



Cross-Border Cooperation under IPA III

Programmes between IPA beneficiaries

9th CBC Regional Consultative Forum

11-12 May 2023

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Current Status

CBC Programmes 2021-2027	Commission Implementing Decision	Link to Web
Albania - Kosovo*	C(2022) 3235 of 23/05/2022	COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION of 23.5.2022 on the financing of the cross-border cooperation programme Albania – Kosovo* for 2021-2027
Bosnia and Herzegovina - Montenegro	C(2022) 3401 of 19/05/2022	COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION of 19.5.2022 on the financing of the cross-border cooperation programme Bosnia and Herzegovina - Montenegro for 2021-2027
Kosovo - North Macedonia	C(2022) 3400 of 23/05/2022	Commission Implementing Decision and the Action Document for the IPA III cross border cooperation programme Kosovo - North Macedonia for 2021-2027
Montenegro - Albania	C(2022) 3596 of 25/05/2022	COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION of 25.5.2022 on the financing of the cross-border cooperation programme Montenegro – Albania for 2021-2027
Montenegro - Kosovo	C(2022) 3641 of 31/05/2022	COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION of 31.5.2022 on the financing of the cross-border cooperation programme Montenegro – Kosovo* for 2021-2027
North Macedonia -Albania	C(2022) 3399 of 19/05/2022	COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION of 19.5.2022 on the financing of the cross-border cooperation programme North Macedonia –Albania for 2021-2027.PDF
Serbia - Bosnia and Herzegovina	C(2022) 3651 of 31/05/2022	COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION of 31.5.2022 on the financing of the cross-border cooperation programme Serbia – Bosnia and Herzegovina for 2021-2027
Serbia - Montenegro	C(2022) 3597 of 25/05/2022	COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION of 25.5.2022 on the financing of the cross-border cooperation programme Serbia – Montenegro for 2021-2027
Serbia – North Macedonia	C(2022) 3739 of 03/06/2022	COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION of 3.6.2022 on the financing of the cross-border cooperation programme Serbia – North Macedonia for 2021-2027

Current Status - IPA-IPA CBC 2021-2027

- **9 Programmes Adopted**
- **IPA III Financial Framework Partnership Agreements** in place
- **Financing Agreements** – in process of adoption – at various speeds across the region
- **Compulsory Guidance Package** – for the 1st Calls under IPA III – shared in early March 2023



IPA III Compulsory Guidance Package

- Update of the IPA II compulsory guidance package (27 October 2020)
- Circulated by DG NEAR on 09 March 2023 – to be applied in new calls under the IPA III CBC programmes
- Based on:
 - Latest PRAG templates (June 2022)
 - Lessons learned
 - Recommendations of a JTS regional meeting in November 2022

IPA III Compulsory Guidance Package

- 2 Packages: Indirect / Direct management
- IPA III terminology applied, including on implementation structures
- Emphasis on capacity of local/regional authorities dimension
- Competition within thematic lots
- Potential applicants – as described in programme documents
- Importance of making sure logframe matrixes are of high quality

IPA III Compulsory Guidance Package

- Revised list of ineligible actions: harmonization and reducing grounds for rejection
- Suggestions to provide examples of high-quality projects
- Harmonized approach to criteria for operational and financial capacity
- **Contact point** in DG NEAR HQ: victor.dragutan@ec.europa.eu

Technical Assistance

- IPA III: Grant Contracts directly awarded for the functioning of Joint Technical Secretariats.
- TA budget = 10% of the total CBC programme allocations
- Grant contracts – more flexibility but coordination needed to ensure harmonized approach
- Important to avoid the gap in TA provision

Technical Assistance: Human Resources policy

- Effective management of human resources, capacity building and retention
- Selection and management of staff needs to be transparent, fair and effective
- CBIB+ to help collect and disseminate best practices on HR management – to be embedded in TA Grant Contracts and integrated in organizational procedures

Joint Monitoring Committee

- Similar functions as under IPA II; however, it is important that the nominations of all officials and stakeholders takes place as soon as possible
- The 1st meeting of the JMC under IPA – considered as its official establishment - within 6 months of the IPA III FA signature
- Composition, as per FFPA Art 78.3:
 - NIPACs / territorial cooperation coordinators (as appropriate)
 - IPA III beneficiaries (central, regional and local authorities), including CBC structures
 - CSOs
 - European Commission (advisory capacity_

Joint Monitoring Committee

- Rules of procedure (drafted in consultation with CBC structures, NIPACs, Commission), to be adopted during the 1st meeting. CBIB+ provided a draft
- FFPA Art 78.8.b: JMC provides an advisory opinion on the list of operations. As per previous practice, the identity of applicants is not provided, to ensure fair competition.
- Capacity building for JMC members to:
 - Monitor programme implementation
 - Examine and act on JTS findings and recommendations
 - Endorse, if needed, proposals to revise the CBC programme

Technical Working Groups

- Previous experience – a space to discuss and look for solutions on implementation issues
- Direct/Indirect management
- Does it make sense to resume working in such format? What kind of support is needed from CBIB+/DG NEAR?

Thank you



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