

# **Challenges in EU Funds Management for the Pre-accession Countries of the Western Balkans**

Conference on Challenges for the Financial  
Management and Control of EU Funds

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# EU Assistance to WB 6

- Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)
  - *adopting and implementing the **political, institutional, legal, administrative, social and economic reforms** required [...] in order to comply with the Union's values and to progressively align to the Union's rules, standards, policies and practices, **with a view to Union membership***
- Financial volumes in the range of „PHARE + ISPA + SAPARD“

# IPA vs. Cohesion Policy

|                        | Similarity  | Difference  |
|------------------------|---|---|
| Legal framework        | Budget planning & impl.<br>Procurement principles                     | Procurement practice  |
| Programming            | Multi-annual programming<br>Sector approach<br>Operational programmes | Much less complex<br>planning in IPA<br>Emphasis on EU Law<br>Little territorial approach |
| Institutions           | National Fund<br>Special managmt. Bodies                              | IPA bodies sustainable<br>No link to develop. policy                                      |
| Financial man. & ctrl. | Accreditation principles  | IPA has little regard for<br>national legislation   |
| Monitoring & Eval.     | Partnership principle<br>Use of indicators                            | Much less developed<br>performance framework  |
| Statistics             | Need to link to national<br>statistics                                | IPA has much less<br>„weight” for statistics  |

# IPA management vs. Coh. P.

|                                 | Program         | Budget   | Procur.                                    | Institutional approach                                |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|----------|--|---|
| Centralised                     | Action          | National | EU   | Incompatible  |
| Decentralised<br><i>ex-ante</i> | Action / Sector | National | EU<br>(secondary proc.<br>may be national) | Partly compatible                                     |
| Decentralised<br><i>ex-post</i> | Action / Sector | National | EU<br>(secondary proc.<br>may be national) | Partly compatible                                     |
| SBS                             | Sector          | National | National                                   | Compatible<br>(but no guarantee of<br>inst. building) |

# Conclusions

- IPA should spend more economic and social cohesion
- Readiness for IPA is not the same as readiness for cohesion policy
- Preparing for cohesion policy should not be seen as a „premature“ objective
- Programming options offered by the IPA regulations should be better exploited
- Consider also territorial approaches
- Mid-term review 2017-2018 is the opportunity

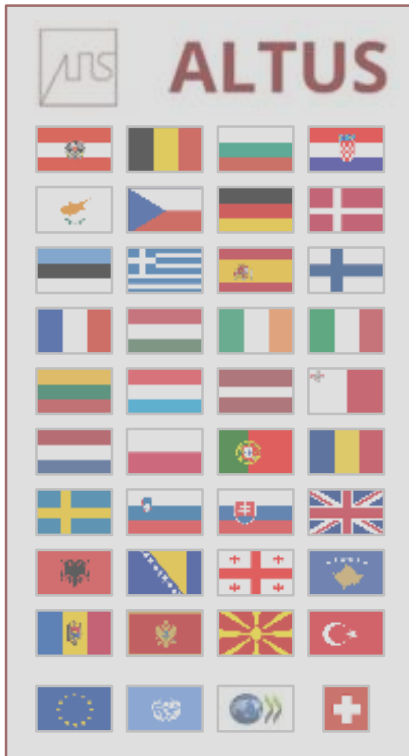
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# Thank you for your kind attention!

