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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 will continue 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

“The EU’s enlargement policy makes Europe a safer and a more stable place; it allows us to grow stronger, to promote our values and enables us to assume our role as a global player on the world stage. Enlargement policy is not a policy that is being made in isolation just for its own sake, it was from the very beginning – and still is – one of the core functions of the European Union together with the deepening of integration.”



Štefan Füle,
Member of the European Commission
responsible for enlargement

Where do we stand?

Croatia is the most recent Member State, having joined the European Union on the 1st of July 2013.

The EU enlargement agenda currently covers the Western

Balkans, Turkey and Iceland. 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/enlargement

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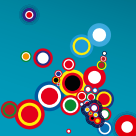
An investment in Europe

An investment in public administration reform



Instrument for
Pre-accession Assistance

Enlargement



GROWING TOGETHER



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.

Croatia – Better administration results in savings

The project “Strengthening the capacity of Croatian Tax Administration” enabled the Tax Administration to automatically exchange information with other administrations, resulting in significant savings. “The training programme has taught our staff how to get

exchange of information, which is a necessary skill for complying with the rules of the Savings Directive,” says Dubravka Sekulić Grgić, Assistant Director General at the Croatian Tax Administration.

Croatia 2007–2013 €998 million

Between 2007 and 2013, a total of EUR 998 million was made available to Croatia under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance, supporting institution building and the rule of law, economic and social development, and stimulating cross-border and regional cooperation.



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

