



ReSPA

Regional School
of Public Administration

Regional Conference on EU Budget Support

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

23 June 2016,

Danilovgrad, Montenegro



ReSPA Activities are
Financed by the EU

Background

The EU has envisaged the use of Budget Support through the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA-II) 2014-2020 for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia. This pre-accession assistance tool is implemented through the Sector Reform Contract which is concluded with the beneficiary country. The introduction of this instrument represents the move from project approach in the pre-accession assistance towards the sector approach, which is one of basic principles of IPA II. The conclusion of a Sector Reform Contract is subject to fulfillment of certain eligibility criteria by the beneficiary and proof that the beneficiary country has adopted credible and relevant sector reform strategic and programming documents. The effective Budget Support requires credible partnership and mutual accountability of both the European Union, as donor, and public institutions of beneficiary. As many other instruments, the Budget Support follows certain cycle including few phases: programming, preparation, implementation and evaluation and follow-up, each of them having its specificities and imposing certain requirements to beneficiary administrations.

Over past years, some ReSPA Members have been involved in preparation and implementation of the Sector Reform Contracts. The other Western Balkans countries will also have opportunity to benefit from this instrument, once they meet certain criteria. Therefore, there was a need to offer to their representatives and EC representatives to have platform for discussion in a form of a regional conference with the aim to present acquired experience and explore all relevant issues in different phases of Budget Support operations.

ReSPA organizes this conference in close cooperation with the European Commission (DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations) and it is a follow-up of a regional conference organized in 2015 on *Promoting sector reforms through budget support and improving sector service delivery*.

Objectives

The objectives of this regional conference are exchange of experience among national representatives and EC officials and further development of regional cooperation among ReSPA Members in the area of utilization of IPA funds.

Target Group

It is envisaged that up to 4 participants per ReSPA Member and Kosovo* would attend the conference. The target audience for this conference should be representatives of the NIPAC Offices in charge of coordination of the EU Budget Support, representatives of ministries of finance and line ministries benefiting from the EU Budget Support.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and ICJ Advisory opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of independence.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Thursday, 23 June 2016

- | | | | |
|--------------|---|--------------|---|
| 09.15 | - | 09.30 | Registration |
| 09.30 | - | 09.45 | Opening remarks (by ReSPA and the European Commission) |
| 09.45 | - | 10.30 | Presentation of national experiences related to the EU Budget Support, <i>representative of Albania</i> |
| 10.30 | - | 11.15 | Presentation of national experiences related to the EU Budget Support, <i>representative of Montenegro</i> |
| 11.15 | - | 11.45 | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 11.45 | - | 12.30 | Presentation of national experiences related to the EU Budget Support, <i>representative of Serbia</i> |
| 12.30 | - | 13.45 | <i>Lunch</i> |
| 13.45 | - | 15.00 | Definition of indicators, monitoring of implementation, reporting and disbursement conditions, <i>representatives of the EC</i> |
| 15.00 | - | 15.15 | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 15.15 | - | 17.00 | Questions & Answers Session (representatives of the EC and ReSPA Members) |