

Standard Summary Project Fiche – IPA centralised programmes

(Regional / Horizontal programmes; centralised National programmes)

1. Basic information

- 1.1 CRIS Number: 2007/19322**
- 1.2 Title: Participation in Community Programmes**
- 1.3 ELARG Statistical code: 04.65**
- 1.4 Location: Serbia**

Implementing arrangements:

- 1.5 Contracting Authority: EC Delegation**
- 1.6 Implementing Agency: N/A**
- 1.7 Beneficiary (including details of project manager):** Development and Assistance Coordination Unit (DACU) at the Ministry of Finance

Financing:

- 1.8 Overall cost: 3.5 million**
- 1.9 EU contribution: 2.0 million**
- 1.10 Final date for contracting: 3 years after the signature of the Financing Agreement**
- 1.11 Final date for execution of contracts: 5 years after the signature of the Financing Agreement**
- 1.12 Final date for disbursements: 6 years after the signature of the Financing Agreement**

2. Overall Objective and Project Purpose

2.1 Overall Objective:

To support Serbia's participation in the Community Programmes

2.2 Project purpose:

To support participation of Serbian citizens, companies, non-governmental organizations and public administration in selected Community Programmes

2.3 Link with AP/NPAA / EP/ SAA

In line with Thessaloniki Agenda for Western Balkan countries, approved by the Council on 20th June 2003, Community Programmes are available for candidate and potential candidate countries in line with the principles for member countries.

The Republic of Serbia has signed a Framework Agreement on participation in Community Programmes on 29th June 2005 and the agreement came into force on 27 July 2005.

2.4 Link with MIPD

The Multi Indicative Programming Document (MIPD)¹ supports Serbia's participation in Community programmes, including support to establish and/or enhance the necessary structures and financing of Serbia's participation in Community programmes.

¹ Draft version of Multi Indicative Programming Document, Republic of Serbia, March 2007

”Eventually Serbia will participate in selected Community programmes and benefit from being exposed to Community initiatives. In the first place, assistance will focus on enhancing the structures necessary for efficient participation, including the signature of the relevant memoranda of understanding for the Community programmes in question”².

2.5 Link with National Development Plan

N/A

2.6 Link with national/ sectoral investment plans

N/A

3. Description of project

3.1 Background and justification:

In its Communication “Agenda 2000” (July 1997), the European Commission proposed the progressive opening-up to the candidate and potential candidate countries of a broad range of Community programmes, as one of the intermediate objectives of accession. The objective of participation in the programmes is to enable the countries to familiarise themselves with the methods and policies of the European Union.

Serbia did not sign a Memoranda of Understanding for any of the Community programmes in the previous period, and therefore did not ensure its participation in those Community programmes, which require particular administrative capacities, planned financial contributions and mechanisms for taking part in the management of the programme and financial control provisions. Serbia did participate in Community programmes with the external component- *Sixth Framework Programme for Research and Tempus*.

Serbian participation in Community Programmes represents a major step in meeting the criteria towards EU accession in the field of education, science, culture, employment, entrepreneurship and innovation, taxation and custom systems. It represents an important step in familiarising the country and its citizens with the Union’s policies and working methods.

The “*Thessaloniki Agenda for the Western Balkans: Moving towards European Integration*”, endorsed at the European Council on 20 June 2003, “*Community programmes will be opened to SAP countries along the lines established for the participation of candidate countries*” and “*SAP countries could be allowed to participate in Community agencies, in ways similar to those established for candidate countries.*”

Moreover, according to the Communication from the Commission to the Council and Parliament³ “*Involvement in Community programmes and in the work of Community agencies will give them a firm symbolic, practical and operational foothold in the EU. It will enable the EU to support their efforts towards European integration by facilitating the transfer of know-how and good practice, particularly in those areas of the acquis that will serve as a central reference point for the reform process in the western Balkans.* ”

² Draft version of Multi Indicative Programming Document, Republic of Serbia, March 2007 p. 23

³ COM (2003) 748 final Brussels, 3.12.2003

Pre-accession financial assistance can be used to help to cover part of the costs of participation in those programmes, following the limits set by the respectively applicable Commission Communications.

The Framework Agreement between the Community and Serbia and Montenegro on participation in Community Programmes was signed in November 2004. The Community ratified the Agreement in May 2005, and Serbia in July 2005. Implementation of the programmes was delayed due to lack of institutions and capacities. Serbian participation in a certain number of programmes needs to be defined and a number of programmes will materialise through separate Memoranda of Understanding.

3.2 Assessment of project impact, catalytic effect, sustainability and cross border impact

Increased participation is an important element to EU integration process, as it implies participation in knowledge sharing, awareness raising and acquiring knowledge from Member States and EU practices in various sectors.

3.3 Results and measurable indicators:

Participation of Serbian citizens, companies, educational institutions, non-governmental organisations, and the national administration in Community programmes, such as: 7th Framework Programme for Research, Customs 2007, Fiscalis 2007, Culture 2000, CIP, PROGRESS, Life-long Learning, Entrepreneurship and Innovation (CIP). Increased efforts towards European integration by facilitating the transfer of know-how and good practice, particularly in those areas that will serve as a central reference point for the reform process in the Republic of Serbia.

Measurable indicator:

Number of signed MoUs between Serbia and EC on participation in the selected Community Programmes

3.4 Activities:

1. Provide IPA funds as entry ticket for participation in selected Community Programmes to ensure participation of companies, education institutions, non-governmental organisations, citizens, national administration and other potential applicants in selected Community Programmes

The activity will be implemented as a co-financing action with the allocation to be paid by Serbia for participation in Community Programmes

The EU contribution to the entry ticket will be negotiated between the beneficiary and the EC, 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.

3.5 Conditionality and sequencing:

- The main conditionality is signature of the Memorandum of Understanding on participation in selected Community Programmes between the European Commission and the Government of Serbia 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
- Prior to the participation in the Community Programmes such as 7th Framework Programme for Research, PROGRESS, etc. the relevant national agencies must be in place

3.6 Linked activities

The Tempus Programme (2000-2006) (Trans European Mobility Scheme for University Studies) has the objective of developing higher education systems in participating countries.

Erasmus Mundus programme - promoting mobility of third-country graduate students and scholars and structured co-operation with third-country higher education institutions and improving the profile, visibility and accessibility of European higher education in the world.

6th Framework Programme for Research (2003-2006) had its main objective to strengthen the science and technological bases of industry and encourage its international competitiveness while promoting research activities in support of other EU policies.

3.7 Lessons learned

The neighbouring experience shows that participation in the Community Programmes presents an important type of assistance in preparing a country towards accession. By participating in Community Programmes citizens, young people, national administrations, etc. cooperate, exchange networks and experiences in different areas, supported by these programmes.

The Tempus Programme has contributed to the modernization of the higher education system in Serbia. To specify, the TEMPUS programme developed three instruments of the programme, Joint European Projects, Structural and Complementary Measures as well as Individual Mobility Grants which resulted in: increased synergy between higher education legislation and policy and reforms at the institutional level; strengthened strategic management capacities of higher education institutions; modernisation of management and administration of the participating higher education institutions; teaching and learning according to revised curricula and study courses in line with the changes in social and economic needs.

Moreover, Serbian researchers and scientists have achieved impressive results through the 6th Framework Programme for Research, as they successfully took part in many European R&D projects. Serbia took part in the following programmes: EPA Western Balkans, Idealist-Extend, SEE-ERA-NET, Food-N-Co, and BAFN⁴. The total budget obtained through these programmes was 8.1 M €. The capacity of the Ministry was strengthened and the programme involved many young researchers and scientists. Above all, the network between Serbian and European researchers was created.

Serbia did not take part in LIFE and Youth programmes, even though it was eligible. The main reasons were lack of information and no relevant institutions for administrative management.

⁴ For more information on 6th Framework Programme visit website: <http://www.mntr.sr.gov.yu/fp6/web-content/eng/index.html>

IPA 2007 programming experience has shown that line ministries should increase their planning capacities in order to provide co-financing for entry ticket and participation in selected Community Programmes. In addition, for Community Programmes which require different institutional arrangements like agencies, the line ministries should ensure their establishment and capacity improvement prior to participation in Community Programmes.

Experience shows that if Serbia wants to participate in Community Programmes in the future, it needs to build administrative capacities, plan financial contributions and develop mechanisms for taking part in the management of the programme and financial control provisions.

4. Indicative Budget (amounts in million €)

	<u>TOTAL COST</u>	<u>SOURCES OF FUNDING</u>								
		<u>EU CONTRIBUTION</u>				<u>NATIONAL PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION</u>				
		<u>Total</u>	<u>% *</u>	<u>IB</u>	<u>INV</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>% *</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>Regional</u>	<u>IFIs</u>
<u>Activities</u>										
<u>Activity 1</u>										
<u>Entry tickets for Selected Community Programmes</u>		<u>2</u>	<u>60%</u>			<u>1.5</u>	<u>40%</u>			
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>3.5</u>	<u>2</u>				<u>1.5</u>				

* expressed in % of the Total Cost

5. Indicative Implementation Schedule (periods broken down per quarter)⁵

Not applicable

Contracts	Start of Tendering	Signature of contract	Project Completion
Contract 1.1	T+2Q	T+4Q	T+9Q

All projects should in principle be ready for tendering in the 1ST Quarter following the signature of the FA

6. Cross cutting issues (where applicable)

Development Policy Joint Statement by the Council and the European Commission of 10 November 2000 establishes that a number of Cross-cutting Issues shall be mainstreamed into EC development co-operation and assistance.

Cross-cutting issues will be addressed in the project so as to comply with the best EU standards and practice in that area and in a way which demonstrates how they will be dealt with within the project's framework, its activities and outputs.

⁵ where T=the date of the signature of the FA and xQ equals the number (x) of quarters (Q) following T.

Cross-cutting issues will be addressed in a proactive manner, and will present a specific component of projects (at all levels of projects' development, starting from the project identification stage). Synergies between the projects and the objectives of will be identified and developed. Also, the projects' objectives and activities need to be screened in order to ensure they won't impact negatively on gender equality, minorities' inclusion and environment.

Finally, the beneficiary will make sure its objectives, policies and interventions have a positive impact on and are in line with the main principles of gender equality, minorities' inclusion and environment.

6.1 Equal Opportunity

Throughout the duration of the project, steps will be taken to guarantee equal opportunity of access to project activities and benefits. Due attention will be paid to promoting the adoption of equal opportunities in the policy areas concerned. Equal opportunity between men and women will be granted.

6.2 Environment

Environment will be considered a major cross-cutting issue in almost all segments of the future FP7 Programme

6.3 Minorities

Issues of minority rights constitute an integral part of this project implemented under the Community Programmes and of the overall programme and are a crosscutting issue. Access to information, opportunities and support through this project for minorities will be particularly encouraged.

ANNEX I - Logical framework matrix in standard format

LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR Project Fiche		Programme name and number Participation in Community Programmes	
□		Contracting period expires 5 years after the signature of the Financing Agreement	Disbursement period: expires 6 years after the signature of the Financing Agreement
		Total budget : 2 million	IPA budget: 2 million
Overall objective (1)	Objectively verifiable indicators (9)	Sources of Verification (10)	
To prepare Serbia and its citizens to familiarize with the European Union policies and working methods	SAA signed No. of laws harmonized with the community acquis	Commission Progress Report Government reports	
Project purpose (2)	Objectively verifiable indicators (11)	Sources of Verification (11)	Assumptions (8)
To allow Serbian citizens, companies, non-governmental organizations and public administration in participation of selected Community Programmes	No. of signed MoUs on programmes that Serbia is involved in.	Government reports Reports from other stakeholders Assessment of participation in Community programmes	Government continues to support participation in Community programmes
Results (3)	Objectively verifiable indicators (12)	Sources of Verification (12)	Assumptions (7)
Ensured participation of Serbian citizens, companies, education institutions, nongovernmental organisations, and national administration in the some of the following Community programmes: 7th Framework Programme for Research, Customs 2007, Fiscalis 2007, Culture 2000, CIP, PROGRESS, Life-long Learning, Entrepreneurship and Innovation (CIP) and increased efforts towards European integration by facilitating the transfer of know-how and good practice, particularly in those areas that will serve as a central reference point for the reform process in the Republic of Serbia	No. of Serbian submitted project proposals submitted by Serbian citizens, companies, non-governmental organizations and public administration participated in programmes No. of Agencies established to administrate Community programmes	Government reports EU reports Reports written by beneficiaries	Comprehensive support of all institutions involved Strong coordination among stakeholders Active participation of all key actors involved in the project (institutions, associations, individuals)
Activities (4)	Means	Costs	Assumptions (6)
1. Provide IPA funds as entry ticket for participation in selected Community Programmes to ensure participation of companies, education institutions, non-governmental organisations, citizens, national administration and other potential applicants in selected Community Programmes	National funds allocated for entry ticket and project implementation	2 million	Comprehensive support of all institutions involved Proper planning of the national budget
			Preconditions (5)
			The rules and procedures on participation from both sides-EU and Serbia are finalized

ANNEX II: amounts (in M€) Contracted and disbursed by quarter for the project

N/A

ANNEX III

Description of Institutional Framework

Ministry of Finance which integrated certain sectors of the former Ministry of International Economic Relations (MIER) will perform the function of main national coordinator for Community Programmes. The work, mandate and authorisations of the Ministry are regulated by the Law on Ministries (adopted on May 15, 2007 (Official Gazette of Republic of Serbia no. 48/07)) – i.e. Article 6.

The Unit within the Ministry of Finance in charge of implementation and monitoring of the project will be the Development and Assistance Coordination Unit (DACU).

ANNEX IV

Reference to laws, regulations and strategic documents:

Reference list of relevant laws and regulations

Key laws, regulations and strategic documents in the area of Community Programmes:

General:

- Constitution of the Republic of Serbia
- Law for the Implementation of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia
- National Strategy for Serbia and Montenegro's Accession to the European Union
- Action Plan for the Implementation of the European Partnership

Community Programmes:

- Framework Agreement on participation in Community Programmes

Reference to AP /NPAA / EP / SAA

In line with Thessaloniki Agenda for Western Balkan countries, approved by the Council on 20th June 2003, Community Programmes are available for candidate and potential candidate countries in line with principles for member countries.

The Republic of Serbia had signed Framework Agreement on participation in Community Programmes on 29th June 2005 and agreement came into force on 27 July 2005.

Reference to MIPD

Multi Indicative Programming Document (MIPD)⁶ envisages as one of priority to enable Serbia to participate in Community programmes, including support to establish and/or enhance the necessary structures and financing of Serbia's participation in Community programmes.

*"Eventually Serbia will participate in selected Community programmes and benefit from being exposed to Community initiatives. In the first place, assistance will focus on enhancing the structures necessary for efficient participation, including the signature of the relevant memoranda of understanding for the Community programmes in question"*⁷.

Reference to National Development Plan

N/A

Reference to national / sectoral investment plans

N/A

ANNEX V

Details per EU funded contract (*) where applicable:

1. Provide IPA funds as entry ticket for participation in selected Community Programmes
2. Ensure training for companies, education institutions, non-governmental organisations, citizens, national administration and other potential applicants to strengthen the capacity to develop and implement projects in various areas
3. Raising awareness and development of communication materials

⁶ Draft version of Multi Indicative Programming Document, Republic of Serbia, March 2007

⁷ Draft version of Multi Indicative Programming Document, Republic of Serbia, March 2007 p. 23