

IPA Annual Programme 2007

The IPA 2007 Kosovo¹ Programme is focused on the objectives identified in the Multi-Annual Planning Document (MIPD) 2007-2009. These reflect the key priorities of the European Partnership. The programme has been designed in close collaboration with the Kosovo authorities, in particular the Agency for European Integration (the IPA Coordinator). The programme also responds to key government priorities, including those identified in the Kosovo Development Strategy and Plan and the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework. There has also been close cooperation with other donors, especially the Member States.

The MIDP identifies three priority areas:

1. Political requirements

This priority area focuses on the fulfilment of the EU's political criteria and the consolidation of Kosovo's institutional, administrative and judicial set-up. This includes the fight against corruption, the protection of human and minority rights and the promotion of civil society activities. This is particularly important in view of the settlement of Kosovo's future status.

The programme addresses the need to:

- Assist Kosovo's institutions to support the implementation of the status settlement
- Improve the performance of Kosovo's public administration at all levels including to design and implement a coherent and interconnected body of legislation
- Advance the reform of local self-government as part of the decentralisation process, including the improvement of managerial competencies and service delivery
- Consolidate the rule of law through police reform and fighting corruption - in close cooperation with the future possible ESDP mission
- Promote human and minority rights, IDP and refugee return in a climate of inter-ethnic tolerance and to ensure the preservation of cultural and religious heritage of non majority communities.

2. Socio-Economic Requirements

This priority area addresses wider socio-economic issues, including fiscal and financial management, improvement of investment climate, trade opportunities, and development of energy, environment, transport, agriculture, education and employment sectors.

Key priorities addressed by the programme include:

- Enhancing Kosovo's investment climate and support to small and medium enterprises, including export promotion
- Promoting rural development
- Developing infrastructure including in the transport sector
- Improving the quality of the education system.

3. European Standards

This priority area focuses on capacity building and approximation of legislation and flanking measures in the context of European standards. These include internal market issues, justice and home affairs, food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary domains, statistics, media and electronic communication and the preparation for the participation in regional initiatives and Community programmes.

The programme addresses the need to build effective institutional capacity in order to:

- Develop sectoral strategies and policies compatible with European standards, especially in public procurement, intellectual property rights and veterinary services
- Enhance capacity in home affairs particularly in relation to border control, asylum and migration
- Enhance Kosovo's full participation in the Energy Community Treaty.

The 2007 programme is designed to have the flexibility necessary to respond to Kosovo's priority needs in 2008 and 2009, particularly in the context of progress towards future status, and the strengthening EU leadership role and presence in Kosovo.

¹ UNSCR 1244/99