

CROSS-BORDER INSTITUTION BUILDING Plus (CBIB+)

Regional technical assistance to cross-border
cooperation at intra-Western Balkan borders

Kick-off meeting 8/2/2013
EC DG ENLARG. Brussels



Project team

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1. Background of the Project

- The project CBIB+ is funded by the EU and implemented by a consortium led by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.
- The project has an overall contract budget of € apprx. 2.4 M and will be implemented from 21st December 2012 to 30th November 2014.
- Project team operational on 28th January 2013

2. Project Objectives

- The overall objective of the project is to enhance good neighbourly relations and prosperity in the Western Balkans through improved cooperation between border regions, in the prospect of accession to the European Union.



3. Purpose of the Project

- The purpose of the project is to provide technical and expert support to the National Authorities in charge of implementing CBC programmes at intra-WB borders, with a view to enhance regional coordination and harmonisation of approaches and mechanisms in line with EU frameworks and guidelines in the area of territorial cooperation.



4. The Components of the project

1. Contract management

- Beside the traditional contract management activities (kick-off meetings, identification and contracting experts, preparation of inception, periodical and final reports, financial management, Steering Committee, etc), establishing of contact points in each beneficiary country as well as the implementation of a comprehensive stakeholders analysis will take place.



4. Components (cont.)

2. Sustained regional coordination and interaction between CBC stakeholders and target groups

- Regional coordination and interaction is sustained through a number of activities with regard to the logistic and operational set-up of a CBC Regional Consultative Forum. This is complemented by technical support and expert-based inputs to the preparation and organisation of thematic or technical working groups to improve regional coordination and harmonisation of IPA CBC practices.



4. Components (Cont.)

3. Enhanced efficiency and effectiveness of programme implementation

- Improved programme implementation as well as simplified access to available funds for final beneficiaries, in line with EU standards and IPA requirements is reached by specific advisory interventions, preparation of guidelines/manuals on stages of the programme/project cycle and horizontal issues, relevant training sessions and workshops aimed at building the capacities of the CBC national structures.
- Upgrading and maintenance of the CBC MIS and the handover of CBC MIS license to an agreed National Authority of the region.



4. Components (Cont.)

4. Established pathways with EU practices and stakeholders in relation to territorial cooperation

- The promotion of best practice culture and cross-fertilisation of experience is supported through networking activities and initiatives aimed at raising awareness of target groups.
- Building up of pathways with EU practices and stakeholders in relation to the European territorial cooperation through exchanges and study visits for CBC national structures to EU Member States and participation in EU events and activities.



4. Components (Cont.)

5. Pilot scheme(s) for small scale CBC community projects.

Provision of technical and logistical support to pilot schemes for the implementation of small scale CBC community projects (the target group could be schools, youth associations, sport clubs, etc.)



4. Components (Cont.)

6. Enhanced visibility on CBC at intra WB borders

- Improved visibility on CBC at intra Western Balkan borders through a number of events to reach out the media community;
- support in the development of regular activities with media, as well as with universities, research centers and individual researchers;
- the development of a database of identified best practice examples.



5. Progress so far

- Initial meetings held (GIZ, EUD, SEIO)
- Established operational base
- Identified and hired support staff
- Identification and pre-selection of the first wave of NKEs (meetings with some of them already took place)
- Preparation of the list of contacts of relevant stakeholders from the 7 WB countries (in progress)



5. Progress so far (Cont.)

- Access to relevant background material (CBIB I & II)
- Preparation of detailed time plan of all the components for the Inception Period
- Drafting of the ToRs for the 6 or 7 contact points
- Designing the questionnaire for the stakeholders analysis
- Establishing contacts with related national TAs and other projects (CBC Kosovo*, FWC for impact evaluation of the 1st call of proposals in RS, etc.)

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence (KOS)



6. Points for clarification

1. Technical

- MIS
- Pilot grant schemes
 - Legal base,
 - Contracting,
 - Language of the application package,
 - Legal personality of beneficiaries,
 - Grant thresholds,
 - Allocation amount and division per border,
 - Co-financing percentage,
 - Payment modality (pre-financing or not)
 - Recovery mechanism,
 - Continuity in the next financial perspective, etc.



6. Points for clarification

1. Technical (cont.)

- TA for programming period 2014-20, with (11 programmes) or without assistance to Croatia (only 8 programmes)
- By when the CBC programme documents (2014-2020) would have to be ready?
- Role of CBIB+ & specific trainings (e.g. for applicants of the HR-MNE second call, for newly appointed Operating Structures such as in MK, for the staff in recently established JTSs such as in programmes where Kosovo is a participating country...)
- Steering Committee



6. Points for clarification

1. Technical (cont.)

- Definition of new CBC programmes such as RS-MK
- Possibility to be endorsed by DG ELARG D1 guidance, recommendations or instructions prepared by the project team or the technical/thematic working groups (e.g. secondary procurement)



6. Points for clarification

1. Technical (cont.)

- Is there any hint on the financial allocations for the new CBC programmes under IPA II?
- Where the contracting authority will be located in the next financial perspective?
- Apart from the national TA in Kosovo, do you have plans for other similar projects?
- What is the state of play with **DIS** accreditation in AL, BiH, MNE & RS?



6. Points for clarification

1. Technical: visibility

- Use of domain 'cbib' or 'giz'
- Visual identity along the lines of the previous phases or totally new
- Recovery of the former website



6. Points for clarification

2. Administrative

- Contact person/s from DG ELARG
- Procedures for approvals (logistics, experts, incidentals, etc.)
- Formats (timesheets, monthly, periodical, inception reports, etc.)
- End of project activities: 20/12/2014 as opposed to 30/11/2014 (15 additional wd)



6. Points for clarification

2. Administrative (cont.)

- Presentation letter for all NIPACs and Heads of the Operating Structures
- Presence in the place of assignment (80% as related to 20%)
- The distribution of project reports, will this be done by the project team or by DG ELARG?



6. Points for clarification

3. Documents

- Final version of the report prepared by the auditors of DG ELARG on the management of CBC programmes at the end of 2012.
- Presentation or instruction on the application of the new Financial Regulation (EU, Euratom 966/2012 of 25/10/2012) and its novelties with respect to the old one
- Outputs of CBIB II
- Draft of the new IPA Council and Commission Regulations



6. Points for clarification

3. Documents (cont.)

- Internal Commission reports on progress for the conferral of management under IPA Component II

