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About the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)

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

IPA 2007–2013

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

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

IPA II 2014–2020

IPA continues the process in order to:

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

EU Enlargement

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



Johannes Hahn
Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations

Where do we stand?

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

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

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

For more information:

ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement

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An investment in Europe

An investment in public administration reform



Instrument for
Pre-accession Assistance

Enlargement
Negotiations





Dialogue between local governments and civil society promotes democracy

Public administration reform

Public administration reform is about the changes all enlargement countries need to make in their public institutions in order to meet the political criteria for accession. In other words, it is about guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities.

Among others, all candidate countries and potential candidates need to establish a professional civil service capable of taking policy decisions and providing public services. Public administration must perform at central, regional and local levels. It needs to be efficient, merit-based, transparent and accountable at all levels.

An investment in good governance

Citizens have the right to proper administration bodies. Effective

public administration reform will reduce the risk of corruption. It is also about horizontal administrative capacity, which is necessary to implement and enforce EU law in all sectors.

IPA support to public administration reform helps enlargement countries review their existing legislation and adapt it to European standards and good practice. The support also aims at making public administration more cost-effective, in turn improving conditions for foreign investments.

Serbia – Safeguarding public funds

Any trustworthy, transparent government needs a competent watchdog. Serbia's State Audit Institution fills this role by assessing the legitimacy and legality of how political parties and public institutions spend public funds – and by reporting abuses to Serbia's Parliament.



To help make the institution efficient and its procedures compatible with EU law, a Twinning programme was set up through IPA. The project allows Serbian officials to learn by doing alongside auditors, from counterpart organisations in EU Member States, who walk them through pilot audits and help the institution meet EU standards for auditing and oversight.

State Audit Institution representative Iva Vasilic says the process has increased Serbian citizens' trust in the the country's institutions. "People recognise that there is somebody taking care of how taxpayers' money is being spent," she says.

Bosnia and Herzegovina – Transparency and accountability

The project "Public administration reform: The reinforcement of local democracy" aims at strengthening the cooperation between local authorities and citizens. The municipality of Tešanj serves as an example of best practice

in action: it has adopted mechanisms for the transparent disbursement of grants, improved transparency in the administration of projects and created a more positive environment and collaboration with civil society.

Montenegro – Professional civil service

Located in Danilovgrad, the Regional School of Public Administration (RESPA) is a regionally owned international organisation that aims to build an accountable, effective and professional public administration system in the Western Balkans, and to promote regional cooperation in public administration. Ethics and integrity are also part of the programme's agenda. The member countries are funding staff and administrative costs of RESPA whereas the IPA multi-beneficiary programme



has been paying for the training programmes and some technical assistance.

Training programmes at RESPA help civil services in the Western Balkans to progress