

Additions to the adopted ReSPA Programme of Work 2009

On its 10th meeting held on 27 January 2009 in Zagreb, the Steering Committee requested to receive proposals for additional activities to complete the confirmed indicative workplan as it had been submitted by the ReSPA Team at the OECD. This document outlines proposals for three additional activities.

XIV Public Private Partnerships (PPP)

Throughout Europe, PPP is an increasingly important means of delivering public services. This development is being driven by, on the one hand, pressures on Governments to comply with new legislation and, on the other hand, to meet the growing demands of citizens for better quality services at a time when the Governments are also facing budgetary pressures. Hence, Governments are being pressed to deliver high quality services as efficiently and inexpensively as possible, and to this end contracting private sector actors with relevant experience and expertise is often the best way forward.

Many of these PPP constitute complex contracts, of a high value and contracted for a long period of time. To aid the implementation of particularly complex contracts, the latest EU Public procurement Directives have introduced a new award procedure, known as Competitive Dialogue.

The objective of this training programme is to enable the participants to use the Competitive Dialogue procedure in practice – and thus to implement PPP. The style of the programme will be very practical and interactive and facilitated by experienced practitioners.

Target group: Policy-makers and public officials from both central and local government levels.

Maximum number of participants: 21

Duration: 3 days

Location: Danilovgrad or a host training centre in the region

XV EU Training for Translators and Interpreters

Experiences from the West Balkan region indicate that while progress is being made with respect to approximating national law with that of the EU, there remains considerable work to be done in most areas. A general problem experienced throughout the region, which is affecting the speed and quality of the law approximation efforts, is that little of the *acquis communautaire* (Community legislation as well as jurisprudence of the European Courts) has been translated into the national languages, and even in cases, where law approximation has taken place, both specialised governmental agencies and the judiciary are rarely prepared to apply such EU derived legislation. Another side of the same coin is that the region is receiving considerable technical assistance, much of it in the form of training by EU/EEA experts, who do not speak the national languages of the beneficiaries. In this context, ReSPA is a case in point: Most of the training which has been provided within the framework of

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ReSPA until now has been in English, and while the objective is to develop and use local trainers, the dependency on foreign experts is likely to continue in the coming years.

In order to

- accelerate the region's law approximation efforts,
 - increase its capacity to maximise the benefit from foreign expertise under current and projected technical assistance and twinning projects in general, and,
 - in particular, to ensure that ReSPA can cater for the growing demand that also non-English speaking officials can benefit from ReSPA training activities,
- a corps of translators and interpreters with a good understanding of the EU (institutions, legal instruments and procedures, main policies and the EU Integration Process) and EU policy and law terminology should be developed.

The objective of this activity is to train – and eventually award a certificate to – a group of 28 or more translators and interpreters on fundamental concepts and terminology related to the EU integration process, such as the EU institutional, rule-making and legal frameworks, as well as the fundamental Community policies and the association and accession processes. This training will result in a pool of certified translators/interpreters, increasing the ReSPA partners' possibility to benefit from foreign expertise delivered in various foreign donor technical assistance programmes and projects as well as enhance the quality and speed of translating EU legislative measures and other legal acts for the purpose of accelerating the law approximation process in general, and ensuring that ReSPA has a pool of qualified interpreters/translators for its activities as of 2010, in particular. The certification will be based on two tests, one at the beginning of the training and one at the end (most likely written MCQ tests), the successful passing of which will be awarded with a certificate.

Target group: Translators and interpreters specialising in English.

Maximum number of participants: 28 - 35

Duration: 5 days

Location: Danilovgrad or a host training centre in the region

XVI Support to Learning Europe Conference

Drawing on experiences by both old and new EU Member States, as well as Croatia's own accession negotiations with the EU, the Croatian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration (MFAEI) each year organises a conference focusing on the need for – and putting into practice – continuous training in European Integration matters with a view to improve the functioning and operation of public administrations in the the countries that are undergoing the EU accession process.

Within this overall theme, the conference each year addresses some specific aspects of EU integration those that are directly linked to challenges of EU accession and membership. In 2009, the overall theme of the conference will be *Learning Europe – Challenges of Life-long Learning in the European Context*, and the specific topics will be:

- o Country re-branding and its affirmation in the new European environment;
- o National coordination of EU affairs;
- o The role of life-long learning with a special emphasis on European integration as a prerequisite for the modernisation of the public administration;
- o Preparing for careers in the EU institutions – challenges and experiences.

In view of the conference format and the combination of participants (see "target group" below), the conference provides an opportunity not only to expand the participants' awareness and knowledge on the topics covered, but also a strong forum for networking and exchange of experience among training experts, whether as training managers, training providers or trainers.

The conference is traditionally organised in a co-operation between the MFAEI and different donors, e.g. the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. It is suggested that ReSPA – as the new regional training institute – contributes to the conference. Subject to the SC's approval in principle to this activity, the ReSPA Secretariat will negotiate the nature of the contribution, which will include a presentation on ReSPA, its aims and activities.

Target group: Representatives from EU Member States, candidate and Stabilisation and Association Process countries, as well as some non-EU Member States. A great variety of participants usually attends the conferences, including both state and local administration, schools of public administration, private organisations, non-governmental organisations involved in training for European Integration, as well as those who take interest in this training field.

Maximum number of participants: 50 - 100

Duration: 2 days

Location: Croatia