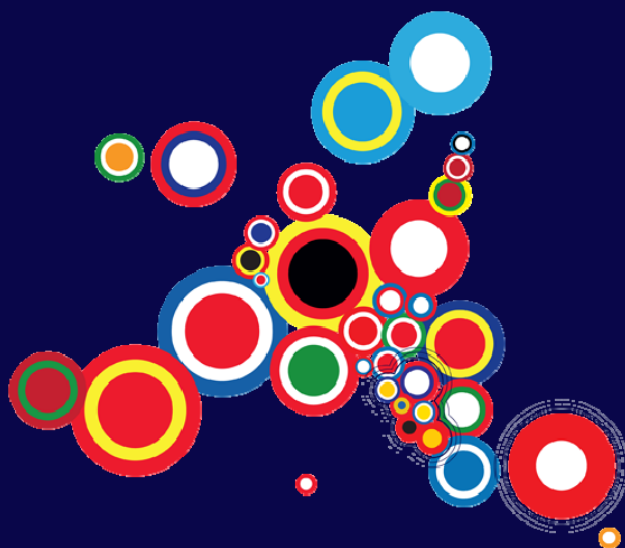




## INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE (IPA II) 2014-2020

### BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA European Integration Facility



#### **Action summary**

The Action is designed to provide support to institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina at various levels in order to address specific needs identified in the course of the European integration process.

To achieve this, a variety of technical assistance and other types of support to institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina will be provided in order to enable them to respond swiftly to challenges and requirements of the European Union integration process and to better prepare and implement IPA programmes/Actions funded by the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance 2014 – 2020 (IPA II).

<b>Action Identification</b>			
<b>Action Programme Title</b>	Annual Action Programme for Bosnia and Herzegovina for the year 2016		
<b>Action Title</b>	<b>European Integration Facility</b>		
<b>Action ID</b>	IPA 2016/039-653.4/Bosnia and Herzegovina/European Integration Facility		
<b>Sector Information</b>			
<b>IPA II Sector</b>	Governance and Democracy		
<b>DAC Sector</b>	43010 – Multisector aid		
<b>Budget</b>			
<b>Total cost</b>	EUR 6 355 043		
<b>EU contribution</b>	EUR 6 355 043		
<b>Budget line(s)</b>	22.020101		
<b>Management and Implementation</b>			
<b>Management mode</b>	Direct management		
<i>Direct management:</i> <b>EU Delegation</b>	Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina		
<b>Location</b>			
<b>Zone benefiting from the action</b>	Bosnia and Herzegovina		
<b>Timeline</b>			
<b>Final date for concluding Financing Agreement(s) with IPA II beneficiary</b>	At the latest by 31 December 2017		
<b>Final date for concluding procurement and grant contracts</b>	3 years following the date of conclusion of the Financing Agreement, with the exception of cases listed under Article 189(2) of the Financial Regulation		
<b>Final date for operational implementation</b>	6 years following the conclusion of the Financing Agreement		
<b>Final date for implementing the Financing Agreement (date by which this programme should be de-committed and closed)</b>	12 years following the conclusion of the Financing Agreement		
<b>Policy objectives / Markers (DAC form)</b>			
<b>General policy objective</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Main objective</b>
Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
Aid to environment	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender equality (including Women In Development)	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trade Development	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>RIO Convention markers</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Main objective</b>
Biological diversity	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Combat desertification	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change mitigation	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change adaptation	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# 1. RATIONALE

## PROBLEM AND STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

The process of European integration is a dynamic and evolving process. Complementary to other IPA Actions which are programmed with a multi-years lead time, there is a need for a facility addressing short term developments and providing necessary assistance and capacity building support to the relevant authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina at various levels. This facility shall assist them in relation to the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) implementation, *Acquis* transposition, Action programmes preparation and implementation, as well as for reinforcing their institutional capacity for SAA implementation and absorption and management of pre-accession funds.

For the European integration process in Bosnia and Herzegovina it is of critical importance to have effective European integration capacities at all relevant levels of government, in line with their respective competencies, as well as to ensure their effective cooperation and coordination. This in particular relates to the SAA implementation, the Programme of Integration (PI) development and implementation and the legal harmonisation process, i.e. transposition of *Acquis* in a consistent manner in Bosnia and Herzegovina, that remain rather challenging tasks in the context of Bosnia and Herzegovina's multi-level administrative set up. In the case of sector-specific issues and Actions, the need for consultation and coordination becomes particularly emphasised since the competences are often divided or shared between sectoral institutions of different administrative levels.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is in a new phase of the European integrations process. The Stabilisation and Association Agreement has entered into force on 1 June 2015, thus replacing the Interim Agreement (IA) which had been in force since July 2008. Furthermore, Bosnia and Herzegovina submitted its application for EU membership on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016. As such, the EU integration process is expected to accelerate and bring about new requirements for Bosnia and Herzegovina and its institutions. In July 2015, the country also adopted a Reform Agenda aimed at tackling the difficult socio-economic situation and advancing the judicial and public administration reforms. Progress in its implementation is one of the criteria for the consideration of the EU membership application from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Directorate for European Integration of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina is the competent state-level body in charge of European integration process coordination. There are EU integration institutions in the governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and the District of Brčko<sup>1</sup>. In addition, the ten cantonal governments in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina all have EU integration coordinators nominated.

The accession to the European Union is an extremely complex process, involving practically all governmental bodies, requiring continuous and efficient coordination among key players in the process. Some coordination bodies and mechanisms already exist in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but they need to be re-organised and upgraded, and new structures should be established in order to be prepared for candidate status with the EU. Bosnia and Herzegovina lacks coherent coordination/cooperation among authorities of state, entities', cantons' and Brčko District's levels, hence, a comprehensive EU coordination mechanism should be improved as a must to facilitate the entire process of legal harmonisation, i.e. transposition of the *Acquis* in the legal system of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The authorities at all levels of government in Bosnia and Herzegovina face challenges in relation to IPA Action/programme preparation and/or in relation to implementation of Actions relating to specific parts of the *Acquis* or SAA requirements. The personnel assigned to the preparation of Actions and their

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<sup>1</sup> These include Office for European Integration of the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republika Srpska Ministry of Economic Relations and Regional Cooperation and Brčko District Office for European Integration.

implementation come from different institutions from different levels of the government, and not all of them have sufficient experience in this area and/or adequate and harmonised level of knowledge. Actions readiness depends among other things also on the availability of quality tender documents (e.g. terms of reference, technical specifications, bill of quantities, etc.). The authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina do not have sufficient experience in developing such documents and sometimes the level of technicalities is so specific and complex that it requires much specialised expertise. The institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina and personnel concerned need assistance in this respect from experts that would facilitate the process and also provide the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina at all levels with hands-on training.

Furthermore, authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina need to be able to fully utilise the pre-accession assistance/instrument for the EU budgetary period 2014-2020 (IPA II). IPA II requires its own strategic documents at different levels: at the level of the entire pre-accession instrument and/or at the level of specific objectives and priorities. Bosnia and Herzegovina lacks important strategies in accession and *Acquis* related areas that represent a precondition for the utilisation of the IPA II as well as for introduction of the sector wide approach that IPA II foresees to be applied for its utilisation by IPA beneficiary countries. IPA II also introduces a sector budget support as a new modality for assistance utilisation that is novelty to Bosnia and Herzegovina and its institutions.

In order to enable Bosnia and Herzegovina to fully utilise IPA II, the assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina needs to be provided through support to activities and capacity building with respect to strategic planning, programming, implementation and strengthening capacity for coordination of these processes. In addition, the constitutional competencies and division of responsibilities among different levels of the government in Bosnia and Herzegovina and specific needs of different actors at various levels of government involved in programming, managing and implementation of pre-accession assistance must be duly taken into account. Therefore, among others, the activities foreseen in this Action in relation to analysing and preparing sector and country-wide multi-sector strategies for the use of EU pre-accession funds are crucial.

In conclusion, technical assistance is necessary in order to address the respective needs of the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina at various levels by supporting them in their European Integration process, Action preparation and implementation, reinforcing their institutional capacity for SAA implementation, and absorption and management of pre-accession funds.

## **OUTLINE OF IPA II ASSISTANCE**

The Action will provide support to address specific and unforeseeable needs of the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina at various levels, identified in the course of the European Integration process, by supporting them in responding to European Integration process priorities, Action preparation and implementation, and strengthening and reinforcing their institutional capacity for SAA implementation, and absorption and management of pre-accession funds. The Action will provide for various types of support, such as technical assistance to and capacity building of institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina at various levels, preparation of studies, assessments, strategic documents, manuals, trainings, Action proposals, tender documentation, as well as for provision of potential supplies underpinning EU integration processes. Eligible beneficiaries for this Action are line-ministries and government institutions/agencies at various levels of government and staff directly involved in the EU accession process.

## **RELEVANCE WITH THE IPA II STRATEGY PAPER AND OTHER KEY REFERENCES**

The Action is related to Indicative Strategy Paper for Bosnia and Herzegovina (2014 – 2017) sector 1. *Democracy and Governance*.

Furthermore, the Strategy Paper under part IV, 1.2. *Objectives, results, actions and indicators*, foresees need for a flexible instrument, a European Integration Facility, which can react to short-term developments and provide necessary assistance and capacity building support to the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina at various levels. It will assist in the SAA implementation, *acquis* adoption, Action preparation and

implementation, as well as reinforcing the institutional capacity for SAA implementation and absorption and management of IPA funds.

***Link with the Bosnia and Herzegovina 2015 Report:***

The Bosnia and Herzegovina 2015 Report highlights that the country is at an early stage regarding its approximation with European standards and that significant efforts are needed in most of the policy areas to further align with the EU *acquis*. It further recognises that the country is at an early stage in public administration reform and the need for closer cooperation and coordination at all levels of government. Finally, the report notes the entry into force of the SAA and the adoption of the Reform Agenda.

**LESSONS LEARNED AND LINK TO PREVIOUS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

As mentioned above the European integration process in BiH is a great challenge due to the administrative set up of the country and division of competences among different levels of the government. This has been demonstrated during the SAA negotiations, the work of the Interim Committee and Interim Sub-Committees, *acquis* transposition, IPA programming and implementation, and other European integration processes. Support is required to institutions at all levels of the government and a particular effort is required to develop and maintain effective coordination among different levels of the government for the European integration purposes.

The need for strengthening capacities of the Directorate for European Integration and line ministries of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republika Srpska Ministry of Economic Relations and Regional Cooperation and line ministries of Republika Srpska Government, European Integration Office of the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and cantonal line ministries, Brčko District European Integration Office and Government departments, has been in particular recognised as far as EU policies, legal approximation, EU affairs coordination are concerned. Previous technical assistance (TA) showed that development of capacity, models and mechanisms requires work with a wider range of recipient institutions and public servants. Due to the higher number of players more time for development of models and capacities is needed.

The experience with previous (IPA 2008, IPA 2010, IPA 2011, IPA 2012, IPA 2013 and IPA 2014) Project Preparation Facility (PPF)/General Technical Assistance Facility (GTAF)/EU integration Facility (EUIF) has shown that the demand for this type of assistance has always been very high and that this type of assistance has been particularly useful to respond quickly to urgent and evolving needs.

The only problem that has been detected in the usage of this Facility have been delays or cancellation of the contracting and implementation of a few small-size project interventions (e.g. preparation of terms of reference for a larger scale assistance project) due to a lack of agreement among all the stakeholders involved in the design of the interventions due to political stalemate in the country and influence on the interventions by daily politics. In the future, endorsement of the intended intervention by all stakeholders concerned should be a precondition before the funds from the EUIF Action are earmarked.

These conclusions are reiterated in the Second Country Interim Programme evaluation of IPA assistance in Bosnia and Herzegovina.<sup>3</sup> With regard to the performance, IPA projects have been effective and efficient, although there have been problems in implementation due to contractor performance, slow procurement procedures, meeting conditionality or delay in reaching consensus between all stakeholders. Therefore, ownership and commitment of all relevant stakeholders of any intervention and its formalisation is an imperative before support under the Action starts.

Overview of budget allocations in € from IPA 2008-2015 for PPF/GTAF/EU Integration Facility:

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<sup>3</sup>[http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/financial\\_assistance/phare/evaluation/2013/23914\\_rep\\_bih.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/financial_assistance/phare/evaluation/2013/23914_rep_bih.pdf)

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
PPF/GTAF/ EU Integration Facility	1 500 000	-	2 478 099 <sup>(4)</sup>	2 897 748	2 965 715	3 213 402	2 089 053 <sup>(5)</sup>	4 589 800

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<sup>3</sup>In addition to the indicated amount in the table, the IPA 2010 PPF fiche also included the project related to Environmental infrastructure in the value of € 2 500 000.

<sup>4</sup>Includes Scholarship scheme for public servants in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## 2. INTERVENTION LOGIC

### LOGICAL FRAMEWORK MATRIX

OVERALL OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (*)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	
To contribute to Bosnia and Herzegovina's overall progress in fulfilling its obligations for accessing the European Union.	Progress of Bosnia and Herzegovina towards meeting the requirements of the SAA and the <i>Acquis</i> transposition by 2020.	- EC Annual Country Reports - SAA Committee's and Sub-Committees' reports - IPA monitoring reports - Ad-hoc surveys on EU integration topics undertaken by EU and/or Bosnia and Herzegovina	
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (*)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
To address specific and unforeseeable needs identified in the course of European integration process of BiH	Frequency of requests received by the EUD for EUIF assistance from BiH authorities to address specific EU integration requirements	- EC Annual Country Reports - BiH authorities' requests received by the EUD for EUIF assistance	-- Political support to institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina to participate in the EU integration processes
RESULTS	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (*)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
<b>Result:</b> More effective and timely responses to emerged EU integration priorities are given by Bosnia and Herzegovina's authorities.	- % of tender procedures launched and finalised - % of IPA funds contracted - % of IPA funds disbursed	- Database reports and Action documentation from individual TA and other contracts - Monitoring /implementation reports for IPA Monitoring Committee - Monitoring reports within the DEI - Submitted and approved programming documents/Action documents - Tender documentation - Action reports - EC Annual Country Reports	- Identification of priority areas for assistance in a timely manner by BiH authorities - Good cooperation with all relevant stakeholders established and maintained during Action implementation

(\*) All indicators should be formulated as measurement, without specifying targets in the Logical Framework Matrix. The targets should be included in the performance measurement table in section 4. More detailed guidance on indicators is provided in Section 4 on performance measurement.



## DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

The EU will deliver the assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina under this Action through various types of support, such as:

- Technical assistance/capacity building of institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina at various levels, in particular those directly involved in the EU integration matters (mentioned in the section Rationale);
- Studies, assessments, strategic documents, manuals, trainings, Action proposals and tender documentation;
- Potential supplies of equipment underpinning EU integration processes (e.g. ICT equipment and software).

The following list is indicative of the types of activities that may be implemented under this intervention but is not exhaustive:

- Provision of technical advice and preparation of required documents and analyses, respecting gender mainstreaming aspect as well, to support SAA implementation, *Acquis* transposition and implementation, including Programme of Integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina into the EU, and the EU accession process in Bosnia and Herzegovina in general.
- Supporting urgent and/or unforeseen emerging priority tasks to support EU integration and SAA implementation priorities, through technical assistance and other interventions (including software and Information Communication Technology equipment, and for example provision of required translation of documents within the process of transposition of *Acquis* and accession of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the EU in general).
- Provision of technical assistance to the administrations of various levels of government in Bosnia and Herzegovina in acquiring knowledge and hands-on training on Sector wide approach, its introduction, and in preparation of sector programmes for IPA multi-annual programming purposes.
- Provision of technical assistance in acquiring knowledge, introducing and utilising sector budget support, including preparation of respective programming documents for sector budget support utilisation.
- Supporting urgent and unforeseen priority tasks (e.g. studies, damages and recovery needs assessments, Action preparation, prevention measures against flooding and landslides, etc. as well as implementation of interventions to mitigate the consequences and prevent disasters in the future) in case of natural disasters, paying attention to specific needs of women and men.
- Drafting manuals, working procedures, job descriptions, rulebooks and other procedural documentation for the implementation of SAA priorities, utilisation of pre-accession instruments, meeting requirements for indirect management of EU assistance, and in support of EU accession process in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Analysis, assessment and preparation of sector strategies, multi-sector strategies, strategic programming documents, for the harmonisation of national legislation, SAA implementation, and the current and future use of EU pre-accession funds, ensuring paying attention to specific needs of women and men.
- Drafting of (pre-)feasibility and impact studies in relation to Bosnia and Herzegovina's compliance with the SAA and carrying out (pre-)investment studies, regulatory impact assessment studies, environmental impact assessment studies, business plans, market studies, economic and cost-benefit analyses, investment appraisals, project pipelines, etc., for the upcoming investments, ensuring that these include a gender component.
- Provision of technical assistance in setting up and developing methodology and single project pipelines for investment projects and utilisation of respective instruments of support for investment projects.

- Preparing Actions for upcoming IPA funding, in particular those requiring specialised expertise, including support to the Action preparation process and all necessary Action documentation and annexes to programming documents, ensuring a gender component as well.
- Preparing of tender and procurement documentation (terms of reference, technical specifications, market research, bills of quantities, guidelines for grant schemes and other supporting documents for tender dossiers), with due consideration of a gender component.
- Provision of institution building activities and training relevant to any of the above-mentioned activities and the European integration process, taking into consideration specific needs of men and women.
- Participation in European Integration related meetings, workshops, study visits.
- Provision of information activities and material regarding EU integration.
- Carrying out evaluations of IPA Actions/programmes.

## **RISKS**

Main assumptions for the implementation of the interventions to be undertaken under the Action include identification of priority areas for assistance in a timely manner, sufficient and good quality applications by the potential beneficiaries, availability of quality expertise. Furthermore good cooperation with all relevant stakeholders will need to be established and maintained during implementation of interventions under the Action as well as political support to institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina to participate in the EU integration processes. Steps will be taken to ensure the aforementioned and hence eliminate risks to successful implementation of interventions undertaken under the Action. In order to ensure prompt availability of quality expertise contracting of a larger share of the Action through a service contract is proposed.

## **CONDITIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

The main pre-condition for the successful implementation of this Action is the commitment of Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities towards the EU integration process that is reflected through the unhindered fulfilment of SAA obligations and increased quality of IPA programmes and Actions and their implementation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## **3. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS**

### **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The main institutional stakeholders that will be involved in the implementation of the Action are:

- EU Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Directorate for European Integration - DEI
- Line ministries of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Republika Srpska Ministry of Economic Relations and Regional Cooperation
- Line ministries of Republika Srpska Government
- Brčko District European Integration Office
- Brčko District government line departments
- EU Integration Office of the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and cantonal EU integration coordinators.

- Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina's and cantonal line ministries as well as direct beneficiary institutions that benefit from the activities financed from the Action.

The coordination among the various aforementioned authorities in BiH for the use of EU Integration Facility has been undertaken by the DEI that communicates the requests for EUIF to the EU Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to be considered and finally approved, as the management of EU funds still operates in a direct management mode in Bosnia and Herzegovina

#### **IMPLEMENTATION METHOD(S) AND TYPE(S) OF FINANCING**

The EU Delegation will be responsible for the (direct) management of the contracts financed from the Action via EU public procurement rules for external actions (i.e. external Consultant companies selected to implement the activities).

In the majority of the contracts (service contracts of the value above EUR 300,000.00 and Twinning light) there will be a steering committee established whose members will be the Beneficiary/ies' representatives and EU Delegation staff members.

The Action will be implemented through various types of contracts (Service/Framework contracts/Twinning light/Works/Supply).

#### **4. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT**

##### **METHODOLOGY FOR MONITORING (AND EVALUATION)**

The Action will be monitored through various internal and external monitoring tools. Internal monitoring will be implemented through steering committees meetings, EU Delegation quarterly Implementation reviews, on-the-spot checks, meetings with beneficiaries and consultant companies/contractors, while the external monitoring will be implemented through Result-oriented Monitoring (ROM). The gender component will be duly considered in these reports.

As the DEI has developed an 'Increased Monitoring' scheme for IPA Actions that face specific implementation problems, the DEI intends to undertake additional monitoring measures and their follow-up in close cooperation with the beneficiary institutions and the EU Delegation.

The Commission may carry out an ex-ante, a mid-term, a final or an ex-post evaluation for this Action or its components via independent consultants, through a joint mission or via an implementing partner. In case a mid-term or final evaluation is not foreseen, the Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner. The evaluations will be carried out as prescribed by the DG NEAR guidelines for evaluations. In addition, the Action might be subject to external monitoring in line with the European Commission rules and procedures set in the Financing Agreement.

The allocation for this Action will also cover evaluations of other Actions under the Country Action Programme for Bosnia and Herzegovina for the year 2016 and of other Country Action programmes.

## INDICATOR MEASUREMENT

Indicator	Baseline (2010) (2)	Target 2020 (3)	Target 2020 (4)	Source of information
<b>CSP indicator(s) [outcome/impact] (1)</b>				
Progress made towards meeting accession criteria	10-20% of progress depending on the respective accession criteria  (Progress is measured on the basis of decisions taken, legislation <i>adopted and measures implemented</i> )	70-80 % of <i>Acquis</i> transposition achieved	70-80 % of <i>Acquis</i> transposition achieved	EC Annual Country Reports SAA Committee's and Sub-Committees' reports IPA monitoring reports Ad-hoc surveys on EU integration topics undertaken by EU and/or Bosnia and Herzegovina
<b>Outcome indicator</b>				
Frequency of requests received by the EUD for EUIF assistance from BiH authorities to address specific EU integration requirements	Up to 5 requests received by the EUD for EUIF assistance from BiH authorities per annum	At least 10 requests received by the EUD for EUIF assistance from BiH authorities per annum	At least 10 requests received by the EUD for EUIF assistance from BiH authorities per annum	EC Annual Country Reports SAA Committee's and Sub-Committees' reports IPA monitoring reports Ad-hoc surveys on EU integration topics undertaken by EU and/or Bosnia and Herzegovina
<b>Immediate results indicator</b>				
-% tender procedures launched and finalised	- 70% of the tender procedures launched and finalised against	- 85% of the tender procedures launched	- 85% of the tender procedures launched and finalised against	Database reports and documentation from

<p>- % of IPA funds contracted - % of IPA funds disbursed</p>	<p>the anticipated tendering plan; - 70% of IPA funds contracted against the anticipated contracting plan - 60% of IPA funds disbursed against the anticipated disbursement plan</p>	<p>and finalised against the anticipated tendering plan; - 85% of IPA funds contracted against the anticipated contracting plan - 70% of IPA funds disbursed against the anticipated disbursement plan</p>	<p>the anticipated tendering plan; - 85% of IPA funds contracted against the anticipated contracting plan - 70% of IPA funds disbursed against the anticipated disbursement plan</p>	<p>individual TA and other contracts  Monitoring/implementation reports for IPA Monitoring Committee  Submitted and approved programming documents/Action documents  Activity Reports  EC Annual Country Report</p>
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## **5. SECTOR APPROACH ASSESSMENT**

This Action will support the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina at various levels to adequately respond to their respective duties and tasks in the EU integration process of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and covers therefore a variety of sectors. Bosnia and Herzegovina has not yet developed a Programme of Integration which would serve as the underlying strategic document for its EU integration process. This Action could support the capacities of the authorities to develop and implement such a programme, as well as to deliver on the tasks deriving from the candidacy application and status. Furthermore, the Action may provide support to specific activities related to the introduction of the sector wide approach, such as training on application of the sector wide approach, development of sectoral strategies, etc., as well as to the introduction of sector budget support.

## **6. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

### **GENDER MAINSTREAMING**

Due attention will be given to gender aspect within Action activities, including ensuring participation of both women and men, recognising different needs of women and men, ensuring benefits for both men and women, ensuring gender sensitive data. In general, a gender perspective will be maintained ensuring that the results of the Action impact positively on gender equality as well.

### **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

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

### **MINORITIES AND VULNERABLE GROUPS**

Improvement in the public service and strengthened good governance to be gained from the Action will be beneficial for minorities and vulnerable groups. Publicity and dissemination of information will help to empower minorities and vulnerable groups to participate in the proposed activities and calls for proposals. Participation in the activities under this Action will be guaranteed on the basis of equal access regardless of racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, sex or sexual orientation.

### **ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY (AND IF RELEVANT OTHER NON-STATE STAKEHOLDERS)**

The involvement and participation of civil society and non-state stakeholders in the European Integration process is very important and cooperation between governmental and non-governmental sectors crucial. As an integral part of the European Union accession process, opportunities for dialogue and cooperation among civil society and non-state actors and public sector actors will be further developed through various initiatives under the proposed Action. Initiatives such as assessment of BiH capacities of elections' observation process, alternative dispute resolution/mediation in BiH, anti-discrimination laws, etc. were supported in previous IPA EUIF/GTAF Actions. In addition, regular involvement and participation of civil society and non-state stakeholders for the preparation of EC Annual Country Reports as well as in the IPA annual programming cycle will remain to be a good practice.

### **ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE (AND IF RELEVANT DISASTER RESILIENCE)**

The Action will contribute to the protection of the environment in line with the needs identified by Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities and the respective Action activities. The Action and the activities deriving from the Action will not have any negative impact on the environment nor jeopardise environment, health and security in the future. The activities deriving from this Action will be delivered in the most environmentally friendly possible way.

## **7. SUSTAINABILITY**

The sustainability of Action results will be achieved through the increased effectiveness of authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to better cope with the EU integration process, by pursuing the necessary reforms, transposing and implementing *Acquis* as well as to effectively programme and implement the IPA funds that would eventually lead the country to join the EU. Special attention will be paid to ensure that the support provided enables the BiH administration to eventually carry out EU integration tasks based on its own enhanced capacities.

## **8. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY**

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

The implementation of the communication activities shall be the responsibility of the IPA II beneficiary, and shall be funded from the amounts allocated to the Action.

All necessary measures will be taken to publicise the fact that the Action has received funding from the EU in line with the Communication and Visibility Manual for EU External Actions. Additional Visibility Guidelines developed by the European Commission (DG NEAR) will have to be followed.

Visibility and communication actions shall demonstrate how the intervention contributes to the agreed programme objectives and the accession process. Actions shall be aimed at strengthening general public awareness and support of interventions financed and the objectives pursued. The actions shall aim at highlighting to the relevant target audiences the added value and impact of the EU's interventions and will promote transparency and accountability on the use of funds.

It is the responsibility of the beneficiary to keep the EU Delegation fully informed of the planning and implementation of the specific visibility and communication activities.

The beneficiary shall report on its visibility and communication actions in the report submitted to the IPA monitoring committee.