

MONITORING SYSTEM FOR IPA II CBC PROGRAMMES AT INTRA-WESTERN BALKAN BORDERS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In line with the Terms of References of the service contract No 368 298 ‘Cross-border Institution Building – CBIB+ Phase II’, a streamlined result/impact measurement methodology has been set up to improve monitoring of IPA II Cross-Border Cooperation at intra-Western Balkans borders.

The setting-up of the monitoring system responds to the findings and recommendations of the recently published evaluation report on IPA 2007-2013 CBC programmes¹ that stresses that a robust performance framework must be established as *"a necessary reform: the absence of a functioning CBC performance framework is an impediment to both current programme management and future programming"*. A whole set of recommendations refers to the improvement of this dimension (ref. recommendations N° 27 to 40).

The common CBC monitoring system has a number of advantages; i.e. there will be a common source of information for assessing programme performance and reporting on it; compatibility and comparability of data at regional level and between CBC programmes will be enhanced; monitoring and evaluation practices for CBC will generally be reinforced and the quality of calls for proposals and project applications improved.

The system will be used for monitoring at programme and project level, in line with Articles 78 and 79.6 of the Framework Agreements and is based on:

- A long list of useful quantified output indicators (including values where needed in order to improve performance) per programme;
- A smaller list of outcome indicators as “core indicators” that are realistic, and can easily be collected per programme;
- A list of indicators out of the two lists above to be included in the application packages as reference for applicants with regard to the definition of their project indicators.

Each of the lists includes all the thematic priorities, specific objectives and results available in the programming documents and the relevant output, outcome and impact indicators thereof. The indicators highlighted in yellow are actually those included in the respective programming documents.

¹ Contract No 2015/366-156. The evaluation focused on CBC between the IPA II beneficiaries in the Western Balkans (IPA-IPA CBC) in the period 2007-2013 and examined whether these achieved or are still achieving their planned objectives, in terms of their impact, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and EU added value. It also looked into ways to improve the design of the programmes with a special emphasis on monitoring and evaluation (performance framework), which applied in particular to the current CBC programmes under IPA II as adopted since 2014.

These should be considered as “live/active lists”; i.e. when operations are selected and grants are awarded, the CBIB+ team will update them with any additional indicators chosen by the project beneficiaries.
