EUROPEAN COMMISSION
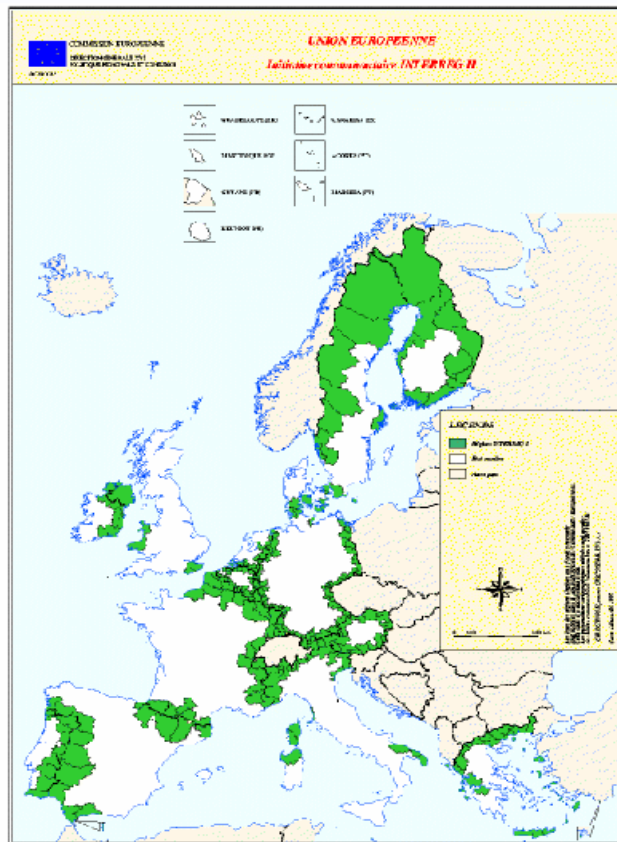
**The Instrument for Pre-Accession:
South-East Europe and
cross-border co-operation**

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A little bit of history

First INTERREG Community Initiative (1990) – 1 billion

INTERREG II – 3.5 billion

INTERREG III – 5.8 billion

European Territorial Cooperation
8.7 billion
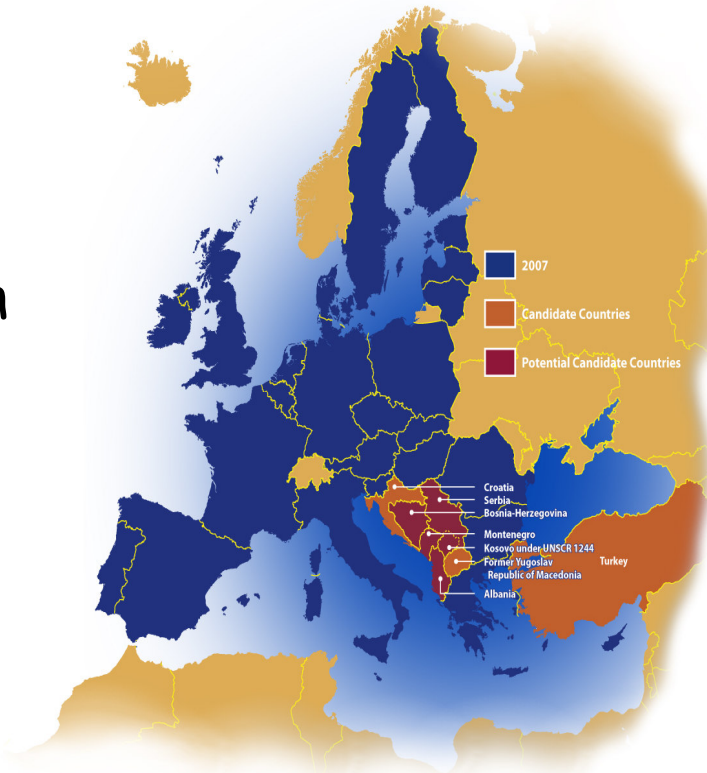+ IPA - **1 billion**

Steady increase in funding available

A little bit of reality

The European Union has recognised that each of the Western Balkan countries is moving towards accession but … each should be judged on its own merits

EU accompanies preparations with <u>financial support for Candidate & Pre-candidate countries .This support is called **IPA (Instrument for Pre-accession)**</u>

A legal basis

IPA = *Council Framework Regulation*
+
Commission Implementing Regulation

- An integrated pre-accession instrument to assist candidate and potential candidate in the process of transition and approximation to the EU, as well as to encourage regional co-operation among them and between them and the Member States.

A short explanation

Financial envelope (2007–13) = 11.5 billion €

- <u>IPA has five components</u>:

- Transition Assistance and Institution Building
- Regional and Cross-Border Co-operation
- Regional Development ⎫ only for
- Human Resources Development ⎬ candidate
- Rural Development ⎭ countries

IPA: a new approach to pre-accession

- Replaces PHARE, ISPA, SAPARD and Turkey pre-accession instruments, as well as the CARDS instrument but:

- More integrated – one instrument for ALL candidate/potential candidate countries

- Designed on the basis of Structural Funds rules in general => expertise for the future

- Increased responsibility for the countries => ownership

- The first integrated instrument for cross-border co-operation => local ownership of the programmes
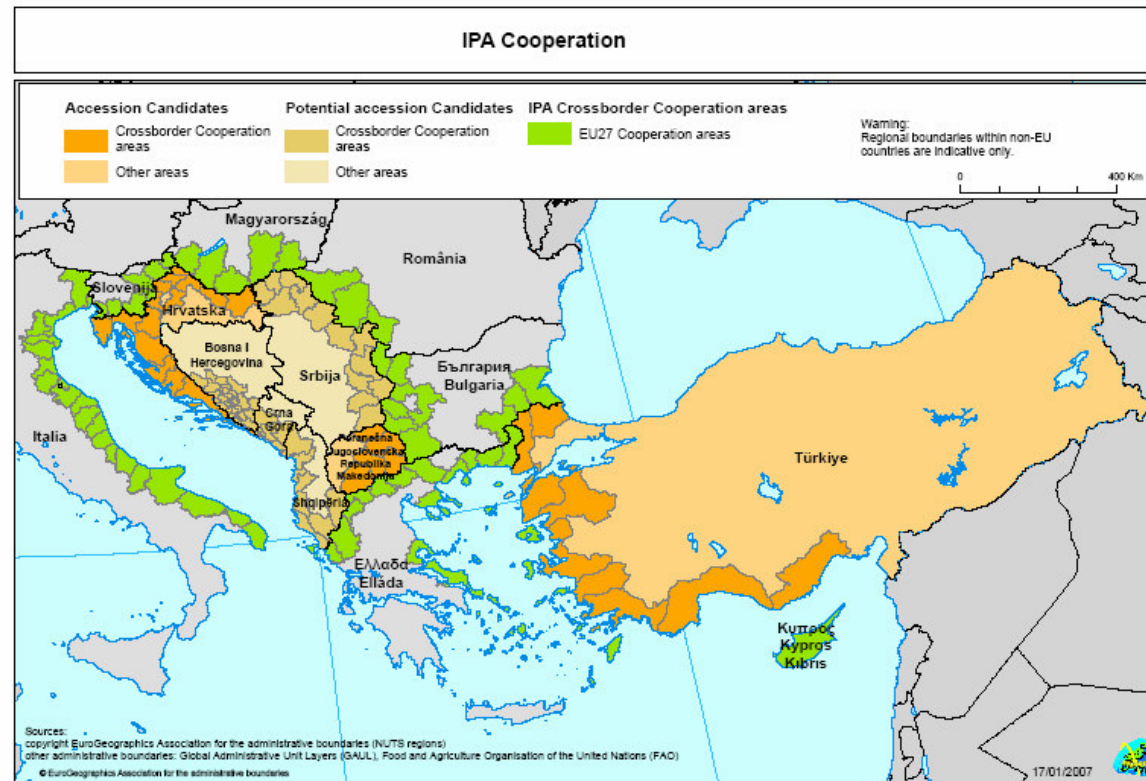
Why a cross-border co-operation component?

- Because EU puts an emphasis on the integrated development of the Balkans

- Because links between MSs and candidate/potential candidate countries and between themselves must be strengthened and consolidated

- Because border regions are sometimes left aside

- Because the whole national territory must be considered in regional development to ensure balanced and territorial development applies everywhere

IPA
Cross-Border Co-operation

IPA Cross-Border Programmes

Between MSs and CCs/PCCs	Between CCs/PCCs
●Adriatic	
●Bulgaria – Fyrom	●Croatia – Montenegro
●Bulgaria – Serbia	●Croatia – BiH
●Romania – Serbia	●BiH – Montenegro
●Hungary – Serbia	●Montenegro – Fyrom
●Hungary – Croatia	●Albania - Montenegro
●Slovenia – Croatia	●Fyrom – Albania
●Bulgaria – Turkey	●Serbia – BiH
●Greece – Fyrom	●Serbia – Montenegro
●Greece – Albania	
●(Greece – Turkey)	
●Cyprus – Turkey)	

State of Play

IPA Cross-border:

ALL 10 MS-IPA cross-border programmes approved, as are all 8 IPA-IPA cross-border programmes.

1st Monitoring committees for several programmes have already taken place

Calls delayed to some extent so far, but this can be explained in most cases by overlap from previous period

Who is watching

- Member States – IPA co-operation managed by DG Regional Policy (with MS participation)

- IPA – IPA co-operation managed by DG Enlargement.

- Most of the MS-IPA programmes (8) managed under the responsibility of the MS (shared management)

- Two managed (GR-AL and GR – FYROM) with two separate structures (transitional)

How it begins

- Member States negotiate funding package and fix total programme allocations with the Commission

- The people on the ground from both sides of the border decide within the given framework how to use it

- Multi-annual joint cross-border programmes (2007-13) with 3 year funding allocations

- CBC programmes are jointly prepared by national authorities of the (usually 2) participating countries

- Approved by the Commission

- Programme modifications later in the programming period to incorporate additional funding

How it works

Monitoring Committee (MC) – representatives of the "owners" of the programme from the two (or more) countries

The members of the MCs are the ones who jointly select the projects => a list of joint projects to be financed

The MC is the one who **gives instructions** to the Managing Authority regarding the strategic decisions of the programme (including financial decisions)

Main structures

- A **Managing Authority** (MA) – bearing the responsibility for the programme and located in the MS

- The MA is the one who **advises** the Monitoring Committees members in their decisional processes

- The MA represents the programme and needs to be independent at all times and to seek always the best option for the entire eligible area

Main structures

- A **Joint Technical Secretariat** – dealing with the day to day implementation of the programme and projects

- The JTS in the one which prepares the background work for decision by the Managing Authority and Monitoring Committee

- The JTS is the main information source and the takes the lead on publicity issues

- **JTS Antenna** – ensures access to information and programme publicity on the other side of the border

Main structures

- A **Certifying Authority** - responsible for certifying spending and requesting money from the EC, receiving this money and forwarding it to the Lead Partners

- The CA checks the controllers and it can be checked by the Audit Authority

- The **Audit Authority** is the one who says either "yes, you did it right" or "no, we have a problem"

Remember that…

- **It takes** (at least) **two** (partner countries) for cross-border co-operation
- **Timing and punctuality** is crucial as any procedures take longer when they cross the border
- **Proper staffing** is one of the key elements of successful territorial co-operation programmes
- **Communication** is the main tool available for you to make the people understand the real importance of cross-border co-operation
- You have to **see beyond local co-operation** to the overall impact of cross-border co-operation on your country and its relations with the neighbours

Did you know?

Slovenia – Croatia Programme
is the first one
to launch a call for projects

Congratulations
and
Good Luck!