

Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)



Sharing Expertise

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Why?

Aspiring members of the European Union, whether candidate or potential candidate countries, represent a unique challenge for European Territorial Cooperation. As a result, and in order to ensure that the pre-accession process is supported adequately, the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) was set up.

The IPA Cross-border Cooperation (CBC) component is designed to deliver focused support to CBC between candidate and potential candidate countries as well as between them and EU Member States, and may also fund participation of beneficiary countries in transnational cooperation programmes.

What?

INTERACT acts as a key facilitator in the cooperation between Candidate and Potential Candidate Countries on the one hand, and Member States on the other. As such, INTERACT is able to advance and increase the efficiency of IPA CBC programmes, to strengthen cooperation along external borders, and to prepare candidate and potential candidate countries for the post-accession period.

INTERACT supports the cooperation of IPA Programmes stakeholders in cross-border and transnational programmes, as well as facilitating communication and cooperation with EC delegations and other involved actors. It aims to develop long-term relationships with IPA programmes within the area of South East Europe, in order to be able to assess their needs and develop appropriate services.

How?

INTERACT provides guidance to IPA CBC programmes between Member States and Candidate and Potential Candidate Countries on all aspects of programme management, such as the setting up of programme bodies (including their task and roles), different models of implementation, human resources, monitoring, communication, project management, and financial management.

Programme authorities can also contact INTERACT at any time to request specialised seminars, advisory services, workshops or receive information by phone or e-mail.

For whom?

The most important INTERACT target group are programme authorities, but other IPA stakeholders and project owners are also expected to benefit from INTERACT support. IPA specific services and events are usually organised in cooperation with the responsible DGs of the European Commission, namely DG Regional Policy and DG Enlargement.

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