Twinning Light Project

EU support for the Operating Structure of the Operational Programme "Human Resources Development"

Kick-off meeting
Podgorica, 8th October 2013

Relation between EU and Montenegro

▸ **Montenegro gained independence in 2006.**

▸ **Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) signed on 15 October 2007 and in force since 1 May 2010.**

▸ **Montenegro applied for EU membership in December 2008.**

▸ **Candidate status officially granted on 17 December 2010 and Montenegro became eligible to use all five IPA components.**

▸ **The accession negotiations between EU and Montenegro started on 29 June 2012.**

▸ **Formal adoption of the IPA IV HRD OP 2012-13 by the Commission on 18 October 2012**.

OP HRD Priorities & Measures

Priority Axis 1:
Efficient and inclusive active employment policy measures

Priority Axis 2:
Enhancing Skills, Knowledge and Competences for Employability & Competitiveness

Priority Axis 3:
Enhancing Social Inclusion

Priority Axis 4:
Technical Assistance

Measure 1.1.
Supporting the implementation of the most productive labour market measures for the labour force quality and employment

Measure 2.1.
Supporting improvement of conditions for development of VET qualifications

Measure 2.2.
Supporting improvement of innovative capacities in higher education, research and economy

Measure 3.1.
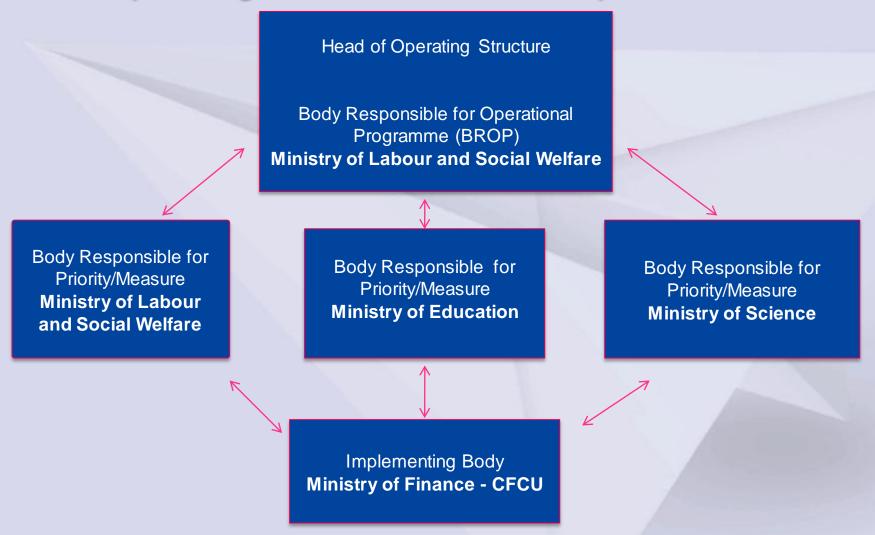*Supporting greater access to labour market for persons with disabilities and RAE population*

Measure 4.1:
Supporting the development of project pipeline

Measure 4.2.:
Supporting Operating Structure in the implementation of the Operational Programme

Operating Structure for IPA Component IV

Head of Operating Structure

Body Responsible for Operational Programme (BROP)
Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare

Body Responsible for Priority/Measure
Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare

Body Responsible for Priority/Measure
Ministry of Education

Body Responsible for Priority/Measure
Ministry of Science

Implementing Body
Ministry of Finance - CFCU

Role of Department for Programming and Implementation of EU funds

- Department for Programming and Implementation of EU funds is established as a separate unit within the Montenegrin Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW) in March 2013.

- It acts as BROP and BRPM for Priority Axes 1 and 4 under OP HRD and performs the core functions (programming; monitoring of programme implementation & evaluation of programme).

- Moreover, the Department as BROP/BRPM has a coordinating role with regard to other 3 BRPMs (Ministry of Education, Ministry of Science and Ministry of Labour & Social Welfare-BRPM 3)

- In addition, it performs tasks relating to horizontal functions to be ensured accross the OS and in the management and control system for IPA, as well as support to HOS in supervision of the functioning of the OS and reporting to NAO.

Why Twinning Light Project?

➢ The OS is involved in management of EU funds under decentralised system for the first time

➢ Necessity to improve OS capacities and gain relevant skills, primarily in developing project documentation for operations under OP HRD priorities

➢ Possibility to work (for 6 months on a daily basis) with MS administration experts who have broad experience in management and implementation of EU funds

Twinning Light Project

➢ **The project will be implemented through one twinning light contract awarded to the Republic of Lithuania, more specifically:**

- ◦ Ministry of Social Security and Labour (MSSL) as MS Administrative Body,
- ◦ Central Project Management Agency (CPMA) and
- ◦ European Social Fund Agency (ESFA) as MS Body Responsible for Implementation.

➢ **MS Project Leader, Ms. Nijole Mackeviciene** (Lithuanian Ministry of Social Security and Labour)

➢ **BC Project Leader, Ms. Ivana Sucur** (Montenegrin Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare)

➢ Total budget is **€ 250.000,00**. Total amount is covered by the EU contribution.

➢ The project implementation period (duration of the work plan) will be completed **6 months** after the commencement date of the Project.

Overall objective of the project

➢ To prepare Montenegro to achieve efficient implementation, monitoring, evaluation, administration of the Operational Programme Human Resources Development 2012-2013;

➢ To prepare Montenegro to participate in the European Social Fund (ESF) after accession to the EU.

Project purpose

➢ Development of the institutional and administrative capacity of the Operating Structure (OS) for the Operational Programme Human Resources Development (OP HRD) for performing its tasks and responsibilities related to the management, implementation, evaluation, monitoring and control of projects under the OP HRD.

➢ Preparation of OS staff to ensure sound management of these processes.

THE MAIN CHALLENGES OF THE PROJECT
Component 1 - Supporting the OS in the management and implementation of IPA OP HRD 2012-2013

➤ **Elaborating Training Needs Analysis (TNA) & developing training programme** that properly matches the OS and IB staff needs

➤ **Conducting seminars & on-the-job trainings** (total of 100 w.d.) providing on-going support and advice to the OS employees focusing mainly on:

- **Developing Terms of Reference (ToR)** for projects under OP priorities (primarily for Priority 4/Measure 4.1) and **Developing Guidelines for Applicants (GfA)** for grant schemes under OP Priorities
- Grant contract and service contract preparation, implementation, management … according to PRAG rules
- Monitoring at project and programme level
- Drawing up the sectoral annual and final implementation reports;
- Supervising the contractors/grant beneficiaries in performing their tasks in accordance with the contract (approving reports and timesheets).

THE MAIN CHALLENGES OF THE PROJECT
Component 1 - Supporting the OS in the management and implementation of IPA OP HRD 2012-2013

- Irregularity reporting and risk management;
- Compliance with the information and publicity requirements (at programme and project/contract level);
- Ensuring retention of documents and adequate audit trail;
- Conducting 5-day Study Visit to Croatia (for 10 participants) – OS staff will be in a position to directly learn from the experience of the Croatian colleagues in implementing IPA IV and its connection to ESF;
- Providing tailor-made assistance and recommendations on the SMC (defining institutions, members, roles...practical examples for SMC Secretariat and how to manage SMC...);
- Preparing Manual of procedures for the SMC (to elaborate procedures necessary for the functioning of the SMC)

THE MAIN CHALLENGES OF THE PROJECT
Component 2 - Supporting the OS in preparation of draft Communication Action Plan

➤ To organize three 2-days workshops for relevant (publicity & visibility) officers in the OS on developing the draft Communication Action Plan (to provide practical experience, coaching and advice on how to spread the word on OP HRD to general public and potential applicants.

➤ Draft Communication Action Plan prepared (defining measures, activities, responsibilities; giving indicative budget for its implementation, methods for monitoring the impact and effectiveness of the measures and actions…)

EU and Montenegro: together we can reach more !

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EU i Crna Gora: zajedno možemo postici više!

Thank you for your attention!