

IPA Annual Programme 2008

The IPA 2008 programme for Kosovo¹ is focused on the objectives identified in the Multi-Annual Indicative Planning Document (MIPD) 2008-2010. The programme contains 20 projects from which 19 projects are grouped under 3 strategic priority axes and one project provides the reserve and support activities to the programme. The objectives of the programme reflect the key priorities of the European Partnership and the priorities of Kosovo's Medium-Term Expenditure Framework.

Priority Axis 1 - Political Criteria

26% of the overall budget for the 2008 programme is allocated to this axis, which focuses on the fulfilment of the EU's political criteria and consolidation of Kosovo's institutional, administrative and judicial set-up, including the fight against corruption, the protection of human and minority rights and the promotion of civil society activities.

Priority Axis 2 – Economic Criteria

56% of the overall budget for the 2008 programme is allocated to this axis which addresses wider socio-economic issues, including fiscal and financial management, auditing and accounting procedures, improvement of the investment climate, trade opportunities, and development of the energy, environment, transport, agriculture and rural development, education and employment sectors.

Priority Axis 3 – European Standards

8% of the overall budget for the 2008 programme is allocated to this axis which focuses on capacity building and the approximation of legislation and flanking measures in the context of European standards as identified in the European Partnership. These include internal market issues, freedom, security and justice issues, food safety, veterinary and phyto-sanitary domains, statistics, media and electronic communication and the preparation for the participation in regional initiatives and Community programmes.

A reserve and technical assistance facility of 10% of the overall budget is maintained to prepare projects under future IPA programmes under any Priority Axis, as well as for contingencies and for the contribution to sectors with unexpected or urgent institution building needs. The sectors addressed include upgrading of public administration institutions, including development of human resources, statistics, property rights, transport, Kosovo's debt management, etc.

The 2008 programme is designed to have the flexibility necessary to respond to Kosovo's priority needs in 2009 and 2010, particularly in the context of Kosovo's Constitutional obligations, and the strengthening EU leadership role and presence in Kosovo.

¹ UNSCR 1244/99