## ANNEX I – IPA III Action Fiche Template

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|  | Indicative title of the Action | **PARTICIPATION IN THE UNION PROGRAMMES AND AGENCIES**  **(for year 2022)** |
| **CRITERIA FOR RELEVANCE ASSESSMENT** | Key thematic priority | **WINDOW 2-GOOD GOVERNANCE, ACQUIS ALIGNMENT, GOOD NEIGHBOURLY RELATIONS AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION**  ***Thematic Priority 2: Administrative capacity and acquis alignment*** |
| Links with specific policy instruments of the enlargement process | This Action aims at facilitating the progressive transfer of know-how and strengthening the capacities of the relevant beneficiaries through supporting North Macedonia in participating in EU Programmes. The purpose is to co-finance the costs of the “entry-tickets” which the country has to pay for the participation in Union Programmes. More specifically, the Action targets are:   * To ensure the participation of North Macedonia in Union Programme and Agencies, * To strengthen national capacity for participation in Union Programmes, and * To improve the awareness of the European Union Programmes in the country.   The Action, although included in Window 2: Good governance, *acquis* alignment, good neighbourly relations and strategic communication, Thematic Priority 2: Administrative capacity and *acquis* alignment, will contribute not only to address the specific objective of this thematic priority -to bring beneficiaries' policies and legislation in line with the EU policies and the *acquis*, and to build administrative capacity to fully and effectively implement sector policies and the adopted legislation, building the ability of beneficiaries to take on the obligations of membership- but also Window 4: Competitiveness and Inclusive Growth.  In 2003 in Thessaloniki, the EU agreed to open the participation in Union Programmes and Agencies to IPA beneficiaries, following the approach used in the past for candidate countries. In its Communication **''Preparing for the participation of the Western Balkan countries in Union Programmes and Agencies''** of 3 December 2003[[1]](#footnote-1) the Commission established the main principles and guidelines of participation of IPA beneficiaries in Union Programmes, underlining the need for a selective and gradual approach.  The participation of IPA II beneficiary countries in Union Programmes and Agencies, including payment by the country of entry tickets/participation fees, shall follow the specific terms and conditions set out for each programme in the relevant International Agreement.  Co-financing rates from previous participation shall be taken into account, and in line with the principle of increasing North Macedonia's ownership and responsibility, IPA II funding rates shall decrease over the years in real or relative terms.  North Macedonia must provide the co-financing and also the funds necessary for the payment of the total entry ticket, prior to receiving partial reimbursement from the EU. The reimbursement will be paid as a grant to North Macedonia. |
| Links with national, regional and global strategies | In the list below, there are some of the national strategies relevant for this Action:   * Revised Employment and Social Reform Programme 2022[[2]](#footnote-2) (ESRP) * Education Strategy for 2018–2025 * Industrial Policy 2018-2027 * Strategy for SME Development 2018-2023 * Strategy for Competitiveness 2015-2020 * National Strategy for Cultural Development 2018-2022 * Strategic Plan of Customs Administration of the Republic of North Macedonia 2020-2022etc. |
| Coherence with the Sector Approach | Some Sector Working Groups (SWGs) will be involved in the implementation of this Action taking into consideration the crosscutting aspects of the fields and sectors of the Action. Thus, the Action will contribute to improving the relevant strategic framework in the sectors and will serve as one of the platform for discussion and debate of the economic and social implications of the integration process, including public institutions, donors and civil society organisations. The most relevant SWGs involved in this Action are the following: SWG Education, Employment and Social Policy and SWG Competitiveness and Innovation. |
| Regional dimension | The objectives of **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, under thematic priority Education, employment, social protection and inclusion policies, and health; and Private sector development, trade, research and innovationhave been embraced by the country. More specifically, North Macedonia implements priority 1. No poverty; priority 3: good health and well-being; priority 4: quality education; priority 5: gender equality and priority 8: decent work and economic growth; 9: industry, economy and infrastructure; 10: reduced inequalities; 12: responsible consumption and production.  The objectives of the education and social policy of North Macedonia are in harmony with the **European Green Deal,** which aims to put the European economy and society on a more sustainable path; to transform Europe towards climate friendly industries and clean technologies. The Green Deal intends to change nearly every major aspect of life, including education and training; help Europe’s workforce to acquire the skills they need to transfer from declining sectors to growing sectors and to adapt to new processes, to enhance employability in the green economy. North Macedonia also aims to have modern education programmes for equipping future generations with knowledge, skills and competences in accordance with the needs the new challenges in the global scientific technological environment and to improve conditions for life, work and social conditions for all citizens. |
| Indicative budget | | *Total allocation : EUR 15,400,000*  *IPA contribution : EUR 7,700,000* |
| Implementation Modality | | Indirect management  The IPA Funds Management Department (Management Structure) is responsible for financial implementation of the Union Programmes.  The NIPAC Office is responsible for overall coordination of and reporting on the Union Programmes. |
| Budget Support Readiness | | *NA* |

**LOGICAL FRAMEWORK MATRIX [2 PAGES MAXIMUM]**

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| **OVERALL OBJECTIVE(S) / (IMPACT(S))** | **OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS** | **BASELINES**  **(INCL. VALUE & REFERENCE YEAR[[3]](#footnote-3))** | **MILESTONES**  **[OPTIONAL]** | **TARGETS**  **(INCL. VALUE & REFERENCE YEAR)** | **SOURCES & MEANS OF VERIFICATION** |  |
| To strengthen exchange between North Macedonia and the EU Member States in the areas of several Union Programmes | Percentage of citizens in favour to join the European Union | 68% (2019) |  | > 80 (2027) | Eurobarometer |
| **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE(S) / OUTCOME(S)** | **OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (\*)** | **BASELINES** | **MILESTONES** | **TARGETS** | **SOURCES OF VERIFICATION** | **ASSUMPTIONS** |
| * Specific objective 1: To ensure the participation of North Macedonia in Union Programmes and Agencies * Specific objective 2: To strengthen national capacity for participation in Union Programmes * Specific objective 3: To improve the awareness of the European Union Programmes in the country | * Number of programmes for which an International Agreement has been concluded. * North Macedonia's participation rates in the different Union Programmes[[4]](#footnote-4) | 12 under IPA II  400% |  | 12 under IPA III  500% 1:1 paid/used for each of programme | International Agreements singed  Relevant EU institution reports |  |
| **OUTPUTS** | **OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (\*)** | **BASELINES** | **MILESTONES** | **TARGETS** | **SOURCES OF VERIFICATION** | **ASSUMPTIONS** |
| Output 1:Entry tickets for selected Union Programmes paid  Output 2: North Macedonia's beneficiaries participate in projects funded by Union programmes and Agencies | * No of projects prepared and funded involving country participation * Number of beneficiaries involved in international projects * Number of promotion events | 600 Projects  400 |  | > 700  > 500  Target: > 50 | Annual report on implementation on IPA III | Interest and capacity on behalf of the national stakeholders (institutions / NGOs / companies / natural persons) to participate in the Union Programmes |
| **BROAD ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION (IF AVAILABLE)** | Indirect management with beneficiary country | | | | | |

1. COM(2003)748 final [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <http://www.mtsp.gov.mk/content/pdf/dokumenti/2020/1.4_esrp.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The baseline value may be "0" (i.e. no reference values are available as the Action represents a novelty for the beneficiary) but cannot be left empty or include references such as "N/A" or "will be determined later". [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Each project has only one budget to be used by all the beneficiaries. We made an approximation: budget divided number of participants. However this calculation over estimate the budget received by the Norht Macedonian Organisations. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)