

1 **Legislation**

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3 **Start Up
Milestones
Activities**

4 **JS
Monitoring**

**Project
Implementation**

Legal Framework



IPA II REGULATORY FRAMEWORK



- Regulation (EU) 231/2014 establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II);
- Regulation (EU) 236/2014 - Common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action;
- Commission IPA Implementing Regulation (EU) 447/2014;
- Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 - Common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund;
- Regulation (EU) 1299/2013 - General rules governing the support of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to the European territorial cooperation goal,
- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 481/2014 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 regard to specific rules on eligibility of expenditure for cooperation programmes;
- The INTERREG IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Programme “Greece – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 2014 – 2020”;
- The Financing agreement

For Greek beneficiaries, as well:

- EU Directives 2014/24/EE and 2014/25/EE



RATIONALE

Reasons Why!



Rationale of EU Directives

- 01 Legal framework helping project beneficiaries in procurement of goods,
- 02 Providing an adequate level of flexibility;
- 03 Promotion of economy and efficiency of the public contracts;
- 04 Guidelines for transparency;
- 05 Assistance in avoiding errors and risks of fraud and corruption;
- 06 Enabling free movement of goods and services;
- 07 Enabling publicity;
- 08 Building confidentiality;

Article 45 IPA II - Implementing Regulation

Article 45 the IPA II Implementing Regulation, indicating:

1. Project beneficiaries shall follow the provisions of Chapter 3 of Title IV of Part Two of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and of Chapter 3 of Title II of Part Two of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, applied on the entire Programme area, both on Member State and on the IPA country.
2. The Greek beneficiaries, shall follow, in addition, the EU Directives 2014/24/EE and 2014/25/EE as they are transferred into the Greek national law (Law 4412/2016 as amended and in force).



Notice:

Commission's letter with Ref. Ares(2018)316145 - 18/01/2018 regarding procurement procedures, the implementation of stricter rules foreseen by the national law, will not be opposed by the Commission.

Article 33 IPA II - Implementing Regulation



Article 33 - Procurement by beneficiaries from Art. 45(1) of IPA II IP, for the award of service, supply and work contracts to be followed:

- 1. The provisions in Articles 190 and 191 of Chapter 3 of Title IV of Part Two of the Financial Regulation No 966/2012; and**
- 2. The provisions of Articles 260 to 276 of Chapter 3 of Title II of Part Two of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012;**

Relevant Documents

Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme "Greece - Republic of North Macedonia
2014-2020"

Subsidy Contract A

RENAISSANCE – CN2 – SO1.1 – SC050

Updated Documents (after budget clearance)

- Application Form through MIS system
- Justification Of The Budget in xls
- Decisions of the Designated Bodies (including new budget, as well the acceptance for compliance of the partner with Article 71 of reg. 1303/2013 in cases of infrastructure and investment operations.)

New Documents

- Partnership Agreement (originals to PPs and JS);
- Self Assessment Environmental Sheet;
- Start Up Milestones and the Procurement Plan;



HELLENIC REPUBLIC

MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENTS

Interreg - IPA CBC 
Greece - Republic of North Macedonia

Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme
"Greece - Republic of North Macedonia 2014-2020"

SUBSIDY CONTRACT No.050

Subsidy Contract – In Hearth of the Project regulating:

1. Objective;
2. Contracting parties;
3. Rights of the Contracting parties;
4. Obligations of the Contracting parties;
5. Procedures;

Relevant Project Guidelines

All of them available at the Programme web site: www.ipa-cbc-programme.eu

interreg - IPA CBC
Greece - Republic of North Macedonia

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Axis 1
Development and Support of
Local Economy

Axis 2
Protection of Environment -
Transportation

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Guidelines for Implementation and Control:

1. Project Implementation Manual
2. IPA Procurement Manual
3. Guidelines for Progress reporting
4. Project Closure Manual & Project Final report
5. Management Control System Documents: consisting all relevant documents, forms and guides for Programme and project's Implementation
6. Guides and Manuals for using the MIS system covering Programme bodies, Project Beneficiaries and FLC controllers, through all steps from the registration in MIS until reporting and closing activities, as well required approvals;

Additionally for Greek beneficiaries:

7. Specific Instructions for project implementation procedures and eligibility of expenditure
8. Guide for registering a project in e-ΠΔΕ,
9. Other relevant documents for Public procurement procedures;

Documents for Visibility as:

10. Communication Manual;
11. Logos;
12. Online Poster Creation Tool;

IMPORTANT for IPA Beneficiaries: practical guide on contract procedures for European Union external action (PRAG) is available at the EC webpage

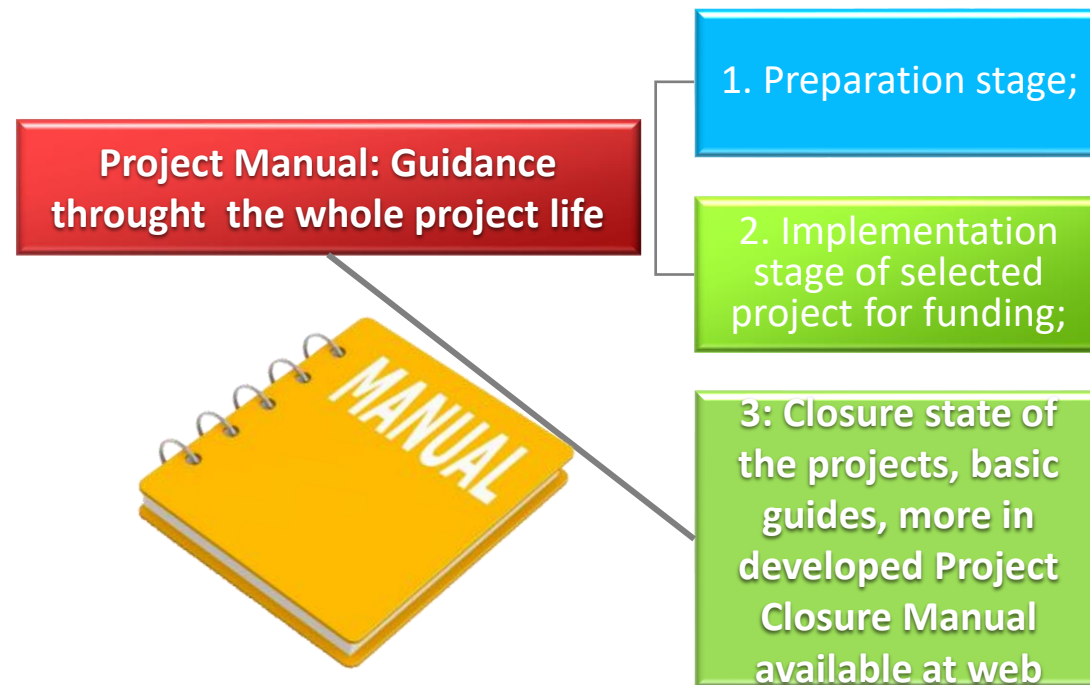
<https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/ExactExternalWiki/ePRAG>

Project Implementation Manual

Available at the Programme web site: www.ipa-cbc-programme.eu

Main Reference Document

- ❖ for the **development** of a project proposal, and
- ❖ IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT;



Content of this manual

Available at the Programme web site: www.ipa-cbc-programme.eu

1. Programme principles (Horizontal principles, Specific principles, Partnership & Leadership principles, budget);
2. Implementation (application guidelines, eligible expenditures, contracting, imp..., reporting);
3. First Level control procedures;
4. Second level control;
5. Payments / cash flows;
6. Project modifications;
7. De-commitment of funds on project level;
8. Complaints procedure;



Lead Partner Principle



Available at the Programme web site: www.ipa-cbc-programme.eu

LB Responsibilities

signs and submits the AF
on behalf of the
partnership

signs the Subsidy
Contract with the MA

requests and receives
payments of Programme
funding and transfers
Programme funding to the
project partners

responsible for the division of
tasks among the beneficiaries

ensures that project tasks
are subsequently fulfilled in
compliance with the AF and
Subsidy Contract

ensures an efficient internal
management and control
system

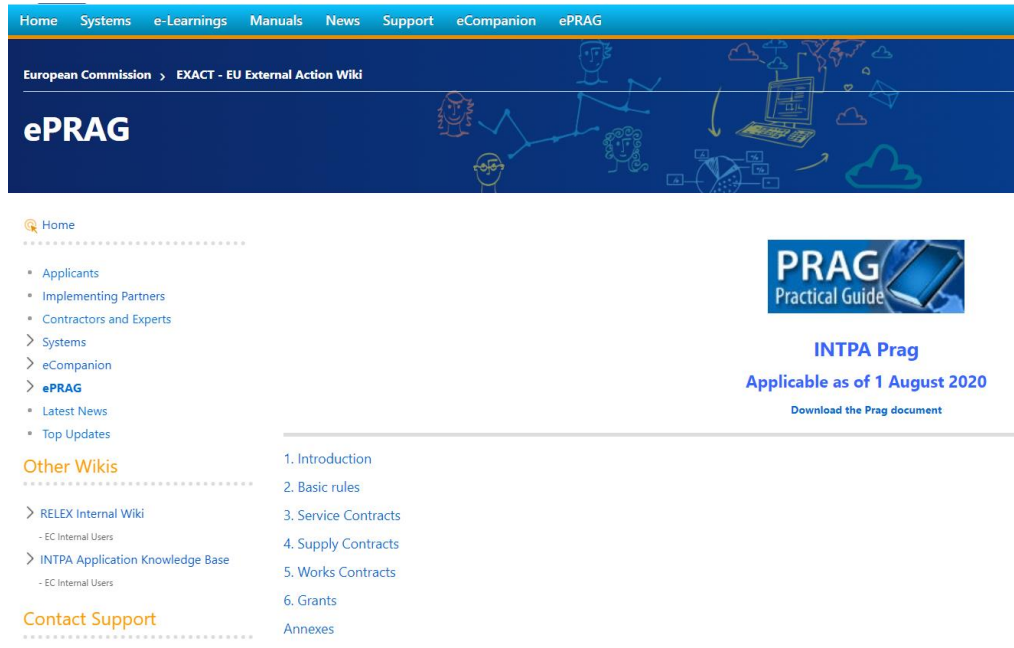
the project reports on time
and correctly to JS

ensures that the expenditure
reported by all project
partners has been incurred
from implementation of the
project and corresponds to
the activities agreed upon by
all partners, as described in
the Subsidy Contract;

ensures that the expenditure
presented by other
beneficiaries has been verified
by a controller (Art. 23(1) of
the Regulation

guaranteeing the sound
financial management,
including the arrangements
for recovery of amounts
unduly paid.

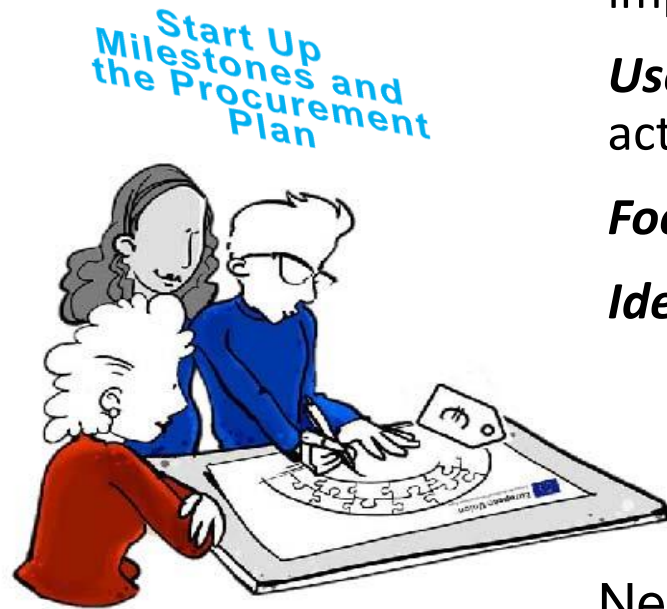
PRAG Guide for IPA partners



Implementation of PRAG:

1. **Obligatory for participants from Republic of North Macedonia concerning procurement of:**
 - a. External Expertise and Services;
 - b. Equipment;
 - c. Infrastructure and Works;
2. **If during the project implementation PRAG is amended, new version of PRAG will be applied.**
3. **It is Beneficiary's obligation to keep a close watch on the latest version of PRAG and to apply the current procedures and annexes.**
4. **If the procurement procedures launched before the new version was officially published, the procurement follows previous version of the PRAG.**

Start-up period



Important: Having a successful start-up in the project implementation.

Useful tool: Start-up Time Plan or a schedule of starting activities.

Focussed time: first 6-9 months.

Identification: Achievement of milestones in this period.

Need to be realistic, having in mind:

- the administrative steps and procedures,
- priorities of the activities,
- as well, available allocated funds for this period.

Start Up actions

01

Review all
contractual



02

Review the work plan



03

Set up the **decision-**
making body, project
team and contact point



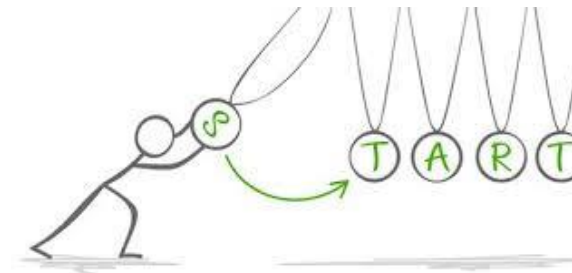
04

Draft communication
plan



05

Plan a **kick-off**



Start Up Milestones

01

Forecast activated
actions and
deliverables



02

Forecast expenditure
until 1st quarter 2022

03

Forecast verifications
with June 2022

04

Review the plan and
make corrections

05

JS/MA may propose
itself corrections or
even reductions



Assessment of start-up period

At the end of the start-up period, or earlier if necessary:



1. Carrying out an internal assessment whether the milestones have been met by all partners;
2. Results to be submitted to the JS/MA;
3. Assessment if corrective or any other actions are required;

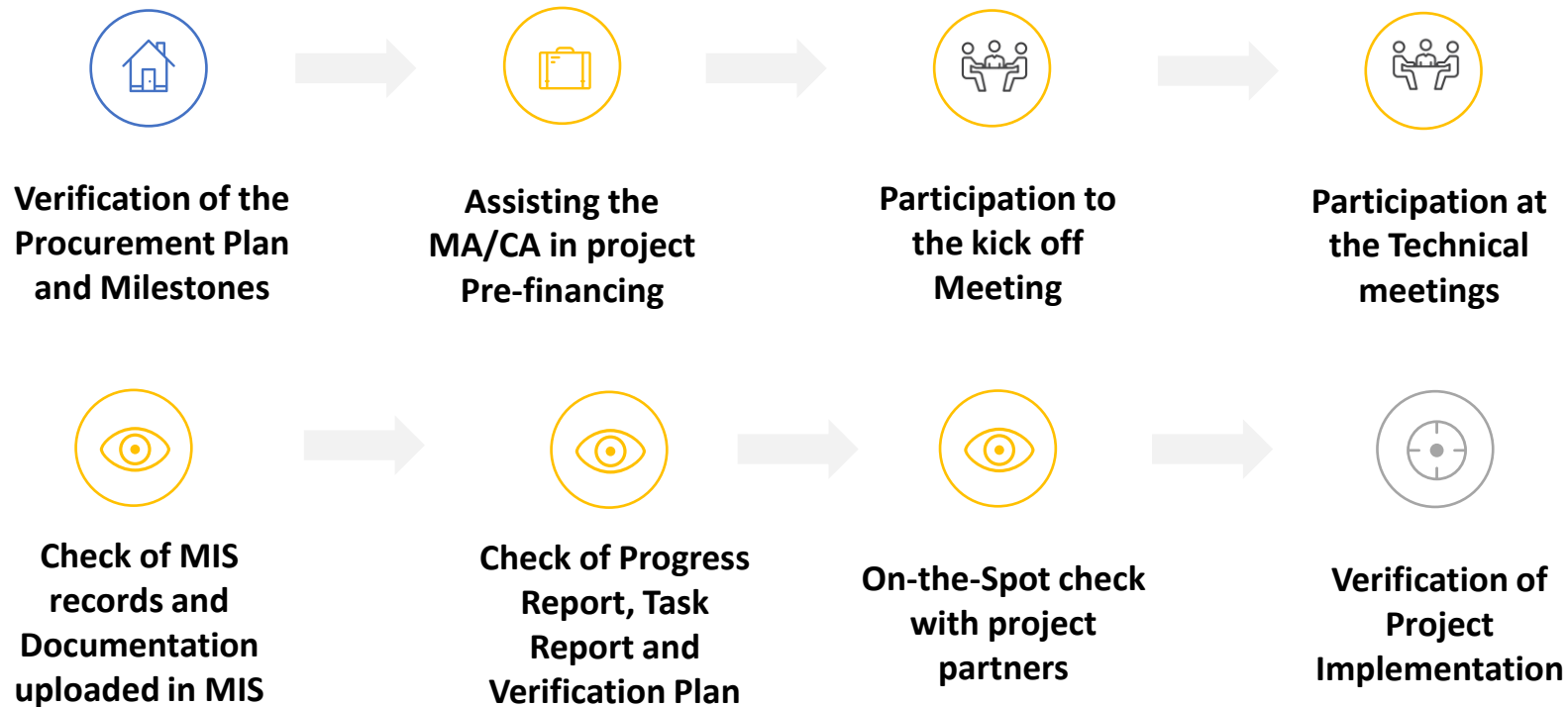
Follow-up of Start-up

- Follow-up by the Programme bodies:
 - a. Propose corrective actions, if needed;
 - b. Other actions in case of major delays or non-achievement of milestones leads to possible failure of the project scope, like:
 - reduction of the physical object, and/or
 - reduction of the budget;



However, actions taken respect that the project will remain operational.

JS Monitoring Activities



Monitoring Information System



De-commitment of funds on project level



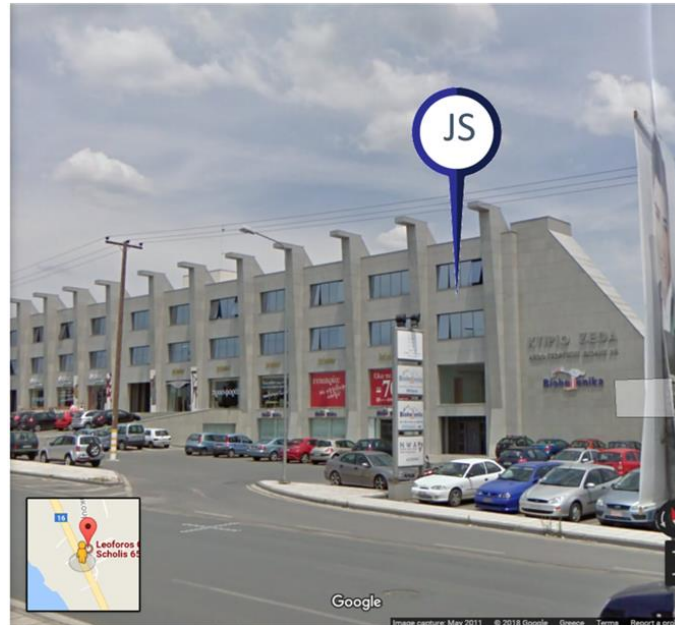
- In case of **de-commitment of EU funds on a Programme level**, the MA/JS will distribute this **reduction upon projects**.
- With purpose of planning proper cash flow and avoid de-commitment of funds, the beneficiary/project partner should submit each year (**in the beginning of the third trimester via Lead Beneficiary to the JS a detailed payments and verifications work plan**), agreed with the respective project officer.
- A serious deviation from this plan and in case of de-commitment on Programme level shall result in reduction of funds on project level, respecting proportionality.

De-commitment of funds - Irregularity

- When an irregularity is detected, the MA/JS will always first try *to recover the amount from the Lead Beneficiary*.
- The irregularity may be recovered *by offsetting the unduly paid funds from subsequent project payment claims* (i.e. deducting the 'irregular' amount that is charged to a certain project partner from the payment claim(s) of the project).
- If not succeed, the MA will *notify the Country of the partner concerned by the irregularity and request the reimbursement of the concerned EU contribution* amount by the country.



**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR ATTENTION!**



Zhupan Martinovski

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