



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General Enlargement

**D - IPA STRATEGY
The Director**

Brussels, 23 MAI 2013

DG ELARG D3/GR/Ares(2013)

Dr Fatmir Besimi
Secretariat for European Affairs
Ilindenska b.b.
1000 Skopje
the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Dear Dr Besimi,

I am pleased to invite you to an event in relation to cross border co-operation (CBC) at intra-Western Balkan borders that will take place in Hotel Iberostar in Bečići, Budva Municipality, Montenegro on 20 June 2013 (whole day) and 21 June 2013 (morning).

This is a follow-up to the meeting held in Brussels on 24 April 2013 where initial discussions were held between the Commission and representatives of the National Authorities.

The event will formally launch the programming exercise for CBC between candidate and potential candidate countries under IPA II (2014-2020) which should culminate in the submission of CBC Programmes at intra-Western Balkan borders to the Commission by 30 November 2013.

The Commission will present the major relevant features for cross-border cooperation under IPA II. The aim is to have a meaningful discussion on the implications of simplified and more flexible procedures for the implementation of the programmes, the definition of eligible territories, the identification and set-up of managerial structures, including Contracting Authorities, and most importantly the steps, calendar and strategic orientation in the preparation of programming documents. In addition, the Commission will present main lessons learned from CBC under IPA I and launch a discussion on proposed corrective actions for a smoother management and implementation of CBC under IPA II.

We would also expect the Beneficiary Countries to present their preliminary views and / or conclusions on the geographical scope of their programmes as well as the thematic priorities they have identified that would prevail in each of the programmes.

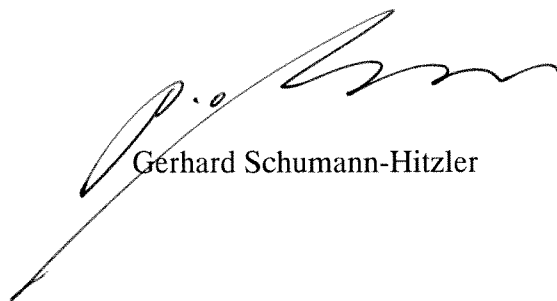
The IPA-funded multi-beneficiary project Cross Border Institution Building "CBIB+" will bring the audience up to speed with the state of play regarding the Management Information System (MIS) for the monitoring of the implementation of the CBC programmes, the small scale grant scheme to be implemented under their project, as well as a training plan based on a stakeholder analysis carried out recently.

Please be informed that the CBIB + team will be in charge of the logistics of the event and cover all expenses associated with the participation of your national delegations, with the exception of the travel expenses related to the trip from your country to and out of Montenegro. CBIB+ will cater for country delegations consisting of a maximum of 5 persons (ideally the heads or representatives from the National IPA Co-ordinator's office, the Operating Structure, the CBC Department and the Joint Technical Secretariats located in their territory). For all financial issues, arrangements of transportation while in Montenegro, as well as for accommodation, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Marija Stevanović, member of the CBIB+ team, at the email address marija.stevanovic@giz.de or the telephone number +381 11 334 91 29. Please consult with the CBIB+ team prior to booking to your accommodation.

I should be grateful if you could kindly confirm the names of the participants from your country as soon as possible and no later than Friday 31 May 2013 simultaneously by email to Ms Marija Stevanović as well as Mr Gerry Renders, DG ELARG, Unit D3 (gerry.renders@ec.europa.eu) or by telephone (+32 2 296 25 46). He will also be ready to respond to all your questions or provide you with additional information.

The detailed agenda will be shared with you in due course.

Yours sincerely,



Gerhard Schumann-Hitzler