



Supporting Albanian Negotiations in Environment, Chapter 27 (SANE27) - phase II  
Mbështetja e Negociatave Shqiptare në Mjedis, Kapitulli 27 (SANE27)-faza 2

*IPA funds experience in meeting EU Environment  
and Climate Change requirements  
(North Macedonia and Albania)*

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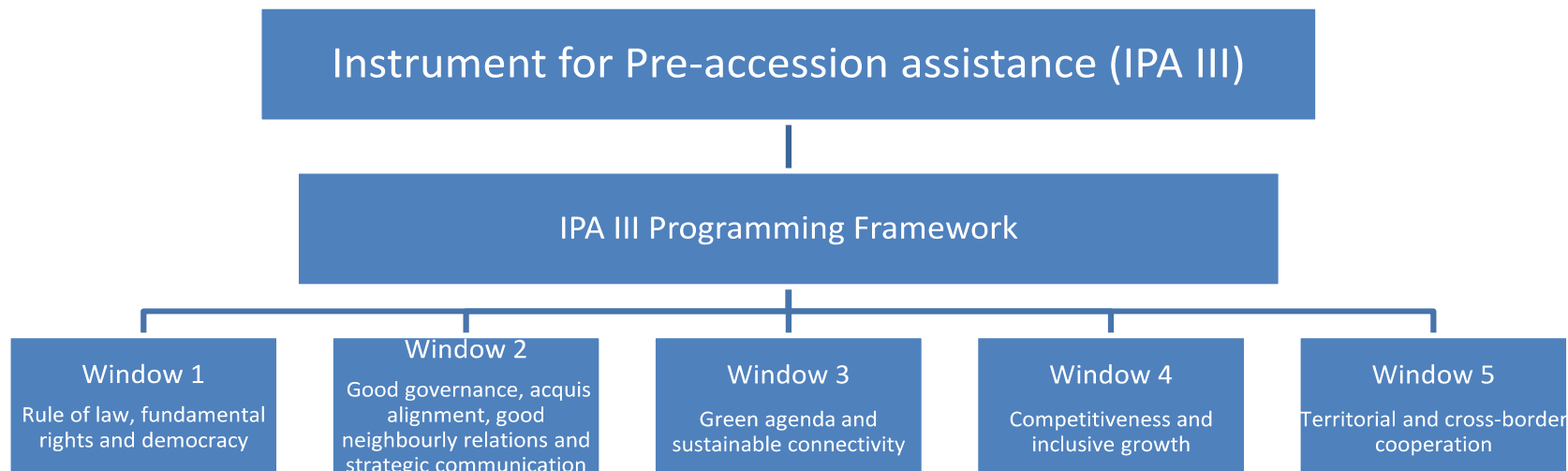


# IPA funds

- IPA as a funding mechanism of the European Union (EU) supports the reforms in the enlargement countries with financial and technical assistance since 2007
- aimed to support the countries in different areas **to meet EU *acquis* requirements**
- Up to now there are three IPA financial perspectives:
  - IPA I : 2007 – 2013
  - IPA II: 2014 – 2020
  - IPA III: 2021 – 2027, EC aligned the main principles towards its firm position to **further enhance the accession process – A credible EU perspective for the Western Balkans (New Enlargement Methodology)**



# IPA III funds structure



	Financial Programming (EUR million)							Total Programme
	2021	DB2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 901,4</b>	<b>1 940,5</b>	<b>1 979,6</b>	<b>2 019,6</b>	<b>2 059,7</b>	<b>2 101,7</b>	<b>2 144,6</b>	<b>14 147,1</b>



# IPA I implementation for Environment and Climate Change

- IPA I beneficiaries:
  - Albania:
    - **Component I: TAIB** (Transition Assistance for Institutional Building), Programed on annual base and implemented through centralized (DEU) and decentralized implementation system (DIS)
  - North Macedonia:
    - **Component I: TAIB** (Transition Assistance for Institutional Building) - Programed on annual base and implemented through DIS – CFCD
    - **Component III: Regional Development**, Multi-annual program for Transport and Environment and implemented through DIS – CFCD



# IPA II implementation for Environment and Climate Change

- IPA II beneficiaries:
  - Albania:
    - Programed on annual base with **Action programs** and implemented through centralized and DIS
  - North Macedonia:
    - **Multi-annual Sector Operational Program for Environment and Climate Action 2014-2020**, implemented through DIS and only for Framework Contract Projects (following PRAG rules) implemented with centralized system through DEU



# IPA III implementation for Environment and Climate Change

- IPA III beneficiaries:
  - Albania:
    - Programed on **annual base with Action documents (AD)** and implemented with DIS through **entrusted entities** as service providers (international or EU members' state organizations or bodies which have conducted pillar assessment by EC)
    - Programing is completed for 2021 and 2022 with 3 ADs
  - North Macedonia:
    - Programed on **annual base with AD** and implemented with DIS through **entrusted entities** as service providers (international or EU member states' organizations or bodies which have conducted pillar assessment by EC)
    - Programming is completed for 2021 and 2022 with 2 ADs
- Currently both countries should make decision for programing 2023 and/or to have SOP for 2023/24 – 2027 for the sector



# Programming IPA II funds – North Macedonia

Methodology was developed for identifying sectors needs

1. Gap assessment on transposition, administrative capacity and implementation was conducted
2. Actions to close gaps were proposed
3. Technical assistance to support actions implementation were identification
4. Technical assistance projects were formulated
5. Supported by the British Embassy through project Governance for Environmental Accession
6. Activates were implemented 2012-2013



## Programming IPA II funds – North Macedonia cont.

- Main EU Chapter 27 directives/regulation were analyzed (67) as included into progress monitoring/ bilateral screening exercise conducted by DG Environment
- All identified TA needs were divided into:
  - Recommended for IPA funding
  - Recommended for funding from other sources
- More than **20 TA projects** were identified and prioritised
- Total value was about 40 MEUR
- Proposal was made to make such assessment for the Multilateral agreements in environment and climate change ratified by North Macedonia





# Programming IPA III funds – Albania

- Screening preparatory assessment methodology was developed (2018)
- Was based on identified gaps on 73 main EU legal acts relevant for Chapter 27 EU negotiations (directives and regulations)
- Needs for transposition, administrative capacity and implementation were identified
- **35 Project fiches (PF) prepared for TA and supply** of equipment projects that summarizes the needs to close identified gaps in Chapter 27
- No PF was prepared for infrastructure though needs exists in particular for waste management and water quality sub-chapters



## Programming IPA III funds – Albania cont.

- Need Assessment Table with 35 PFs prepared for TA and supply of equipment
- Total estimated need is **49.8 MEUR for TA plus 7,4 MEUR for equipment**
- 14 identified needs (projects) are consider as of **high priority** - 2021 and 2022
  - Some priority projects were included in AD for 2021 and 2022
  - Some priority projects have been funded by other donors (Sida)
  - Some priority projects are to be included in AD for 2023 or in SOP
- Activities were conducted within SANE27 in 2019 and PFs are regularly updated



# Programming IPA III funds approach

- Both countries should soon start programming IPA funds:
  - for 2023 with AD, or
  - may prepare Multi-annual Sector Operational Program 2023/2024 – 2027
- IPA III should strive to support countries in meeting EU *acquis* requirements and support EU negotiation process
- It should also consider the EU Green agenda for the Western Balkan and accommodate it within the EU integration process
- Needs of the sector should be well analysed and prioritised before IPA funds are programmed



# Programming IPA III funds approach cont.

- IPA funds programs, considering the countries' needs, adequately should have:
  - One component for **technical assistance and supply related projects**
  - One component for **infrastructure projects**: mostly in waste and water sectors
  - One component for **grant scheme** and support to society stakeholders (NGO, private sector, academia)
- Infrastructure projects need to be design to meet **future climate objectives** and established goals for carbon neutral society by 2050
- Mainstreaming of climate considerations in future investment and development of infrastructure projects **will be challenge** for the countries – low level of alignment with EC climate *acquis* and low experience in implementation – support is needed



# Programming IPA III funds approach cont.

- Multi-annual sector operational programme may bring some advantage
- IPA III may have SOP for **Window 3 – Green Agenda and Sustainable Connectivity** that two thematic priorities (TP) (sectors):
  - TP1: Environment and Climate Change
  - TP2: Transport, digital economy and society, and energy
- SOP (2023/4-2027) has several benefits:
  - The **closest model** for managing **EU Structural funds** – increasing national capacities
  - **Flexibility** in projects identification and implementation
  - Secured long term and **stable support** to the sector
  - Strategic approach and **long term planning**
  - **Provide better donors' coordination**



# Programming IPA III and donors funds coordination

- Identified some overlapping and projects' recycling
- Need for **stronger donor coordination** using Sector working groups (SWG) or other coordination bodies on national level
- Background for establishment – implementation of sector based approach
- Improves establishing **full governance** over the sector by leading national institutions for the SWG
- SWG can:
  - strengthen inter-institutional cooperation
  - ensure efficient coordination of activities related to programming and monitoring of EU funds, other bilateral and multilateral assistance
- As minimum need to be composed with representatives from lead donors in the country, national institutions relevant for the sectors, NGO and may include other stakeholders (local authorities)

# Conclusions

- EU Integration process is **demanding**, both in management and needed investments
- Environment and Climate Change sector is the **most expensive** to meet EU requirements
- Good planning of EU IPA and other donors funds is necessary to ensure **progress in meeting** EU and other international agreements requirements and **donors coordination is essential**
- Climate change mainstreaming (proofing) will make the IPA and other donors support **more efficient and long lasting**, however, countries will need support to implement it



**Thank you very much for your attention!!!**

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