



ReSPA

Regional School  
of Public Administration



MONTENEGRO

SECRETARIAT FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

CONFERENCE ON

REGIONAL COOPERATION AMONG  
NATIONAL INVESTMENT COMMISSIONS

IMPROVED COOPERATION FOR  
DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS

5 – 6 October 2015  
Danilovgrad, Montenegro

*Provisional Agenda*



ReSPA

Regional School  
of Public Administration

ReSPA Activities are  
Financed by the EU



## Background

The Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA) and the Secretariat for Development Projects of Montenegro, being technical secretariat of the National Investment Commission of Montenegro, organise a conference on the topic of Regional cooperation among National Investment Commissions – Improved cooperation for development and progress.

The European Union has recognised that effective support for infrastructure projects is feasible if a coherent approach based on sector strategies is ensured by all relevant stakeholders. This is particularly relevant when it comes to the projects financed through the Western Balkan Investment Fund (WBIF). The efficiency of financial intervention can be ensured if correct methodologies for identification of concrete investments and prioritisation is provided. Therefore, the introduction of the single projects pipeline was identified as the most appropriate response enabling WBIF to decide on the concrete interventions that will be financially supported. The implementation of this enhanced approach requires certain institutional and procedural adjustments at the level of beneficiaries. The establishment of a National Investment Commission (NIC) was the first step in the series of activities undertaken with the aim to ensure adequate mechanism for project prioritisation and in-country coordination, on the one hand, and political commitment to investments, on the other hand. The NIC is supposed to enable the direct communication of approved project pipelines to the national government. The operative support to the NIC is ensured through the system of Sectoral working groups entrusted with the mission to identify, in cooperation with the project beneficiaries, the relevant infrastructure projects based on national strategies, action plans and existing data bases, after which a Sector Single Project Pipeline is composed. Further support to the decision making of the NIC is ensured by its technical apparatus. Besides the in-country coordination, the whole system relies heavily on the cooperation with the EU institutions and EU Delegation to the respective country.

The ReSPA Members have made commitments towards establishment of effective mechanisms for the performance of NICs, adoption of relevant methodology and functional system for the single project pipeline. Although the degree to which the ReSPA Members achieved those tasks vary, there is a considerable need to engage into regional – wide discussions and exchange of experience in order to ensure mutual support among relevant national administrations.

## Objectives

The overall objective of this conference is to strengthen regional cooperation between the beneficiaries (ReSPA Members) from the Western Balkan Investment Framework for financing infrastructure projects. The representatives of ReSPA Members are expected to present the experience and lessons learned from the establishments of their respective NICs and other relevant bodies, and elaboration and adoption of applicable methodologies.

Furthermore, the aim of the conference is to help to exchange the experience of Technical Apparatus of National Investment Commissions with which they met in the process of selection and prioritization of infrastructure projects. Namely, in order to provide the most possible coordination in the use of funds from the Western Balkan Investment funds, so that

beneficiary countries participate actively in preparing and applying for financing projects which are of regional importance, it is essential that every participant, in the process of prioritizing infrastructure projects, share their experiences and suggest further fields of cooperation.

In order to achieve this objectives, the conference will be organised in the following manner: the first day will involve high level speakers from the ReSPA Members and the European Union, whilst the second day will be conceived as a discussion platform/workshop, moderated by an expert, for the officials of the technical apparatus of the NICs in order to ensure the follow up exchange among them and to enable them to reach certain recommendations on how to improve the regional cooperation in the subject area.

## Participants

The target audience of this conference are representatives of NICs of ReSPA Members, officials from their technical apparatus and/or officials of the NIPAC offices. The conference will be also attended by speakers from the European Commission. Representatives of the Delegation of European Union in Montenegro, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), European Investment Bank (EIB) as well as officials of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Montenegro, Ministry of Finance of Montenegro, Secretariat for Development Projects and Sectoral Working Groups will be invited to attend the first day of the conference.

## Expected outputs

The participants of the conference are expected to remain with solid understanding of the main procedural, institutional and technical aspects of the functioning of the NICs and single project pipeline. The further output would be a clear vision on what topics and in which way the regional cooperation could be improved.

## PROVISIONAL AGENDA

### DAY 1 – MONDAY, 5 OCTOBER 2015

09:30 – 09:45	Registration of participants
09:45 – 10:30	Welcome speech <i>Ms. Biserka Dragicevic, Secretary of the Secretariat for Development Projects of Montenegro; Representative of the Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA)</i>
10:30 – 11:15	EU commitment to support infrastructural projects in the Western Balkans <i>Representative of the European Commission, DG Near – tbc.</i>
11:15 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30– 12:15	Methodology for selection and prioritization of infrastructure projects: Experience of Montenegro <i>Mr. Vojin Vlahovic, National Coordinator for Regional Projects in Montenegro</i>
12:15 – 13:00	One year of experience in Serbia: Implementation of Methodology for selection and prioritization of infrastructure projects <i>Ms. Ana Ilic, Assistant Director, Serbian Office for European Integration</i>
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch break
14:30 – 15:00	Establishment of NICs – experience of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo* and Macedonia - <i>Presentation by representatives of national administrations</i>
15:00 – 15:15	Coffee break

---

\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

15:15 – 16:00 Establishment of NICs – experience of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\* and Macedonia - *Presentation by representatives of national administrations*

## DAY 2 – TUESDAY, 6 OCTOBER 2015

### *Thematic Workshop for Technical Apparatus of National Investment Commissions Lessons learned*

09:15 – 09:30 Registration of participants

09:30 – 11:00 How to successfully prepare the Methodology for selection and prioritization of infrastructure projects  
*Presentation and discussion moderated by Mr. Calin Trelea, IFICO expert*

11:00 – 11:15 *Coffee break*

11:15 - 13:00 Establishment of Sector Working Groups: improved inter – institutional coordination  
*Presentation and discussion moderated by Mr. Calin Trelea, IFICO expert*

13:00 – 14:30 *Lunch break*

14:30 – 15:30 Round table discussion – how to enhance regional cooperation among NICs and technical secretariats  
*Moderated by Mr. Calin Trelea, IFICO expert*