



Interreg - IPA CBC
Bulgaria - Serbia



Cross-border cooperation region

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EU- GENERAL INFORMATION

- u The European Union is a regional organization of European countries through which members pursue common goals such as balanced economic and social development, high employment rates, protection of citizens' rights and interests.



EU- GENERAL INFORMATION

EU's main objectives are:

- u Support economic and social development;
- u Validating one's identity on the international scene by pursuing a common foreign and security policy (and gradually creating a common defense policy that can lead to a common defense);
- u Protection of the rights and interests of the nationals of the Member States by introducing EU citizenship;
- u Prevention and further development of the Union as an area of freedom, security and justice, in which the free movement of persons is ensured with the simultaneous adoption of appropriate measures in the field of external border control, asylum, immigration and the fight against organized crime and the preservation of the Community acquis.



The EU has 28 Member States.

The main EU institutions are:

European Council, EU Council, European Commission, European Parliament, European Court of Justice, European Financial Court, Economic and Social Council, Committee of the European Regions, European Investment Bank, European Investment Fund, European Central Bank, Ombudsman, etc.



EU in Serbia

| The mission of the Delegation of the European Union (EU) to the Republic of Serbia is to ensure adequate representation of the EU in Serbia, to promote and protect the values and interests of the EU and its Member States, and to monitor and support Serbia's EU accession process, inter alia through successful implementation of EU assistance programs .

| Since December 2009, the Delegation has been called the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia. In this context, the Delegation has taken a leading role among the embassies of the Member States, especially in the areas falling under EU competence, which is primarily related to trade and external assistance.



EU and Serbia

The role of the Delegation in Serbia is to:

- Ensure representation of the European Union in Serbia;
- Monitor bilateral relations in the field of political, economic, trade and cooperation in the field of external assistance (financial and technical);
- Implement EU policies in all sectors;
- Promotes and defends the values and interests of the European Union;
- Together with Member States, coordinate monitoring and encourage the implementation of the Stabilization and Association process;



Important dates in EU-Serbia relations

01-06-2000: Feira European Council announces that all PSP countries are "potential candidates" for EU membership

01-06-2003: At the Thessaloniki Summit, the PSP was endorsed as an EU policy for the Western Balkans. The European perspective of these countries is confirmed

01-10-2004: EU Council conclusions open procedure for concluding Stabilization and Association Agreement

01-10-2005: Stabilization and Association Agreement negotiations begin.

03-05-2006: SAA negotiations suspended due to lack of progress in Serbia's co-operation with Hague tribunal



Important dates in EU-Serbia relations

13-06-2007: SAA negotiations resume with Serbia, after country's clear commitment to full co-operation with Hague tribunal

07-11-2007: SAA initialed with Serbia

01-01-2008: Entry into force of the Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreement between Serbia and the EU

18-02-2008: Council of the EU - Decision on the principles, priorities and conditions contained in the European Partnership with Serbia, including Kosovo

29-04-2008: Signing of SAA and Interim Agreement with Serbia in Luxembourg



Important dates in EU-Serbia relations

19-12-2009: Visa-free regime for Serbia enters into force

22-12-2009: Serbia officially applies for EU membership

14-06-2010: European Commission decides to start ratification of SAA

31-01-2011: Serbia submits replies to EU Questionnaire

14-10-2011: European Commission recommends that Serbia become a candidate country for EU membership, and that this country will be ready to start accession negotiations as soon as further good progress is made in one key area

01-03-2012: Serbia has become a candidate for EU membership

28-06-2013: European Council adopts Commission recommendation to open negotiations with Serbia

01-09-2013: Entry into force of the EU-Serbia Stabilization and Association Agreement

Important dates in EU-Serbia relations

17-12-2013: European Council adopts negotiating framework with Serbia and decides to hold First Intergovernmental Conference with Serbia in January 2014

21-01-2014: First Intergovernmental Conference between the European Union and Serbia

14-12-2015: Second Intergovernmental Conference on Serbia's EU Accession, opening the first two of the 35 negotiation chapters. Negotiations have been opened on Chapter 32 on financial control and Chapter 35 (other issues).

18-07-2016: Third Intergovernmental Conferences opening the negotiation chapters: 23 on judicial reform and fundamental rights and 24 on justice, freedom and security

13-12-2016: Fourth Intergovernmental Conference opening negotiating chapters: 5 on public procurement and 25 on science and research and closed on the same day

27-02-2017: Two chapters were opened at the Intergovernmental Conference: Chapter 26 on Culture and Education and Chapter 20 on Entrepreneurship and Industrial Policy. On the same day, Chapter 26 was provisionally closed

20-06-2017: Two chapters have been opened at the Sixth Intergovernmental Conference in Luxembourg: 7 - on Intellectual Property and Chapter 29 - on the Customs Union.



Important dates in EU-Serbia relations

- u 11-12-2017: Two chapters were opened at the Intergovernmental Conference in Brussels: 6 - Company Law and 30 - Foreign Economic Relations.

6-2-2018: European Commission adopts "Credible perspective of enlargement and enhanced EU engagement in the Western Balkans"

10-12-2018: Two chapters opened at the Intergovernmental Conference in Brussels: 17 - Economic and Monetary Policy and 18 - Statistics

27-06-2019: Chapter 9 - Financial Services opened at the Intergovernmental Conference in Brussels



EU funds in Serbia

- u The European Union is the biggest and most important donor in the Republic of Serbia.
- u Since 2001, through several various programmes , more than EUR 3 billion has been reached for to support the reforms.
- u EU funds is intended for many different reforms on the path to the EU in various areas - the law, public administration, public finances, employment, education , environmental protection, agriculture Also, there is a support to improvement of local economies, employment, social development



IPA

IPA- the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance, is the mechanism created by the EU to deliver support to the Western Balkans and Turkey.

This instrument has been created to focus the support to reforms in these countries through the system, which will bring direct benefit to the citizens, but also to aid the countries to receive additional support in achieving European standards.

The total value of the IPA projects in the region for the period 2007-2013 is EUR 11.5 billion. EU instruments for pre-accession - Phare, ISPA, SAPARD, the Turkey programme, and CARDS are replaced by IPA funds.



In general, IPA funds can be used in four ways:

- u As technical support, which usually involves the engagement of expert consultants who provide institutions in Serbia, such as the Consumer Protection Department, with project preparation, strategy development, training, etc.
- u For the implementation of twinning projects, that is, establishing cooperation between local institutions in Serbia with similar administrations in the EU Member States with the aim of implementing projects, sharing knowledge and experience and assisting with the implementation of the acquis.
- u To carry out investment projects that primarily involve the procurement of equipment and the realization of financial arrangements with other financial institutions.
- u To award grants to fund projects related to civil society, local governments, agencies, etc.



EU programmes

- u Union programs are the measures designed to strengthen cooperation between EU Member States and candidate countries in different fields. Union programs are financed from the common budget of the European Union, with funds for the development of different priority areas: environmental protection, energy, transport, entrepreneurship development, competitiveness, etc.

The Republic of Serbia signed the Framework Agreement on Participation in EU Programs on 22 November 2004. Participation in Union programs for the Republic of Serbia presents an opportunity to become familiar with EU policies, European institutions, laws and their implementation in practice, as well as with EU value systems and mechanisms of functioning.



Actual Union programmes

- u *Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises*
- u *Erasmus+*
- u *Horizont 2020*
- u *Creative Europe*
- u *Europe for Citizens*
- u *Third EU Health*
- u *Fiscalis 2020*
- u *Customs 2020*
- u *EU Civil Protection Mechanism*

