

DG Enlargement Civil Society Facility
Western Balkans and Turkey
& SPI Platform

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- The European Commission believes that pace and quality of the accession process will strongly be determined by **civil society organisations** and, in particular, business associations.
- Therefore its **goal** is:
 - To strengthen civil society bodies and their role in the political process;
 - To enhance the capacity of civil society organisations (CSOs) to develop cross-border projects and networks;
 - To familiarise civil society representatives and opinion leaders with EU affairs .

The Commission's objectives

1. Increased participation of CSOs in decision-making, policy implementation and monitoring;
2. Increased cooperation between CSOs on the one hand and CSOs and authorities on the other:
 - To develop a strong regional partnership dialogue between national banking associations (**NBAs**);
 - To enhance **NBAs** cooperation with EU counterparts;
 - To improve **NBAs** dialogue with public authorities;
 - To enhance transparency and accountability of **NBAs**.

Activities financed to achieve objectives

Capabilities

Workshops and seminars on EU *acquis* and impact

Professional training to BA staff on economic impact of EU *acquis*

Partnership activities between BAs, think-tanks, other associations to influence the *acquis* implementation

Establishment of **Platforms** to formulate concrete recommendations and practical solutions, and exchange of good practices

Influence

A regional partnership (1)

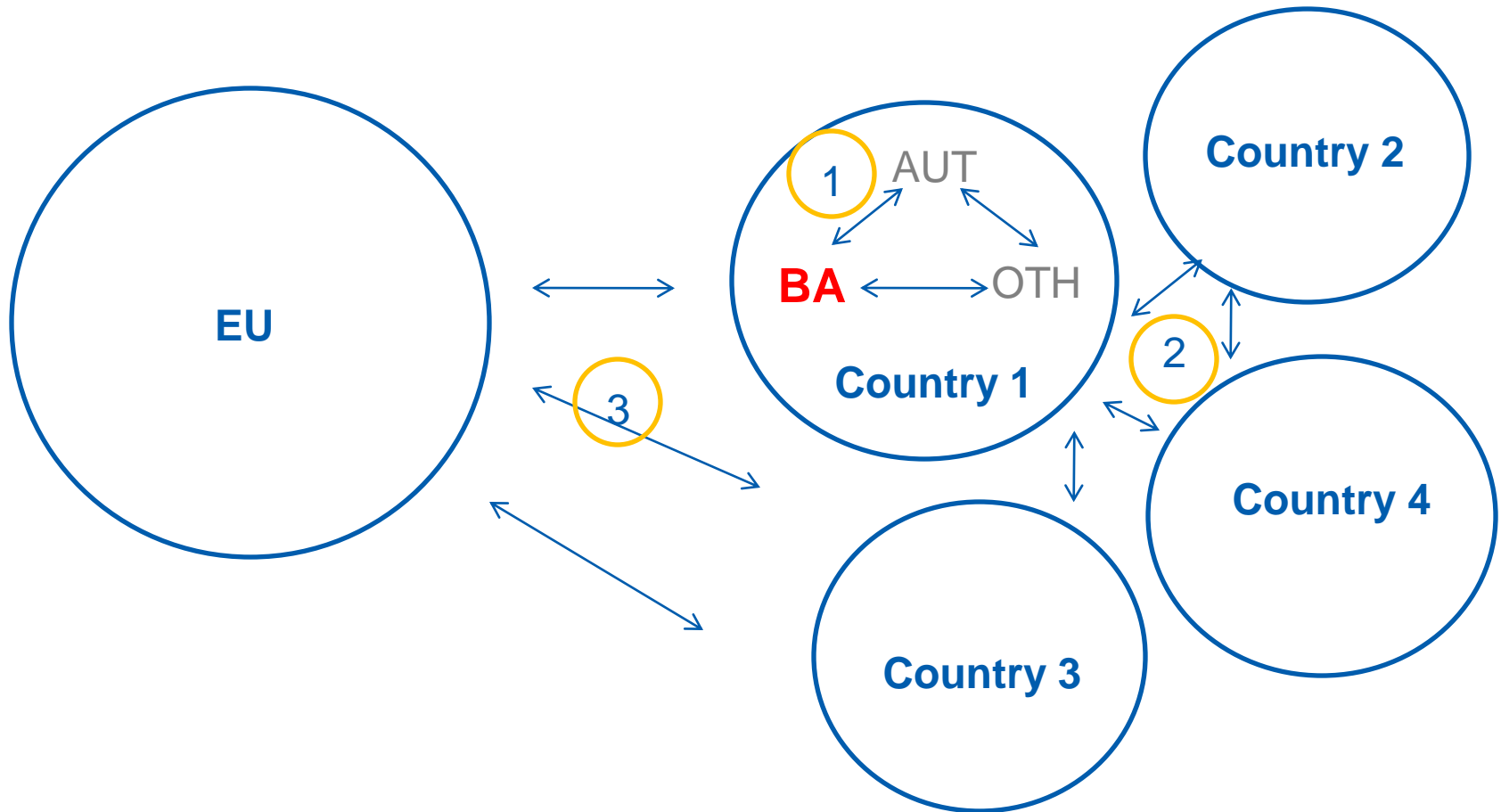
- **Regional partnerships are necessary to create ideas and initiatives**, consisting of at least three CSOs from three different beneficiary entities and one from the EU.
- **Their purpose is:**
 - **to encourage dialogue among CSOs of the region with their EU counterparts and public authorities as associates;**
 - to improve and increase networks and quality of CSO services the impact of which is be disseminated across the region;
 - to increase cross-border cooperation and **share expertise, networks.**

A regional partnership (2)

- **to bring about common EU values including a contribution to an alignment with EU standards;**
- to increase regional cooperation and networking among regional CSOs *inter se and with the CSOs from EU and other stakeholders*, **encouraging in particular partnership with CSOs and public authorities.**

Networks established through different project activities should help support the sustainability of the action once the EU Commission support ends.

Public goal: stronger NBA influence through various partnerships



Values: dialogue and credibility (1)

- **Partner CSOs and/or authorities from the Western Balkans and Turkey should be willing to establish and improve their exchange of information.**
- CSOs should wholeheartedly work together to establish alliances and coalitions to help strengthen advocacy, etc.
- All these efforts will fail if the authorities implement policies and actions that are counterproductive to achieving a civil society culture.
- It is therefore of paramount importance that the EU and other donors keep a close eye on this and take appropriate measures.

Values: dialogue and credibility (2)

- It is very important that donors remain committed to a strong civil society in the region.
- **CSOs have to demonstrate their legitimacy and credibility as reliable and constructive partners** representing important elements of society: citizens should trust CSOs.
- Beneficiary CSOs should be keen on establishing partnerships with other CSOs within the region and the EU and they should have the capacity to absorb and successfully implement contracts awarded to them.

- **Financing sources:**
 - IPA Multi-beneficiary Program (managed by DG Enlargement, Directorate D) – EUR 5,000,000
 - National IPA programs (managed by EC Delegations)
- **Regional partnership** - at least 3 NBAs from 3 different beneficiary entities and one from the EU
- **Contributions:**
 - 80% - EC
 - 20% - beneficiary (also in-kind)

EU Civil Society Facility Funding Arrangements

EBF Associate Illustrative Example

Policy: 80% EU Grant - 20% beneficiary co-pay

SPI Platform-like analytical and consensus-building activities plus workshops and seminars

(Annual costs- € thousand)	<u>EU Grant</u>	<u>Co-Pay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Nature</u>	<u>Notes</u>
SPI Committee		8,000	8,000	In-Kind	4 meetings/year times 5 members times 4 hours times €100/hour
SPI Secretariat	100,000		100,000	Cash	One full-time staff plus 3 part-time experts (avge annual cost €40k)
Project Working Groups		48,000	48,000	In-Kind	10 projects times 4 PWG meetings/project times six PWG members times €200/meeting/expert
Regional Collaboration			-	Cash	Balance assumed between services received and services provided within region
International Support	80,000		80,000	Cash	EBF and other international experts
Training Workshops	45,000		45,000	Cash	3 workshops/year
Office Services		18,000	18,000	In-Kind	Rent, administration and telephone (€1500/month)
Total	225,000	74,000	299,000		
<i>Program Funding Ratio</i>	75%	25%			
Max EU Grant Absorption	296,000				
<i>of which driven by SPI Platform co-pay</i>	224,000				SPI Platform co-pay in-kind resources unlock largest part of EU Grant
EU Grant Residual Availability	71,000				

Large EU Grant leverage by SPI Platform in-kind resources

- Launch of Call for Proposals – Q1'2010
- Signature of contract – Q2'2010
- Project completion – Q3'2012

(within 2 years after the project end)

- Number of consultations by public authorities involving **NBAs**;
- Number of new joint **NBA** initiatives/networks;
- Number of actions (workshops, trainings, campaigns, manual/guides, etc) involving **NBAs** and public authorities regarding the EU *acquis*;
- Number of common **NBA** position papers on EU *acquis*;
- Number of measures taken to adopt and implement EU *acquis*.

EU grant: a game-changer for EBF Associates?

1. Funding for resources to **cooperate with public authorities** on reform projects.
2. Funding for substantive **regional cooperation** to pursue similar projects.
3. Funding to **receive high-quality assistance** from EU partner institutions.

Interested parties for the EU grant

- From Western Balkans:
 - Albania (tbc)
 - Bosnia & Herzegovina
 - Croatia
 - Montenegro (tbc)
 - Turkey
- From the EU side:
 - Austria
 - Germany
 - Italy
- Ernst&Young