorities in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Iceland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, as well as Kosovo and Turkey (IPA Beneficiaries) for future EU membership by aligning their present methodologies and practices with the statistical *acquis* and integrating them into the European Statistical System.

2.2 LINK WITH MIPD AND NATIONAL SECTOR STRATEGIES

This project has been designed on the basis of the sector plan for Public Administration Reform in which statistics is a priority. The sector plan emphasises the need to harmonise the national statistical production in the Beneficiaries with the *acquis*.

The European and Accession Partnership documents, the National Programmes for the Adoption of the *Acquis* (NPAAs), where they exist as well as the Stabilisation and Association Agreements (SAAs) underline the need to further develop the statistical production in the Beneficiaries in order to provide high quality data for EU policy purposes.

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

The Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) has been set up to help Beneficiaries face the challenges of European integration, implement reforms to satisfy EU requirements in the Stabilisation and Association Process (SAP) and lay the foundations for fulfilling the Copenhagen criteria for EU membership. The principal policy documents spelling out the priorities for programming of assistance under the IPA are the Accession and European Partnership instruments, which present the European Commission's overall enlargement policy for the candidate countries and potential candidates, as well as the annual Progress Reports.

Beneficiaries will under this project improve statistical indicators, which will be used in the Europe 2020 strategy.

2.4 PROBLEM ANALYSIS

The main issue that the proposed project will address and support is the development of the national statistical system in each beneficiary in order to prepare it for accession to the EU by ensuring that it is compliant with the EU *acquis*. The stakeholders most affected are the national statistical institutes (NSIs) and their partners in the national statistical system, together responsible for the production of official statistics. Other government bodies as well as policy DGs in the European Commission are also stakeholders as they need high quality statistical data for each beneficiary in order to negotiate the accession to EU in the respective chapter. Cooperation between producers of official statistics within the national statistical system needs to be enhanced, where applicable.

2.5 LINKED ACTIVITIES AND DONOR COORDINATION

Several Beneficiaries either have received or plan to receive assistance under the national programmes. Also other donors (mainly international organisations and some EU Member States) support the development of some components of the statistical systems of individual

countries in the region, e.g. the projects by Swedish SIDA to support statistical offices in several IPA Beneficiaries. SIDA also has a regional project covering most of the Western Balkans.

Particular care should therefore be taken to coordinate the activities under the Multi-beneficiary statistical cooperation programme with those under the national IPA programmes to avoid any possible duplication of actions and to maximise complementarities and synergies. This will be ensured by means of regular contacts and statistical cooperation meetings with the Beneficiaries during the implementation of the programme.

Support from national IPA programmes is essential for the successful upgrading of the statistical systems. The Multi-beneficiary statistical cooperation programme ensures coordination among countries and is the instrument for ensuring the transfer of knowledge, the respect of common standards and the production of comparable statistics. For activities such as participation in expert meetings at Eurostat, training events related to statistics, and secondments to Eurostat or to NSIs of the EU Member States, the Multi-beneficiary statistical cooperation programme is the most suitable as all Beneficiaries will benefit from those activities and there are economies of scale. In parallel, the national IPA programmes cover country-specific actions and the implementation of major statistics at national level.

Overview of statistical projects in the national IPA programmes

COUNTRY	Start	Length	Programme
Amount EUR	YYYYMM	months	
ALBANIA			
600,000	200908	12	CARDS 2006
2,850,000	201003	21	IPA 2007
8,000,000	201012	24	IPA 2009
CROATIA			
1,887,960	200901	12	PHARE 2006
1,082,000	201002	17	IPA 2008
889,000	201010	20	IPA 2009
787,239	201110	20	IPA 2010
KOSOVO			
1,200,000	201004	18	IPA 2008
2,500,000	201011	18	IPA 2010
MONTENEGRO			

800,000	200908	24	IPA 2007
1,300,000	201107	24	IPA 2010
THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA			
2,070,000	201003	24	IPA 2007
1,600,000	201111	24	IPA 2009
TURKEY			
5,350,000	200701	35	USST 2005
3,300,000	201012	24	IPA 2007 to 3 Ministries
1,464,300	201103	24	IPA 2009
1,250,469	201103	24	IPA 2009
5,345,000	201301		IPA 2011
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA			
500,000	200912	12	IPA 2007
2,970,000	201110	24	IPA 2008
250,000	200911	6	Twinning light
2,000,000	planned	12	IPA 2009
SERBIA			
1,811,000	200902	30	IPA 2007
830,000	2011		IPA 2008
4,500,000	planned		IPA 2009
19,500,000	201109		IPA 2011
ICELAND			
825,000	201202	36	IPA 2011
1,674,500	2013		IPA 2013

In addition to these projects, components to develop statistics appear in other national IPA projects, for instance projects labelled Agriculture or Central Bank.

Eurostat undertakes regular donor coordination surveys on statistical support to ensure coordination with other donors. The latest survey completed in April 2011 shows that several countries and international organisations remain active in the region. This includes Sweden, Switzerland, Italy, the United Kingdom, Norway, France and the USA as well as EFTA, the Council of Europe, the IMF, OECD, the World Bank, UNDP and other UN organisations. The European Commission is the largest donor in the region, providing significantly more support than all other donors taken together.

2.6 Lessons learned

Multi-beneficiary statistical cooperation programmes have proven to be a particularly useful tool in:

- Harmonising the methodologies and practices used with the EU requirements;
- Sharing best practices;
- Changing the working culture towards a more open adaptation of EU standards;
- Integrating the Beneficiaries into the European Statistical System.

Past experience suggests that major risks to the sustainability of the results include high staff turnover in the statistical services of the region. If there are gaps between periods of support, the result of the assistance is not sustainable. For that reason, projects should be planned so that they slightly overlap each other over time. Moreover, donor coordination is essential for improving results and avoiding overlapping. It should also be mentioned that gaps between successive EU projects are very detrimental to the sustainability of the development of the statistical systems even though other donors normally are able to step in and bridge the gap, thanks to the good cooperation between the European Commission and other donors.

Upgrading statistical systems is a long-term task. Support should be provided over several years in a stable manner taking careful account of the absorption capacity of the Beneficiaries. The absorption capacity is particularly crucial because some Beneficiaries have small statistical agencies with only limited experience.

3 DESCRIPTION

3.1 OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

To prepare the statistical authorities in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Iceland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia as well as Kosovo and Turkey (IPA Beneficiaries) for future EU membership by aligning their present methodologies and practices with the statistical *acquis* and integrating them into the European Statistical System.

3.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE(S) OF THE PROJECT

To continue upgrading and strengthening the Beneficiaries' statistical systems, thereby improving the availability, quality, comparability and timeliness of statistical data.

3.3 RESULTS

The expected results are

- Improved harmonisation of statistical legislation;
- Improved administrative capacity of official statistics providers, including for the coordination of the national statistical systems;
- Improved functioning of the national statistical systems;
- Improved availability, quality and comparability of statistical data in priority areas.

Indicators to measure the results are (the letters correspond to the letters for the four results above):

- Increased level of alignment with the *acquis*;
- Number of statisticians trained;
- Number of Eurostat meetings attended;
- Number of new variables covered;
- Volume of data transmitted to Eurostat;
- Volume of data validated and published by Eurostat;
- Data provided to Eurostat and uploaded on Eurobase for public access.

The increased level of alignment with the *acquis* and the number of new statistical variables covered can be verified precisely. Also both the establishment of new technologies for the transmission of statistical data to Eurostat and the volume of data transferred are able to be measured.

3.4 MAIN ACTIVITIES

Technical assistance:

- Expert missions to the Beneficiaries to assess the domains where improvements are most urgently required;
- Expert missions to the Beneficiaries to give on-the-spot guidance for improvements of identified weaknesses;
- Organisation of workshops and seminars for the Beneficiaries to disseminate best practices and exchange views among the beneficiary experts;
- Data collection surveys such as the price collections needed for compiling the Purchasing Power Parities.

General statistical assistance will facilitate:

- Experts from the Beneficiaries to participate in technical meetings including working group meetings, task force meetings, seminars and workshops organised by Eurostat and other European Commission services as well as by international organisations;
- Study visits to statistical offices and other official statistics providers in the countries of the European Statistical System (ESS) as well as Beneficiaries;

- the organisation of training activities both locally and in the EU;
- the organisation of consultation visits to the Beneficiaries on demand;
- the translation and dissemination of relevant documentation;
- the development of web sites in the English language;
- traineeships for experts from the beneficiary NSIs at Eurostat and at the NSIs of the European Statistical System.

These activities will help to integrate staff of statistical offices into the international statistical network and thus to contribute to the motivation of the staff. In this way a major risk to the sustainability of the project (high staff turnover) is alleviated.

These activities will be implemented in the following areas:

Macro-economic statistics

Annual and quarterly national accounts are the most significant elements of macro-economic statistics. Due to the importance of national accounts (NA) for EU policies, it is imperative that each country provides updated and detailed description of sources and methods used to compile national accounts data. Beneficiaries need to significantly improve the basis of the NA estimates relating to important conceptual issues and components, like changes in inventories, insurance services, FISIM, dwellings services, and Household Final Consumption expenditure. Regional household accounts and regional gross value added are necessary input for the determination of eligibility to EU structural funds in future.

External trade statistics

Compilation methods for statistics on external trade in goods and in services need to be harmonised with the EU requirements and the quality and coverage must be further improved. Reliable external trade statistics are a key input for trade agreements and the discussion of other economic issues. The work carried out under the previous IPA Multi-beneficiary statistical cooperation programmes should be continued in order to achieve a sufficient quality of external trade statistics.

Labour market statistics

Indicators and analysis based on reliable labour market statistics are of vital importance for the employment strategy. Data on employment and unemployment are used in many policy fields and also as input for other statistics, like national accounts. In this IPA programme, the focus is on the Structure of Earnings Survey.

Education and training statistics

A new classification for Education statistics, ISCED 2011, will enter into force in 2014. Eurostat is planning to provide grants to EU Member states starting in the second half of 2012 and running until the end of 2013. The same procedure should in principle be applied for the countries eligible under the IPA programme although the timeframe for the implementation will be somewhat shorter than for the EU Member States.

Crime statistics

A new regulation on European statistics on safety from crime was adopted in 2011. Member states will start to implement the first EU Safety Survey and three candidate countries should be included in this first wave of the safety survey.

Health statistics

The main focus will be on quality improvement of the methodology and assistance for developing different data sets for implementing the framework regulation and its implementing measures for public health and health and safety statistics. Data are inter alia used for different sets of indicators, such as structural, sustainable development and social inclusion indicators and the European Community Health Indicators (ECHI).

Other social statistics

Social protection statistics (ESSPROS) should be developed in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and in Serbia. In Croatia and Turkey there is a need to improve and sustain the development already carried out.

Agricultural statistics

Agricultural statistics are of particular importance since agriculture is a major economic activity in the region. Agricultural statistics also provide a major input for national accounts. Development of agricultural economic accounts is important alongside statistics on agricultural production, livestock and meat, milk and milk products, and early estimates and annual estimates of crops.

The Land Use/Cover Area Frame Statistical Survey (LUCAS) is a survey conducted in the EU Member States and it consists of a large number of sample points throughout the territory of each country. The planned IPA project on LUCAS covers only Croatia and Iceland which are the candidate countries that are closest to EU accession.

Business statistics

Changing economic structures and the emerging sector of small and medium sized enterprises underline the importance of business statistics based on reliable statistical business registers. In particular, good short-term statistics are needed for guiding the economic policy making.

Innovation Research and Development statistics

Research and development are key factors for sustaining economic development. STI statistics include innovation statistics and patent statistics in addition to research and development statistics. The planned assistance relates to the setting up and completing the Community Innovation Survey (CIS) and Research and Development statistics surveys (R&D).

In addition, horizontal issues such as human resource management, quality management in statistics and specific statistical topics will be covered.

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

The Beneficiaries have all made progress in aligning their statistical legislation and practice with the *acquis* and international requirements and there is evidence that past assistance has made a contribution to this. However, recent European Commission Progress Reports still indicate significant weaknesses in terms of administrative capacity and coordination. Full alignment will require further support as well as additional human and operational resources for statistical offices and their partners.

The programme is expected to contribute to increased data quality in key areas through harmonised legislation, knowledge transfer and the regional exchange of experience. Traineeships and study visits to other countries are therefore vital.

The programme will lead to improvements not only in the statistical offices but also in main partners involved in producing official statistics (e.g. ministries of finance and agriculture, customs authorities, central banks) and will promote cooperation between them.

3.6 SUSTAINABILITY

The programme will result in strengthened capacity in statistical production, ensuring the availability of timely and good quality statistics that are comparable with the statistics of EU Member States. The increased capacity and coordinating function of the national statistical offices is the best guarantee for the sustainability of the project. However, institutions in the region are still fragile and exposed to high staff turnover, a lack of certain skills and a lack of financial and IT resources.

3.7 ASSUMPTIONS AND PRE-CONDITIONS²

- Good cooperation between the NSIs and their partners in the national statistical systems in the implementation of the project is essential. The different providers of official statistics must be willing to cooperate with the NSIs in implementing the activities;
- The coordinating role of NSIs in compiling and disseminating official statistics must be strongly established and recognised.
- The NSIs must have sufficient resources to be able to effectively cooperate in and give necessary information for the different activities.

The specific statistical activities foreseen under the IPA 2011 and IPA 2012 national programmes are essential for the correct development of the national statistical systems and must be implemented in parallel with this Multi-beneficiary programme.

An effective and focused statistical cooperation over a number of years is a prerequisite for alignment with the *acquis* and deeper integration into the European Statistical System. Therefore it is important that both national and Multi-beneficiary programmes continue in future years to ensure the sustainable development of statistical systems.

The sequencing logic in the development of the statistical system requires that basic infrastructure, classifications and registers are in place before more specific statistical domains are in place. A business register is a prerequisite for structural business statistics, which in turn is an important input to national accounts. In agriculture statistics, a farm register and an agricultural census are basic starting points necessary for the development of a full system of agricultural statistics. There is also cross-sequencing between broad statistical fields, e.g. the household budget survey with its data on consumption as well as the agricultural economic accounts are both necessary inputs for national accounts.

4 IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

² “Assumptions” are external factors that have the potential of influencing (or even determining) 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 be expressed as assumptions. “Pre-conditions” are requirements that must be met before the sector support can start.

The project will be cross-subdelegated to DG Eurostat for contracting and implementation. Five of the Beneficiaries will receive direct grants, signed by the national statistical institute in each beneficiary. Depending on the set-up of each national statistical system, other producers of official statistics may be included as partners in the direct grants.

4.1 INDICATIVE BUDGET

Indicative Project budget (amounts in EUR) (for centralised management)

			SOURCES OF FUNDING									
			TOTAL EXP.RE	IPA EU 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			10 611 111	10 000 000	94.24	611 111	5.76	611 111				
Grants to the NSIs of the IPA beneficiaries ³	X	–	6 111 111	5 500 000	90	611 111	10	611 111				–
Service contract	X	–	4 500 000	4 500 000	100							–
.....												
TOTAL IB			10 611 111									
TOTAL INV												
TOTAL PROJECT			10 611 111	10 000 000	94.24	611 111	5.76	611 111				

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))

³ The Beneficiaries concerned by grants for this amount are Croatia, Iceland, Turkey, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. However, the distribution of the amounts of the grants to the NSIs may be modified if further NSIs are considered eligible for such grants.

4.2 INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE (PERIODS BROKEN DOWN BY QUARTER)

Contracts	Start of Tendering/ Call for proposals	Signature of contract	Project Completion
Service contract	2012 Q3	2013 Q1	Q4 2016
Direct grant to the NSIs of the Beneficiaries	NA	2013 Q2	Q4 2016

The procurement and the grant award dossiers (technical specifications, terms of reference, guidelines for applicants, etc.) will be prepared internally by the cooperation unit at Eurostat.

4.3 CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

4.3.1 *Equal Opportunities and non discrimination*

The principles and practice of equal opportunity will be guaranteed so as to ensure equitable gender participation in the project.

4.3.2 *Environment and climate change*

Not applicable

4.3.3 *Minorities and vulnerable groups*

Based on the fundamental principles of promoting equality and combating discrimination, participation in the project will be guaranteed on the basis of equal access regardless of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

4.3.4 *Civil Society/Stakeholders involvement*

The project consists of support to official statistics, which by its nature is done by public bodies.

ANNEXES

Documents to be annexed to the Project fiche

1. Logical framework matrix in standard format
2. Amounts (in EUR) contracted and disbursed per quarter over the full duration of project
3. Description of Institutional Framework
4. Reference to laws, regulations and strategic documents:
5. Details per EU funded contract

ANNEX 1: Logical framework matrix in standard format

LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR Project Fiche		Project name and number: Project 03: IPA 2012 Multi-beneficiary Statistical Cooperation Programme	
		Contracting period expires: 30 November 2013	Execution period expires 30 November 2015
		Total budget : EUR 10 611 111	IPA budget: EUR 10 000 000
Overall objective	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	
To prepare the statistical authorities in the Beneficiaries for future EU membership by aligning their present methodologies and practices with the statistical <i>acquis</i> and integrating them into the European Statistical System.	SAA process requirements, issues raised in Progress Reports, progress with accession negotiations for the Statistics chapter	Monitoring reports from the Regional Cooperation Council, European Commission Progress Reports, European Commission and Council documents related to accession negotiations	
Project purpose	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
To continue upgrading and strengthening the Beneficiaries' statistical systems, thereby improving the availability, quality, comparability and timeliness of statistical data.	Statistical variables provided by Beneficiaries, Degree of completeness of the Statistical Annexes to the Commission Progress Reports	Commission monitoring and evaluation tools Commission documents Government documents Statistical Publications	Commitment of national authorities to the process

		Eurostat public database Contractor's reports Grant Beneficiaries' reports	
Results	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
Improved harmonisation of statistical legislation. Improved administrative capacity of official statistics providers, including for the coordination of the national statistical systems. Improved functioning of the national statistical systems. Improved availability, quality and comparability of statistical data in priority areas.	Increased level of alignment with the <i>acquis</i> . Number of new variables covered. Volume of data transmitted to Eurostat. Number of statisticians trained. Number of Eurostat meetings attended.	Experts' and Commission staff mission reports Contractor's and grant Beneficiaries' reports Project monitoring reports Eurostat public database	Cooperation of official statistics providers in the Beneficiaries. Parallel implementation of necessary national IPA programmes on statistics.
Activities	Means	Costs	Assumptions
Technical assistance: expert assessment missions, workshops, meetings participation, training, specific data collection support, data transmission software, on-demand consultations, study visits, traineeships, translation of key documents.	Service contracts Grants Reports related to the execution of the contracts Contractor's staff Commission staff Experts	Technical Assistance and Grants: EUR 10 000 000	Availability of experts and good cooperation between all stakeholders. The necessary human resources are provided by the national authorities.

ANNEX 2: Amounts (in EUR) contracted and disbursed per quarter over the full duration of project

	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Contracted	2012	2012	2013	2013	2013	2013	2014	2014	2014	2014	2015	2015	2015	2015	2016	2016	2016	2016
Service Contract			4 500 000															
Direct grants to NSIs of the Beneficiaries				5 500 000														
Cumulative			4 500 000	10 000 000										10 000 000				
Disbursed	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	2012	2012	2013	2013	2013	2013	2014	2014	2014	2014	2015	2015	2015	2015	2016	2016	2016	2016
Service Contract				900 000				1 050 000		1 050 000		1 050 000		450 000				
Direct grants to NSIs of the Beneficiaries				2 750 000						2 200 000				550 000				
Cumulative				3 650 000	3 650 000	3 650 000	3 650 000	4 700 000	4 700 000	7 950 000	7 950 000	9 000 000	9 000 000	10 000 000				

ANNEX 3: Description of Institutional Framework

All Beneficiaries have similar national statistical systems. The lead institution is the national statistical office. Partners in the production of official statistics are ministries and other official bodies, for example ministries of finance and agriculture, customs authorities and the central banks.

The production of official statistics is regulated by national laws on statistics.

ANNEX 4: Reference to laws, regulations and strategic documents

Reference list of relevant laws and regulations

The statistical *acquis* consists of more than 60 basic legal acts most of which are Council and Parliament Regulations. There is a much larger number of implementing acts, most of which are Commission Regulations. Key legal acts include:

- Regulation (EC) 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European statistics ("Statistical Law").
- Commission Decision 97/281/EC on the Role of Eurostat
- Decision No 1578/2007/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2007 on the Community Statistical Programme 2008 to 2012.
- Commission Regulation 831/2002 on access to confidential data for scientific purposes.

Reference to AP /NPAA / EP / SAA

AP = Accession Partnership

Accession Partnership with Croatia

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:042:0051:01:EN:HTML>

Accession Partnership with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:080:0032:01:EN:HTML>

Accession Partnership with Turkey

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:051:0004:01:EN:HTML>

NPAA = National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis (for Candidates), National Action Plan (for Potential Candidates)

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia:

National Strategy for European Integration

http://www.cc.cec/home/dgserve/larg/docs/FYR_Macedonia/Annexes/3-21/21_Annex_01.pdf

National Programme of Turkey for the Adoption of the EU Acquis. December 2008:

<http://www.abgs.gov.tr/index.php?p=42260&l=2>

National Programme of Croatia for the Adoption of the EU Acquis:

Available on CD-ROM on an annual basis (2008 is the latest)

EP= European Partnership

Albania: Council Decision of 18 February 2008

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:080:0001:01:EN:HTML>

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Council Decision of 18 February 2008

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:080:0018:01:EN:HTML>

Montenegro: Council Decision of 22 January 2007

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:020:0016:01:EN:HTML>

Serbia: Council Decision of 18 February 2008

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:080:0046:01:EN:HTML>

Kosovo: Council Decision of 18 February 2008

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:080:0046:01:EN:HTML>

SAA = Stabilisation and Association Agreement

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) – 26 March 2001

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/the_former_yugoslav_republic_of_macedonia/saa03_01_en.pdf

Albania: Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) – 22 May 2006

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/albania/st08164.06_en.pdf

Serbia: Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) - 7 November 2007

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/serbia/key_document/saa_en.pdf

Commission Opinion on Iceland's application for membership in the European Union

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/key_documents/2010/is_opinion_en.pdf

Reference to MIPD

Multi-beneficiary Multi-annual Indicative Planning Document 2009-2011, chapter 2.3.3.7 Statistics⁴.

Other references

In cooperation with the statistical offices of the Beneficiaries, Eurostat has developed the "*Strategy for Statistical Cooperation with candidate and potential candidate countries 2010 - 2013*". The strategy was approved by the Policy Group on Statistical Cooperation (PGSC) in October 2009.

⁴ C(2009)4518 of 16.06.2009.

ANNEX 5: Details per EU funded contract

The project will be implemented through:

1) Direct Grant:

Grants will be provided to the National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) of Croatia, Turkey, Iceland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia. It is possible that by the time of launching the invitations to apply for the grants, NSIs of other Beneficiaries could also be considered eligible if deemed to have the necessary capacity to manage a grant. Through these grants the beneficiary NSIs shall be directly responsible for the implementation of the activities foreseen in this project fiche. The criterion for offering a grant to a beneficiary is the assessment that the beneficiary NSI has the necessary capacity to manage a grant.

The grants are awarded to the NSIs on the basis of a *de-jure* and *de-facto* monopoly to carry out the statistical activities included in this project fiche in line with Article 168(c) of the Implementing Rules⁵ as the NSIs are the institution inside the public administration of the Beneficiaries responsible for collecting, producing and disseminating official statistics. The NSIs may be supported in this undertaking by other services of the public administration but the final responsibility for the official statistical information lies with the NSIs.

The grant Beneficiaries will contribute 10% co-financing to the eligible expenditure.

The indicative EU contribution will be granted to each beneficiary in accordance with their individual needs and can be estimated to be approximately between 15% - 25% of the total available amount for each of the grants, which is EUR 5 500 000 for the five grants taken together. The final distribution between the Beneficiaries will be done during the evaluation of the applications, where the relative cost levels will become apparent.

The grants will cover technical assistance, data collection projects, and provision of tailor-made expertise. The amounts of the individual grants are indicative. The final amounts will depend on the costs to implement the actions foreseen under the grants. These costs depend on the specific circumstances in the Beneficiaries, in particular as regards the costs and work load of conducting the data collection projects.

2) Service Contract

Following a restricted tender, a service contract of EUR 4 500 000 maximum will be offered to provide technical assistance to those Beneficiaries in particular that do not receive a grant under this Programme. This service contract will in addition provide mainly external technical expertise in selected areas and the organisation of workshops involving grant Beneficiaries.

As in the past⁶, this external technical support is organised via a service contract rather than being included in each individual grant. This ensures an efficient and harmonised approach and facilitates monitoring and evaluation.

⁵ Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002, OJ L 210, 31.7.2006, p. 82

⁶ E.g. Commission Decision C(2006)6973 establishing a multi-beneficiary statistical cooperation programme for Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania and Turkey.