

2011 Annual Programme EU Programmes : 16-2011/4
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1. Basic information

- 1.1 CRIS number:** 2011/022-939
1.2 Title: EU Programmes
1.3 ELARG statistical code: 04.65
1.4 Location: Kosovo*

Implementing arrangements

- 1.5 Contracting authority:** European Commission Liaison Office to Kosovo
1.6 Implementing agency: European Commission Liaison Office to Kosovo
1.7 Beneficiary: The beneficiaries are governmental institutions, such as Ministry of Youth, Culture and Sports, Ministry of Education Science and Technology, Ministry of European Integration

Project Manager:

Mr./Mrs.
Ministry of European Integration

Financing

- 1.8 Overall cost (VAT excluded):** EUR 0.5 million
1.9 EU contribution: EUR 0.5 million
1.10 Final date for contracting: 3 years after signing the financing agreement
1.11 Final date for execution of contracts: 2 years following the final date for contracting
1.12 Final date for disbursements: 1 year after the final date for execution of contracts

2. Overall Objective and Project Purpose

2.1 Overall Objective

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

2.2 Project purpose

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

* Under UNSCR 1244/1999.

2.3 Link with NPAA / EP / SAA

Link with EP

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

Link with SAA

Link with NPAA

Not applicable.

2.4 Link with MIPD

The MIPD 2011-2013 foresees that IPA will finance the participation in Union Programmes to which Kosovo becomes eligible.

2.5 Link with National Development Plan (where applicable)

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

3. Description of project

3.1 Background and justification:

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

The EU agreed in the Thessaloniki Agenda to open participation in EU Programmes to the Western Balkan countries, following the approach used in the past for candidate countries. The Commission proposed concrete steps in its Communication of 3 December 2003¹, underlining the need for a selective and gradual approach.

Further to the Thessaloniki Agenda for the Western Balkans and in line with its Communication "Preparing for the participation of the Western Balkan countries in EU programmes and agencies"² the Commission negotiated respective Framework Agreements with the beneficiaries. Consequently, EU funds may be used to prepare for participation and to co-finance the costs.

The beneficiary currently aims to participate in the following EU Programmes:

¹ Communication of the Commission "Preparing for the participation of the Western Balkan countries in EU programmes and agencies" [COM (2003) 748 of 3.12.03] – accessible on the internet at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/see/docs/com03_748_en.pdf

² COM(2003) 748 final of 03/12/2003

- 7-th Research Framework Programme
- Culture
- Europe for Citizens

The participation of the beneficiary in EU Programmes follows specific terms and conditions set out for each such programme in a so called Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

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

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

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

These programmes can help to spread more "European feeling" among ordinary Kosovo citizens; they can be suitable also to bring in Kosovo's assets and thus improve Kosovo's image in the EU. Clearly, the expected impact of participating in EU Programmes as outlined above will most likely generate a series of positive catalytic effects. For instance, enlarged personal or institutional networks also enlarge the scope for follow-up activities and offers access to an increased information market. In cases of transfer of know-how and best practices, especially in more innovative areas, we may expect positive spill over effects thus multiplying the value added of the initial output.

3.3 Results and measurable indicators

Expected Results

The project implementation shall generate the following results:

- The beneficiary participates in the selected Programmes as listed above.
- Appropriate participation in the EU Programmes fully in line with the provisions outlined in the respective MoUs.

Measurable Indicators

The measurable indicators include:

- Number of persons participating in EU Programmes;
- Number of persons participating in EU Programmes relative to the respective costs (and relative to entry ticket);
- Number of projects;
- Number of projects relative to the respective costs (and relative to entry ticket);
- Comparison of these indicators with past experience and other beneficiaries.

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

3.4 Activities:

The aim is to co-finance the participation of the beneficiary in, inter alia, the selected EU Programmes in 2012 and, depending on the availability of funds, in subsequent years:³

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

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

The contracting arrangements are as follows:

Following the signature of the MoU and following a request by the beneficiary, the Commission signs contribution agreements with the beneficiary over the co-financing amount. All contracting and payments are expected to be done 2012 and 2013.

Main activities are the following:

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

3.5 Conditionality and sequencing:

The main conditionality is the fulfilment of the Memorandum of Understanding on participation in selected EU Programmes between the European Commission and the Government of Kosovo.

The responsible line ministries must ensure co-financing for entry ticket. In addition, potential applicants should provide co-financing of projects within a specific EU Programme

3.6 Linked activities

3.7 Lessons learned

The beneficiary currently has limited familiarity with participating in EU Programmes. Experience from the enlargement context, shows that successful participation in EU Programmes requires a high degree of ownership and initiative by the beneficiary. Active involvement by the beneficiary in gathering the necessary information on programmes, procedures and working methods as well as in establishing networks and structures and informing the public are essential in order to reap the benefits of participation in programmes and agencies. Against this background it is thus very important, that

³ Where appropriate and depending on the availability of funds the participation in EU Programmes other than those mentioned in the list may be supported.

the beneficiary continuous to develop a good sense and plan of the overall activities to be followed. As the participation of Kosovo in EU programmes is also a test for the seriousness of its EU integration efforts / ambitions in general, the Kosovo institutions which will manage the programmes should show maximum dedication and determination to implement their activities to the full satisfaction of the EU Commission.

4. Indicative Budget (amounts in EUR)

			SOURCES OF FUNDING									
			TOTAL EXP.RE	IPA EU CONTRIBUTION		BENEFICIARY CONTRIBUTION ⁴					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 : Entry Ticket for selected EU programmes												
FP7 (2013)	X		468.750	468.750	100							
Europe for Citizens (2013)	X		11.719	11.719	100							
Culture (2013)	X		19.531	19.531	100							
TOTAL IB			500.000	500.000	100							
TOTAL INV												
TOTAL PROJECT			500.000	500.000	100							

NOTE: 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))

⁴ Co-financing by Kosovo has to be provided.

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

Contracts	Start of Tendering	Signature of contract	Project Completion
Activity 1: Entry Tickets	4th Quarter 2011	3 rd Quarter 2012	2nd Quarter 2014

6. Cross cutting issues

6.1 Equal opportunity

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

6.2 Environment

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

5.3 Minorities

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

ANNEXES

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

ANNEX I: Logical framework matrix in standard format

LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR EU Programmes Project Fiche	Programme name and number: EU Programmes		
	Contracting period: (see section 1.10)	Execution period: (see section 1.11)	Disbursement period: (see section 1.12)
		Total budget: EUR 0.5 million	IPA budget: EUR 0.5 million
Overall objective	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	
The overall objective of the project is to support the beneficiary country to participate in EU Programmes	Not applicable	Not applicable	
Project purpose	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
The purpose of the project is (1) to co-finance the costs of the "entry-tickets" which the beneficiary country has to pay for the participation in EU Programmes, and (2) to strengthen the capacity of the relevant administrative bodies to ensure proper participation of the beneficiary in EU Programmes.	Payments to the beneficiary in order to co-finance the various entry tickets	CRIS	None
Results	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The beneficiary participates in the EU Programmes as outlined in the Project Fiche. • To achieve appropriate participation in the EU Programmes in line with the provisions outlined in the respective MoUs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of persons participating in EU Programmes; • Number of persons participating in EU Programmes relative to the respective costs (and relative to entry ticket); • Number of projects; • Number of projects relative to the respective costs (and relative to entry ticket); • Comparison of these indicators with past experience and other beneficiaries. 	Evaluation reports provided by the respective line DGs responsible for the management of a specific programme.	None

Activities	Means	Costs (IPA; in EUR)	Assumptions
To co-finance the participation of the beneficiary in the selected EU Programmes: TOTAL("entry tickets")	Contribution agreements with the beneficiary	EUR 0.5 million	The respective MoUs are respected and the beneficiary is paying the entry ticket.

Preconditions:

Signature and ratification of the respective MoU.

ANNEX II: Indicative planning of the amounts (in EUR) contracted and disbursed by quarter for the project

Contracted	Q1 2011	Q2 2011	Q3 2011	Q4 2011	Q1 2012	Q2 2012	Q3 2012	Q4 2012	Q1 2013	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2013
FP7 (2013)									234.375		234.375		
Europe for Citizens (2013)										11.719			
Culture (2013)										19.531			
Cumulated									234.375	265.625	500.000		
Disbursed													
FP7 (2013)										234.375		234.375	
Europe for Citizens (2013)											11.719		
Culture (2013)											19.531		
Cumulated										234.375	265.625	500.000	

ANNEX III: Description of the Institutional Framework

Not applicable.

ANNEX IV: Reference to laws, regulations and strategic documents:

4.a) Reference list of relevant laws and regulations

Not applicable.

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

Link to AP

Not applicable.

Link with NPAA

Not applicable.

Link with EP

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

Link with SAA

4.c) Reference to MIPD

4.d) Reference to National Development Plan

Not applicable

4.e) Reference to national / sectoral investment plan

Not applicable

ANNEX V : Details per EU funded contract

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

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