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EUROPEAN COMMISSION

IPA 2007-2013 Cross-border co-operation between Candidate/potential Candidate countries An introduction

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Objectives of the seminar

- Inform about implementing rules of IPA CBC between Candidate/potential Candidate countries (CC/PCC)
- Discuss common challenges for authorities arising from preparation and implementation of programmes

In addition:

- *Present rules for participation in ERDF transnational co-operation programmes (e.g. South-East Europe programme, successor of CADSES)*



Presentations

- Introduction to the (draft) IPA Implementing Regulation (*G. Ballette*)
- IPA CBC programmes: structures and implementation (*A.M. Maskay*)
- IPA CBC programmes: preparation and next steps (*G. Ballette*)

In addition:

- *Participation of IPA countries in ERDF transnational programmes (G. Ballette)*



IPA (Component II) CBC

Two strands:

- CBC at borders between Member States and Candidates/potential Candidates (i.e. EU external borders)
- CBC at borders among Candidate/potential Candidate countries



IPA (Component II) CBC

Main aim:

- Strengthening good neighbouring relations through joint local and regional initiatives in border areas
- Economic and social development of border areas

... but also:

- Prepare beneficiary countries to implement Structural Funds Territorial Co-operation objective (learning by doing)

Hence:

- IPA CBC implementing rules are mirroring those of the Territorial Co-operation of Structural Funds



IPA Implementing Regulation

Part I: Common provisions

Title I: Principles and General Framework for Assistance

Title II: Common Rules for Implementation

Part II: Specific Provisions

Title I: Transition Assistance and Institution Building

Title II: Cross-border Co-operation

Title III: Regional Dev. And Human Resources Dev.

Title IV: Rural Dev.

Part III: Final Provisions



IPA Implementing Regulation IPA (Component II) CBC

Part II - Title II - Cross-border Co-operation

- Chapter I (Object of assistance and eligibility): applies to both strands
- Chapter II (Programming): applies to both strands
- Chapter III (Implementation):
 - ◆ Section 1: applies to both strands
 - ◆ Section 2: applies to CBC with MS
 - ◆ Section 3: applies to CBC among CC/PCC



CBC programmes among CC/PCC

Who does What

- CBC programmes are jointly programmed and implemented by authorities of the participating countries. **OWNERSHIP!**
- Beneficiary countries must allocate sufficient resources to ensure a successful and efficient implementation of cross-border programmes
- Contracting authority (tendering, contracting, payments):
 - decentralised management: national accredited structures
 - centralised management: EC Delegation



Territorial eligibility

Eligible regions (Art. 88.2):

- Same eligibility rules as under the Structural Funds Territorial Co-operation objective
- NUTS level III regions (or equivalent) along borders
- List of eligible regions included in the CBC programmes

Focus + Concentration = Impact



Special conditions governing location of operations (Art. 97)

In duly justified cases:

- Up to 20% of the Community contribution may be used to finance operations in NUTS III (or equivalent) areas adjacent to the eligible areas ("adjacent areas")

In exceptional cases:

- Expenditures outside the programme area may be eligible if absolutely necessary for the achievement of the project objectives



Adjacent areas

Procedure:

- Where applicable, beneficiary countries submit their thoroughly substantiated proposals for “adjacent areas” to the Commission prior to the finalisation of programmes (i.e. NOW)
- If accepted by the Commission, “adjacent areas” are included in the programme, but must be clearly differentiate from eligible areas



Allocation of IPA funds (1)

IPA Comp. II funds allocated to each country (MIFF) include:

- Allocations per border to cover CBC with MSs (ring fenced)
- A financial envelope (cf. MIPDs) to cover:
 - a) CBC with neighbouring CC/PCC
 - b) Participation in ERDF transnational programmes, where appropriate



Allocation of IPA funds (2)

Beneficiary countries, in close co-operation with the Commission, shall propose:

- the amount of funds to be allocated (2007-2010) to each CBC programme with neighbouring CC/PCC (to be jointly discussed between participating countries. Aim: matching funds)
- the amount of funds to be allocated (2007) for the participation in ERDF programmes, where relevant



CBC structures

For each cross-border programme:

- Each participating country shall establish an Operating structure (Art. 139.1)
- Operating structures shall set up a Joint Technical Secretariat
- Participating countries set up a Joint Monitoring Committee (where operating structure are represented)

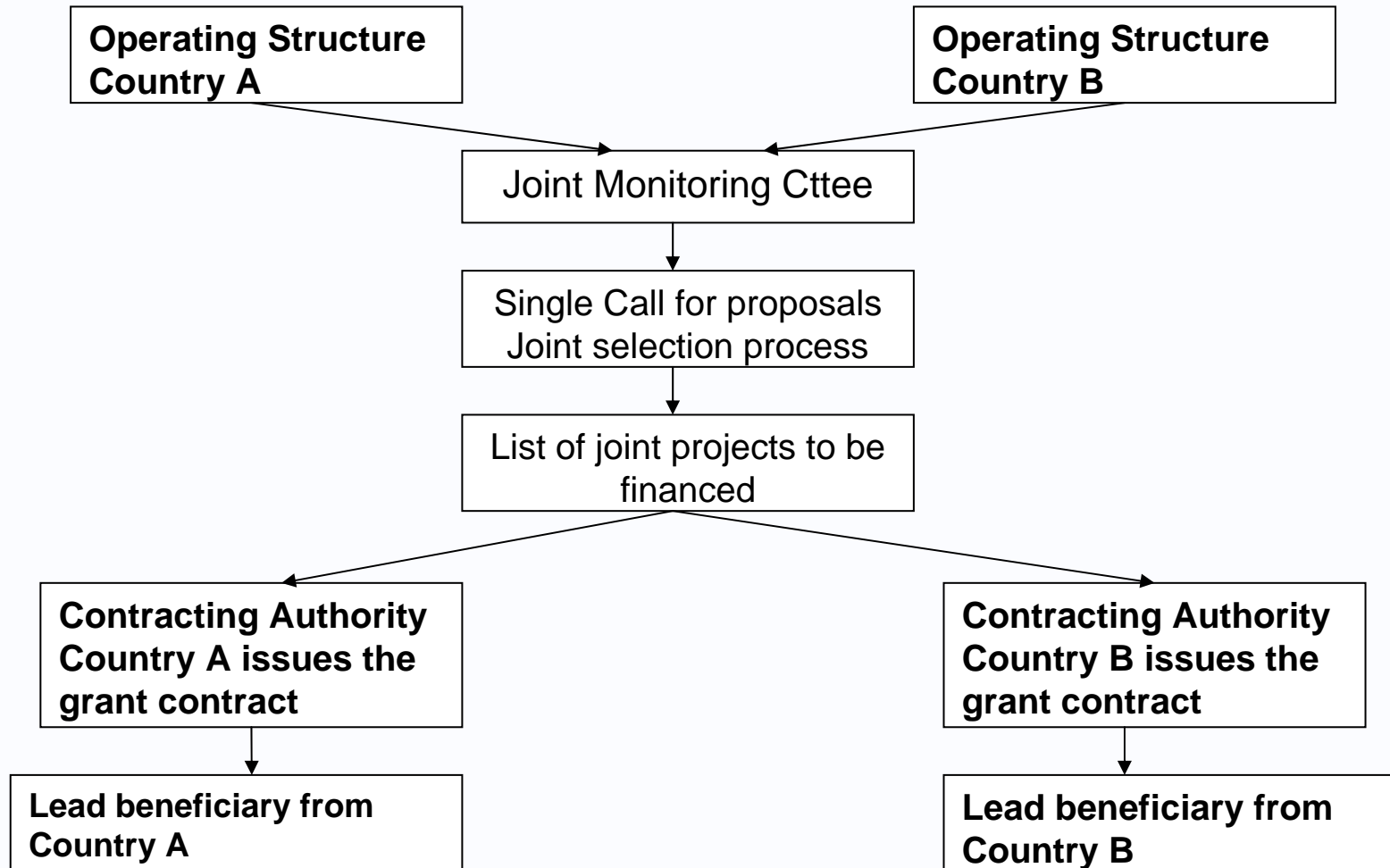


CBC between CC/PCC Implementation

- Joint programming and project selection but separate tendering/contracting
- Joint monitoring committee responsible for selecting the projects
- Tendering and contracting: one Contracting authority in each participating country
 - ◆ National authority, in the event of decentralised management
 - ◆ EC Delegation, in the event of centralised management



Implementation





Grant Award Process

1. **Joint Monitoring Committee establishes the Call for proposals/Guidelines for applicants**
2. **As applicable, EC Delegations endorse the CFP/GfA prior to their publication**
3. **Joint Monitoring Committee select the projects. EC Delegations participate in an advisory capacity**
4. **As applicable, EC Delegations endorse the evaluation report (list of projects)**
5. **The EC Delegation (centralised mngt) or the Implementing Agency (decentralised mngt) in each participating country issues the grant contract to the lead beneficiary from the relevant country**



Lead Beneficiary Principle (1)

If several partners in one beneficiary country are participating in a given project, then (Art. 96.3):

- Partners shall appoint a Lead beneficiary (LB) among themselves prior to the submission of the project proposal;
- LB responsible for the implementation of the part of operation taking place in the respective country.
- LB responsible for establishing arrangements for relations among partners
- LB receive the grant from the Contracting authority and in charge of transferring funds to partners participating in the operation
- LB responsible for ensuring expenditures has been spent for the purpose of implementing the operation

Lead beneficiaries from participating countries shall ensure a close co-ordination of the implementation of the joint operation

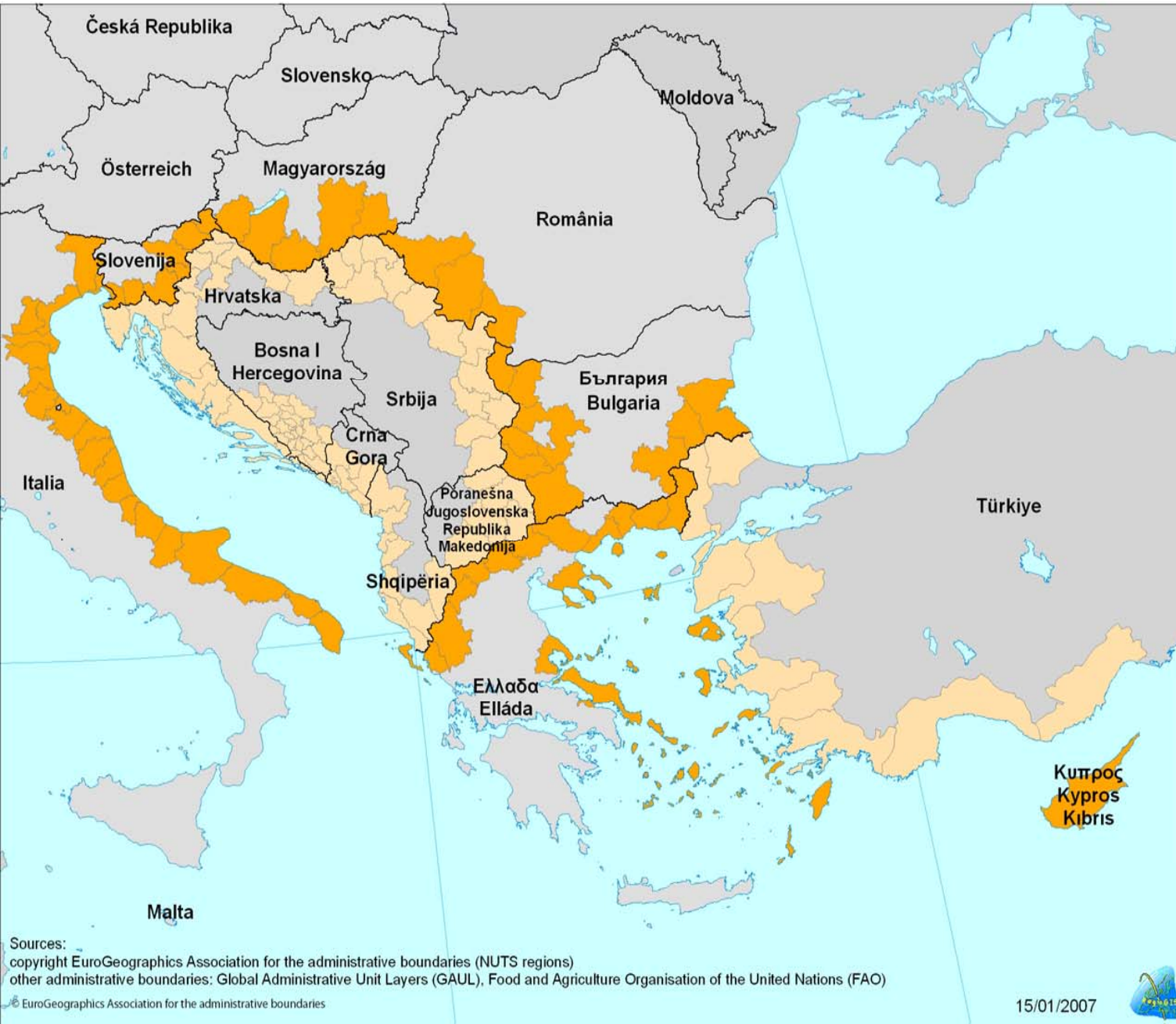


Lead Beneficiary Principle (2)

- Each partner is responsible in the event of any irregularity in the expenditure it has declared.
- In the event of irregularity, the Contracting authority recovers the funding from the lead beneficiary partner
- The Lead beneficiary recovers the funding from the partner concerned



IPA Crossborder Cooperation



- EU27 Cooperation areas
- Other cooperation areas

Warning:
Regional boundaries within non-EU
countries are indicative only.

