

3rd Regional Conference on EU Budget Support

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

21 September 2017

*Tirana, Republic of Albania
Venue: TBC*



Background

The Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) is a mean by which the EU supports reforms in the 'enlargement countries'. The IPA funds aim at building up the capacities of the countries throughout the accession process, resulting in progressive, positive developments in the region. The financial assistance supports the beneficiaries in the implementation of political and economic reforms and preparation for accomplishment of obligations stemming from the EU membership. These reforms should provide the citizens and businesses with better opportunities and enable achievement of standards equal to the ones enjoyed within the EU.

The EU has envisaged the use of Budget Support through IPA-II 2014-2020 for the countries in the Western Balkans in the form of Sector Reform Contract, provided that the relevant eligibility criteria are met. Albania, Montenegro and Serbia have concluded sector reform contracts for certain sectors and are already implementing budget support operations with the aim to achieve reforms in the defined areas.

Taking into consideration the changes of the assistance introduced with IPA II, its strategic focus, comprehensive support and new modalities such as budget support, the regional conference on the Budget Support, would provide a forum for the NIPACs and other relevant institutions to discuss and share experiences, as well as challenges that the region is facing while programming, designing and implementing budget support operations.

Through the joint effort, the Ministry of European Integration of Albania, GIZ – ORF Promotion of EU Integration through regional cooperation and ReSPA undertook to offer, bringing together the representatives of ReSPA Members, a discussion platform in the form of regional conference with the aim to present acquired experiences and explore all relevant issues that may appear in different phases of budget support operations. This conference is a follow-up of two regional conferences organized in 2015 and 2016.

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. The representatives of ReSPA Members will have possibility to present their experience in relation to the budget support and the EC representative will make a presentation on certain aspects of budget support operations which were identified by representatives of NIPAC offices. The conference should also lead to conclusions on how ReSPA and GIZ – ORF Promotion of EU Integration through regional cooperation may further support Western Balkans in relation to the budget support.

Target Group

It is envisaged that up to 5 participants per ReSPA Member (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia) and Kosovo*¹ would attend the conference. The target audience for this conference should be NIPACs or representatives of the NIPAC Offices in charge of coordination of the EU Budget Support, representatives of ministries of finance, line ministries benefiting from the EU Budget Support and other relevant institutions, as the case may be in a particular country. The representatives of EU Delegations in the Western Balkans region will be also invited.

¹ * 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, 21 September 2017

Venue: TBC

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| 09.15 | - | 09.30 | Registration |
| 09.30 | - | 10.00 | Opening addresses
Representative of the Ministry of European Integration of Albania
Representative of ReSPA
Representative of GIZ - ORF |
| 10.00 | - | 10.30 | Experience in implementation of the EU Budget Support,
<i>representative of Albania</i> |
| 10.30 | - | 11.00 | Experience in implementation of the EU Budget Support,
<i>representative of Montenegro</i> |
| 11.00 | - | 11.20 | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 11.20 | - | 11.50 | Experience in implementation of the EU Budget Support,
<i>representative of Serbia</i> |
| 11.50 | - | 12.40 | Preparations for the use of EU Budget Support, <i>representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo*</i> |
| 12.40 | - | 14.00 | <i>Lunch</i> |
| 14.00 | - | 15.15 | EU Budget Support as aid modality for promotion of sector reforms in the enlargement context
Ms. Terhi Karvinen, Budget Support Coordinator, DG NEAR, EC |
| 15.15 | - | 15.30 | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 15.30 | - | 17.00 | Discussion among participants:
- Questions & Answers Session
- Further support to administrations in the area of Budget Support
- Concluding Remarks |