

4th Regional Conference on EU Budget Support

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

20 - 21 September 2018

Belgrade, Republic of Serbia

Venue: tbd.



BACKGROUND

The Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) is a tool 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 Performance Contract, provided that the relevant eligibility criteria are met. Albania, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo*¹ have already concluded sector reform contracts for some sectors and are already implementing budget support operations with the aim to achieve reforms in the defined areas. During the last few years, significant level of experience in relation to the SRPC implementation has been accumulated in the Western Balkans region. However, the exchange among peers at the regional level, remains a useful capacity building tool.

Through the joint effort, GIZ – ORF Promotion of EU Integration through regional cooperation and ReSPA, in cooperation with the DG NEAR, undertook to again organise, bringing together the representatives of ReSPA Members, a discussion platform in the form of regional intergovernmental conference with the aim to present acquired experiences in the area of budget support implementation. The Conference will be also supported by the participation of the representatives of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) who will make introductory remarks on some topics. This conference is a follow-up of three regional conferences organized in 2015, 2016 and 2017.

The objectives of this regional conference are exchange of experience among representatives of the relevant institutions of ReSPA Members and EC officials, and further development of regional cooperation among ReSPA Members in the area of utilization of IPA funds. This year, the Regional Conference on the EU Budget Support will consist of three thematic sessions:

1. Sector Reform Performance Contract Implementation – Sector Monitoring for Reporting Results,
2. Successful Strategy Development, Policy Planning and Coordination - From PAR to Sector Strategies, and,
3. Effective Communication for Promoting Strategic Objectives and Results.

Each session will have an introductory remark followed by the *tour de table* when the representatives of the ReSPA Members would be able to present their relevant experience and discuss the topic covered by the session. It is envisaged that up to 7 participants per ReSPA Member (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia) and Kosovo* (beneficiary of the activities organised by ReSPA) 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, line ministries benefiting from the EU Budget Support and other relevant

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

institutions, as the case may be in a particular ReSPA Member. The participants are expected to actively participate in presentations and discussion sharing their best practices but also discussing the issues that may require some improvement in the future. The representatives of the EU Delegations in the Western Balkans region will be also invited to attend the Conference.

Day 1: Thursday, 20 September 2018

Hour	Agenda Item
09:15 – 09:45	Registration
09:45 – 10:15	Opening Addresses Ms Ratka Sekulović, ReSPA Director Representative of GIZ – ORF Representative of the EU Delegation to Serbia <i>Moderators: Ms Olivera Dimić, GIZ-ORF and Mr Duško Glodić, ReSPA</i>
10:15 – 11:00	SESSION I Sector Reform Performance Contract Implementation – Sector Monitoring for Reporting Results Introductory remark: Ms Terhi Karvinen, DG NEAR, EC Presentation: Prerequisites for Successful Monitoring and Reporting , Representative of the OECD/SIGMA (tbd.) <i>Tour de Table and Discussion:</i> Representatives of ReSPA Members to present: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Experiences relation to the national monitoring and reporting systems<ul style="list-style-type: none">Possible difficulties and improvement measuresLessons learned in monitoring sector reforms and SPC implementation <i>Moderators: Ms Olivera Dimić, GIZ-ORF and Mr Duško Glodić, ReSPA</i>
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 – 13:00	SESSION I – continued
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch Break
14.30 – 15.30	SESSION II Successful Strategy Development, Policy Planning and Coordination – From PAR to Sector Strategies Introductory remark: Representative of the OECD/SIGMA (tbd.) <i>Tour de Table and Discussion:</i> Representatives of ReSPA Members to present: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Examples of strategy development and involvement of relevant stakeholders

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- Coordination of policy developments in relation to reform sectors
 - Possible difficulties and improvement measures

Moderators: Ms Olivera Dimić, GIZ-ORF and Mr Duško Glodić, ReSPA

15:30 – 16:00

Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:00

SESSION II – continued

19:00 – 21:00

Networking Dinner

Location: tbd.

Day 2: Friday, 21 September 2018

Hour

Agenda Item

09:15 – 09:45

Registration

09:45 – 10:30

SESSION III

Effective Communication for Promoting Strategic Objectives and Results

Introductory remark: Mr Alessandro Bellantoni, OECD

Tour de Table and Discussion:

Representatives of ReSPA Members to present:

- Examples of reform promotions and related strategic objectives
- How issues of communication are addressed in their strategies
 - Possible difficulties and improvement measures

Moderators: Ms Olivera Dimić, GIZ-ORF and Mr Duško Glodić, ReSPA

10:30 – 11:00

Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30

SESSION III – continued

12:30 – 13:00

Concluding Remarks

13:00 – 14:30

Lunch Break
