

## **Cross Border Cooperation and Regional Development Programme**

### **Background**

The government-approved ARDP 2007-13 consists of actions that will support:

1. the domestic agenda - to overcome national bottlenecks in the agri-rural sector, and align domestic agriculture with EU rural development policies;
2. the bilateral agenda – to address cross-border issues that are important to Kosovo’s direct neighbours; and
3. the regional agenda – to support wider regional development cooperation possibilities with all countries in the Western Balkans, not just direct neighbours.

Technical staff from MAFRD have visited professional colleagues in the Balkans (2006-8), in order to:

1. inform them about Kosovo’s ARDP 2007-13 within the present EU pre-accession context;
2. understand what Ministries of Agriculture (MOAs) in the region are doing in the preparation/implementation of such Plans;
3. start building a mutual support and cooperation programme in selected areas amongst regional MOAs, (as happened, for example, between the three Baltic States, Hungary and Poland in the mid-1990s);
4. begin a dialogue/process that will facilitate accessing resources under IPA 2007-13 and other donor support with which to improve cross-border and regional development cooperation, as well as take advantage of twinning possibilities; and
5. consider how all countries in the Western Balkans might improve bilateral and multilateral cooperation, particularly in relation to increased and unrestricted market access and trade.

Following discussions with countries in the region, various cross-border and regional development possibilities have been identified, disaggregated by the five IPA components: (see below).

IPA components	Focal areas	Bilateral or multilateral?	Institutions	Project idea	Support required	Outline Cost	Possible donor
1. TA and institution building							
	Better institute/university cooperation related to laboratories, research and higher education	Multilateral	Ministries of Agriculture (MOAs)  Universities  Research Institutes (RIs)	Implement FAO (1 March 2006) recommendations on regional cooperation in research and higher education	TA  Training  Coordination of collaboration between laboratories for: phytosanitary; GMO; and food safety  Laboratory Equipment	To be confirmed	FAO
	Cooperation on rural land development planning	Multilateral	MOAs	Compare and refine planning objectives, methodology and interventions  Implement relevant pilot projects on planning and implementation (including investments)	TA  Training  Twinning with an EU Spatial Planning Ministry	€ 0.5 million? (Institution Building)  € 1.5 million? (pilot project planning and implementation)	IPA  Bilateral assistance
	Land market development	Multilateral	Ministries of Finance (MOFs)  MOAs	Develop further land valuation standards, and secure land lease options.	Local TA	€ 200,000?	IPA
	Make better regional comparisons with EU27  Facilitate international comparison of best farming practice characteristics for selected commodities and	Multilateral	MOAs' Departments of Statistics (DOS)	Joint visit by DOS to Eurostat  (a) support DOS to harmonise statistical methodology in Balkan countries  (b) review statistical approach undertaken in Kosovo under	Visit Brussels and Luxembourg  Short term TA  Kosovo to circulate approach taken under (a) and (b)	€ 250,000?	TAIEX  IPA

	production technologies, as well as of Domestic Resource Costs and Nominal/Effective Protection Coefficients			ARDP 2007-13			
	Development of civil society, including NGOs	Multilateral	Local Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) (e.g. Kosovo Civil Society Foundation, Kosovo Open Society, Kosovo School for European Integration, and Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation)	Form regional network of NGOs and other organizations in civil society, linked by website and e-mail	Series of regional meetings held over 12 months	€ 100,000?	Soros Foundation  See ECLO Programme Manager responsible for Civil Society
	Cooperation in food safety control and quality systems (designation, accreditation, certification, testing, inspection)  Benefits for business through increased economies of scale	Multilateral	MOAs  Food Safety Agencies	Create a framework for respective institutions (certification bodies, laboratories etc.) being recognized and operating across borders  Support to coordinate this through consultancy, exchange visit to EU laboratories in the region (Bulgaria), and experience from Macedonia in the process of building a Food Safety Agency	Phase 1: Evaluation of existing situation and a feasibility study for cooperation in the Balkan region  Phase 2: TA to create a network of institutions (multilateral legal basis, recognition agreements, procedures)  Phase 3: Physical investment	Phase 1: € 100,000?  Phase 2: € 3-4 million?  Phase 3: outcome of the Phase 2	IPA  Bilateral

	Environmental and Natural Resources Management (NRM), including watershed management  Natural boundaries do not respect national boundaries especially with regard to water resources which are critical to the region: e.g. the Drini River basin	Multilateral  Bilateral	MOAs	Establish Watershed Management institutions  Encourage participative NRM based on micro-watersheds (e.g. <a href="http://www.wwf.or.id/index.php?fuseaction=howwework.community&amp;language=e">http://www.wwf.or.id/index.php?fuseaction=howwework.community&amp;language=e</a> )	Pilot TA	To be confirmed	IPA
2. Cross border development							
	Land consolidation	Multilateral	MOAs	Participate in FAO network on land consolidation: exchange of experience between projects, including farmer-to-farmer visits: education and curriculum development	Series of regional meetings held over 12 months	€ 100,000?	FAO  IPA  Bilateral donors
	Coordinated planning and decision-making in mountainous areas	Multilateral	MOAs  MOEnviron  Tourism institutions  Relevant municipalities	Fine-tune and coordinate various protection and development measures	TA – training and exchange visits to recently developed mountain areas in Macedonia to review successful projects.  Assistance by Euromontana and/or relevant alpine Ministries of Nature Protection	€ 1.5 million?	UNDP  UNEP  EC  IFAD  IPA
	Better border	Bilateral	Veterinary and	Strengthen Rozhaje	Equipment at	€ 2 million?	IPA

	inspection: veterinary, phyto-sanitary and food products  Anti-smuggling	Kosovo/Montenegro (Rozhaje)  Multilateral	phyto-sanitary Inspection Services	Border Inspection Post (BIP)  Develop cooperation between support services: veterinary, phyto-sanitary and agriculture extension  Improve disease control and phyto-sanitary controls  Share information intra-regionally to prevent the spread of diseases of plants, animals and humans	BIP  Capacity building  TA – to coordinate cooperation activities and the training of inspectors		
	Coordinated programme of cross-border “seeing is believing” visits	Bilateral  Multilateral	MOA Project Coordination Units (PCUs)	Exchange information concerning donor-funded projects under implementation  Arrange cross-border meetings between regional countries to understand better problems in implementation of donor-funded projects	Link all MOA PCUs through the internet	€ 100,000?	IPA
	Cross-border supply and marketing chains for agriculture and food products	Bilateral in border regions (But, given the size of countries, this could be multilateral)	Farmers, food processing industries, retailers, inspection services	Encourage cross-border trade by removing administrative limitations for bordering regions, cross-border cooperation and mutual recognition among inspection services	TA provided for local stakeholders, assistance to inspection services  Develop and implement training programme for inspectors for	To be confirmed	IPA

					organic agriculture, and establish (link to) certification body  Develop and implement training programme for food safety inspectors		
3. Regional development							
	Regional rural development focussed on hill village renewal in Serbian ethnic areas in Kosovo/Serbian border area	Bilateral Kosovo/Serbia	MOAs  MOESPs  Local Municipalities (heavy input)	Develop very slowly, in accordance with possibilities  Develop and try out in pilot projects options for village revival, including improvement of social, economic and physical opportunities and environmental safe keeping	Pilot projects	€ 4 million?	UNDP  IPA  World Bank
	Regional development of mountainous areas: agro-environmental studies in environmentally sensitive areas; less-favoured areas; rural diversification; agro/eco tourism; cultural events	Bilateral, (Kosovo/M'negro, Kosovo/Albania, Kosovo/Macedonia, Kosovo/Serbia)  Multilateral, (ncluding all countries in the Balkans)	Departments of Forestry (DOFs)  Albanian Mountain Area Development Agency (MADA)	Bilateral (rural diversification)  Multilateral (joint membership of Euromontana; agro/eco tourism; establish <b>Balkans Green Trail</b> : see <a href="http://www.ismafrd.org/Balkans_Green_T_RAIL.html">http://www.ismafrd.org/Balkans_Green_T_RAIL.html</a> )	Capacity building, (including formation of local action groups)  Grants  Cost of joining Euromontana: attendance at meetings  Introduce training and exchange visits	€ 2.2 million?	IPA  IFAD (see: Programme for Sustainable D'ment in Rural Mountain Areas, Appraisal Report, IFAD, October 2005)
	Follow up to	Bilateral	MOAs	Bilateral:	TA	€ 2 million:	IPA

	Kosovo's EC-funded Local Community Development Strategies' Project (LCDS) and its four cross-border cooperation sub-projects	Kosovo/Montenegro Kosovo/Albania Kosovo/Macedonia Kosovo/Serbia Multilateral	Departments of Forestry (DOFs)  AMADA	Kosovo/Montenegro (prepare a cross-border pilot project under LCDS: Montenegro to fund its costs)  Kosovo/Albania (prepare a cross-border pilot project under LCDS: Albania to fund its costs)  Kosovo/Macedonia (prepare a cross-border pilot project under LCDS: Macedonia to fund its costs)  Kosovo/Serbia (explore cross-border pilot project opportunities)  Multilateral: Other countries in Balkans to participate in Steering Committee meetings as Observers	Capacity building  Grants for kick-starting pilot activities  Travel costs to get Observers to meetings		
	Development of regional stakeholder data base	Multilateral	MOAs  DOSs	Share data on who are key stakeholders in the supply chain for key agriculture and forestry commodities, in order to expand trade and increase competitiveness  Discuss data base with all countries in	Pilot data base exists in Kosovo: taken forward under ISMAFRD  Travel costs to get data base operators to meetings	€ 2 million:	IPA

				region			
	Meeting of senior officials from MOAs in the Balkans (Ministers and Permanent Secretaries)	Multilateral	MOAs	Quarterly meetings: rotating locations  Invite other countries in the region to attend  Joint meetings to Brussels (EC), London (EBRD), Paris (OECD) etc.	Nil: political commitment only	Local and external travel budgets	IPA  Bilateral donors
	Establishment of Cross-Border Regional Council(s) (e.g. as established between Estonia, Latvia and Russia, as well as Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus)	Multilateral	MOAs	Quarterly meetings: rotating locations  Invite other countries in the region to attend	Nil: political commitment only	Local and external travel budgets	IPA
4. Human resource development							
	Reciprocal "Observer" status on IPA-funded projects	Multilateral	MOAs	Quarterly meetings: rotating locations  Invite other countries in the region to attend	Nil: political commitment only	Local and external travel budgets	IPA
	Coordinated TAIEX/donor training programmes rotated in the region, and attended by all countries	Multilateral	MOAs	Quarterly meetings: rotating locations  Invite other countries in the region to attend	Nil: political commitment only	Local and external travel budgets	IPA  TAIEX
	Participation in a series of follow-up, information-sharing workshops: e.g. gender; forestry; agri-environment; wine; irrigation; CEFTA; food safety; and the aquis	Multilateral	MOAs	Quarterly meetings: rotating locations  Invite other countries in the region to attend	Nil: political commitment only	Local and external travel budgets	IPA  TAIEX

	communautaire						
	Sharing of ideas from external Technical Assistance when it is in the region (e.g. Soils' Association)	Multilateral	MOAs	Quarterly meetings: rotating locations  Invite other countries in the region to attend	Nil: political commitment only	Local and external travel budgets	IPA  TAIEX  Bilaterals
5. Rural development							
	Discussion to ensure maximum market for farmers' output: e.g. 1. Review regional trade opportunities - operation of CEFTA 2. Create equal terms of trade in food products 3. Improved import substitution capacity in Balkans 4. Promotion of animal health in international trade of animals and products of animal origin	Multilateral	MOAs	Quarterly meetings: rotating locations  Invite all countries in the region to attend	Nil: political commitment only	Local and external travel budgets	IPA
	Improve rural road and internet infrastructure, in order to improve rural market access/information	Multilateral  Bilateral	MOAs  MOFs  Cross-border municipalities	Identify rural infrastructure needs, investment options and operation and maintenance implications	Investment  TA	To be confirmed	IBRD  EBRD  EIB  IFAD  IPA