



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Programming IPA Cross-border Co-operation Programmes:

Preparation and next steps

Moray Gilland, DG Regional Policy
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Some reminders

- Key elements:
 - ◆ Partnership
 - ◆ Multi-annual nature
 - ◆ Authority
 - ◆ Responsibility
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State of Play

- Creation of drafting teams and programme task force
 - Tendering of ex-ante evaluation and Strategic Environmental Assessment
 - Agreement on programme authorities
 - Assess full task list
 - Ensure clear division of responsibilities
 - Ensure clear timetable for process
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Required elements

- Programme document (obviously...)
 - Agreement between participating countries
 - Description of management and control systems
 - Call for project documents
 - Contract documentation

 - Creation of secretariat
 - Appointment of national controllers
 - External assessment of management and control systems
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Preparation of the Programme

- Need for ownership by the wider partnership
 - ◆ Written consultation or Internet
 - Full consultation on draft
 - ◆ Partnership meetings
 - Public consultation required for SEA in Member States
 - Final approval by national authorities
 - Submission to the Commission
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Approval Process

- Commission internal assessment
 - Formal Commission reaction in writing
 - ◆ with negotiation meeting
 - Partners revise the programme
 - Consultation of IPA Management Committee
 - Commission decision approving programme
 - ◆ Addressed to Member States
 - Subsequent Financing Agreement with non-Member States
 - Programme launch
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Programme Contents

- Programme Area
 - ◆ defined in advance - adjacent areas?
 - Analysis
 - ◆ must cover whole programme area. SWOT is the usual method
 - Strategy
 - ◆ what is to be achieved?
 - Priorities
 - ◆ what topics will actually be supported?
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Programme Contents

- Implementing Provisions
 - ◆ programme authorities; monitoring and financial reporting systems
 - Financial Provisions
 - ◆ Financial table without a breakdown per country (unless a transitional programme)
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Programme Contents

- Programme is multi-annual and strategic: therefore, limited length - even for Adriatic programme
 - Realistic approach to number and scope of priorities
 - Principle of proportionality linked to financial allocation
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Other documents

- Experience shows that a concentration on the programme document lead to delays later
 - Detailed timetable for supporting papers required
 - Workload distributed so all documents are ready at moment of decision
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Agreement among countries

- Sometimes called Convention or Memorandum of Understanding covering:
 - ◆ Who, what, why, when!
 - ◆ Management structures
 - ◆ Procedures
 - ◆ Financial management and liabilities
 - ◆ Audit arrangements
 - Provides proof that countries are ready for the integrated approach
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Description of control systems

- Separate document required
 - Assessment report and opinion prepared by Audit Authority or contractor
 - All reservations expressed in opinion must be dealt with before payments can be made to the programme
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Role of the Commission

- Commission to be pro-active throughout the programming exercise
 - Happy to participate in programming committees and to comment on draft texts at any stage - earlier the better!
 - Desk officers available to provide advice and suggestions at all times
 - Intention is to ensure a final draft programme close to all requirements
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Project paperwork

- All call documents and contractual papers must be ready at the moment of approval
 - Allows for an immediate launch of the call for projects
 - Should be combined with effective publicity exercise, information events, partner search forums
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Timing

- March-April
 - ◆ Approval of IPA implementing regulation
 - ◆ Commission decision on eligible areas
 - As soon as possible after April:
 - ◆ Submission to the Commission
 - Early September
 - ◆ Finalisation of programme negotiations
 - October
 - ◆ Presentation to IPA Management Committee
 - December
 - ◆ Commission decision
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